

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 37 OF THE CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT  
THE PARKING OF TOW TRUCKS ON CITY STREETS**

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**#0114**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Owens**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington's urban environment presents certain challenges related to on-street parking, making it necessary for the City to enact and enforce parking regulations and restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, while City residents might engage in occupations requiring the operation of tow trucks, these vehicles occupy significant space while parked on City streets, and can make it difficult, if not impossible, for residents and visitors to find parking near their homes or businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council seeks to address the concerns of residents through establishing parking restrictions for tow trucks in order to preserve access to the limited parking space available for residents and visitors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON  
HEREBY ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 37 of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and by adding the underlined language as follows:

**Sec. 37-233 – Parking commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles, tow trucks, and boats.**

(a) No person shall park an oversized commercial or recreational vehicle, classified as an 11,000 pound registered vehicle weight or more or 20 feet in length or more, nor any boat, regardless of its weight or dimensions, at any time, on any day on any street in the city except during the time that such vehicle is actually loading or unloading or unless the driver has a lawful street storage permit issued by the department of licenses and inspections. This provision also pertains to all trailer coaches, semi-trailers, ~~and~~ tractor trailers, and tow trucks, regardless of size or purpose. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not less than the amount established at Level 18 for the first offense and not less than the amount established at level 20 for the second and each subsequent offense. Violators are subject to the

immobilization and towing penalties and procedures as set forth in section 37-125, and the provisions of this section may be enforced by any parking enforcement officer or member of the city police department.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, a tow truck shall mean a motor vehicle primarily used in the business of transporting disabled, illegally parked, or abandoned vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bars, tow line, or dolly.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 37 of the City Code is hereby amended by adding in the following language to read as follows:

**Sec. 37-252 – Large commercial vehicle, tow truck, boat, and bus ~~bus and boat~~ parking prohibition warning signs.**

The department of public works shall cause warning signs bearing the official city seal to be made and placed at entry points to the city as well as in various neighborhoods throughout the city. The sign shall read:

“Parking of tractor trailers, large commercial vehicles, tow trucks, boats, and buses prohibited by Wilmington Cide Code Chapter 37, unless loading or unloading.”

**SECTION 3.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....October 2, 2025

Second Reading....October 2, 2025

Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

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President of City Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**SYNOPSIS:** In order to preserve the limited number of parking spaces available on City streets, this Ordinance amends Chapter 37 of the City Code to establish parking restrictions for tow trucks that are identical to the restrictions for tractor trailers, trailer coaches, semi-trailers, boats, and school buses. Specifically, this Ordinance prohibits the parking of tow trucks on City streets outside of a period of loading and unloading, or in the absence of a street storage permit. The Ordinance also calls for the addition of signage to provide clear notice to owners and/or operators of tow trucks of the prohibition on parking of tow trucks on City streets.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** [TBD]