

## **IMPORTANCE OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

CPD regularly receives complaints about traffic-related issues, this includes parking complaints. Parking complaints are not just nuisance issues but can pose significant safety issues. Calistoga roads can be challenging for pedestrians and bicyclists as many of our roads are narrow and some without sidewalks, requiring pedestrians, bicyclists, and skateboarders to have to share the road with vehicles. Parking enforcement serves a purpose in promoting safety, supporting businesses, and addressing environmental issues.

### **PROMOTING SAFETY:**

As mentioned, we have many narrow roads that are 2-way roads, so narrow that there are no painted lines dividing lanes, parking only on one side of the road, and some with no sidewalks. Enforcing parking violations is important to minimize the potential of collisions between vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

An example are intersections of narrow streets that intersect with larger streets (i.e., 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington) with vehicles that are parked up to the corners of the intersection or vehicles parked in front of a stop sign. A driver attempting a turn from the narrow street must literally enter the intersection to see oncoming traffic before turning. Oncoming cars and bicyclists riding toward the intersection are not expecting a car to be creeping into the intersection and the ability to react to a vehicle creeping into the intersection is a recipe for a collision. A large vehicle such as a box truck or van parked on the corner or in front of a stop sign requires the turning vehicle to intrude into the intersection even more to see oncoming traffic. Not all corners leading to the intersection are red and by the California Vehicle Code and city ordinance, the curbs in these areas do not have to be painted red to be a violation as it is a violation to park within 20 feet of a stop sign, in a crosswalk, on a sidewalk, obstruct a disabled ramp cut out, or if it presents clear hazard.

The City Public Work's Director is authorized to place curb markings and a city process is in place to determine the appropriateness of a curb marking. Once the appropriate curb marking has been determined, the city is responsible for painting/marketing the curb. Only the city is responsible for marking the curb or posting parking signs. An individual painting a curb without the city's approval is committing vandalism and would most likely be responsible for the costs in removing the markings both in material and staff time costs as well as be a violation of the municipal code (10.30.020E CMC).

The following are the meanings of each curb color in Calistoga:

- **Red**: No stopping, standing, or parking at any time except as permitted by the Vehicle Code.
- **Yellow**: No stopping, standing or parking at any time between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., of any day except Sundays and holidays for any purpose other than the loading or unloading of passengers or materials, providing that the loading or unloading of passengers shall not consume more than three minutes nor the loading or unloading of materials more than 20 minutes.
- **White**: No stopping, standing, or parking for any purpose other than loading or unloading of passengers, or for the purpose of depositing mail in an adjacent mailbox, which shall not exceed three minutes and such restrictions shall apply between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., of any day except Sundays and holidays.
- **Green**: Temporary parking of 20 minutes or less or for a time limit specifically posted.

### **SUPPORTING BUSINESSES:**

Posted time limit parking, such as on Lincoln Avenue, is meant to support the businesses by enabling open parking spaces for customers throughout the business day. Having non-customers such as contractors or employees taking up parking spaces all day can pose an inconvenience and deter a customer from shopping and look elsewhere. In Calistoga, the time limit for parking is a 3-hour maximum between 8 AM and 6 PM 7 days a week. The fine for this violation is \$40.

### **ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

A parking issue that is typically identified as a code enforcement issue is the reporting of abandoned vehicles. Vehicles may be considered abandoned if left on a public street for more than 72 hours. Most residents do not want to see a vehicle decomposing in their neighborhood or in front of their residence for weeks. Abandoned vehicles can also create environmental hazards if leaking oil or fuel. When CPD gets a complaint about an abandoned vehicle (typically has been parked for days if not weeks), CPD places a notice on the vehicle that states the vehicle is subject to being towed if not removed within 72 hours. If the vehicle is towed, the reality is that it has been parked for well over 72 hours. Other parking violations related to neighborhood quality issues are vehicles parked on a public street being worked on or with a "For Sale" sign on it, which often attracts other "For Sale" vehicles. There are municipal ordinances prohibiting vehicles from being worked on or advertised for sale on a public street. These are both infractions in the municipal code with fines of up to \$100.

The following are Calistoga Municipal and California Vehicle Code violations pertaining to parking.

Calistoga Municipal Code 10.36.030 prohibits No parking, No stopping, and No standing generally in the following areas:

- 10.36.030 Parking where prohibited by a posted sign or barriers.
- 10.36.030B Parked in a Red Zone at an intersection
- 10.36.030D Parked in a manner that constitutes a hazzard
- 10.36.030E Parked in a temporary No Parking Zone
- 10.36.030G Parked within 20 feet of a crosswalk
- 10.36.030H Parked within 20 feet (in front of) a stop sign, traffic signal, or flashing device.
- 10.36.060B Parked diagonally with front wheel more than 6 inches from curb.
- 10.36.080 Parked posted area indicating a time limit (i.e., posted 3-hour limit)
- 10.36.080A Exceeding time limit at green curb.
- 10.36.110a Repairing a vehicle on city street/property.
- 10.36.020D Unlawful parking in a Red, Yellow, or White painted curb/zone.
- 10.36.160 Removing markings to evade enforcement of an abandoned vehicle.

California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections pertaining to prohibited parking:

22500 No person shall not stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- Within an intersection.
- On a crosswalk
- Within 15 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station.

- Blocking a public or private driveway.
- Parking on a sidewalk.
- Double parking.
- Parked in a posted or painted curb indicating a bus loading/unloading zone.
- Blocking a curb that has been cut down, lowered, or constructed to provide wheelchair accessibility to the sidewalk.

- 22500.1 Parked in a fire lane.
- 22502 CVC Parked more than 18 inches from the curb (parallel parking)
- 22514 Parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- 22522 CVC Prohibited parking within 3 feet of a crosswalk ramp or cut out for disabled access.

Parking rules and regulations are important and serve a purpose in public safety, traffic safety, and supporting a quality of life and environment in Calistoga. CPD has resumed our parking enforcement program via our Police Technicians who will specifically enforce the business 3-hour parking time limit. The Police Technicians will also be active in addressing parking complaints, parking hazards, and abandoned vehicles. If you observe a parking issue that poses a hazard or traffic safety issue, please call CPD at (707) 942-2810 so we may address it.

Thank you