

ORDINANCE NO. 20140123-052

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE TITLE 12 TO PROHIBIT VEHICLES STOPPING, STANDING, OR PARKING IN DESIGNATED TRANSIT PRIORITY LANES; TO PROVIDE FOR VEHICLE REMOVAL; TO ESTABLISH A PENALTY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PASSAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 12-1-53 (*Impoundment or Removal of Vehicle*) is amended to read:

§12-1-53 IMPOUNDMENT OR REMOVAL OF VEHICLE.

- (A) A police officer or parking enforcement officer may impound a vehicle found in violation of:
 - (1) Code Section 12-5-35 (*Parking Areas Designated for Person with Disabilities*);
 - (2) Chapter 545 (*Operation and Movement of Vehicles*), Subchapter G (*Stopping, Standing, and Parking*) of the Texas Transportation Code; ~~or~~
 - (3) Section 681.011 (*Offenses; Presumption*) of the Texas Transportation Code~~[-];~~ or
 - (4) Code Section 12-5-43 (*Transit Priority Lanes*).
- (B) A police officer may impound a vehicle whose location or condition creates an immediate threat to the safety of persons or property.

PART 2. City Code Chapter 12-5 (*Stopping, Standing, and Parking*) is amended to add a new Section 12-5-43 to read:

§ 12-5-43 TRANSIT PRIORITY LANES.

- (A) A person may not stop, stand, or park a motor propelled private or commercial vehicle in a transit priority lane designated as a bus only lane except:
 - (1) for vehicles authorized by the City to travel in a bus only lane;
 - (2) for a bicycle to bypass an authorized vehicle in the bus only lane;
 - (3) to execute a right turn; or

(4) to yield to emergency vehicles displaying or using emergency devices such as lights and sirens.

(B) A person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.

PART 3. Council finds that in four days, rapid transit bus service will begin in transit priority lanes, and the possible presence of non-rapid transit vehicles in these lanes creates a hazard to the travelling public. Because this hazard creates an emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

January 23, 2014

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Lee Luffingwell
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Karen M. Kennard
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk