

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-112

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 24.65.0, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY ADDING SUB-SECTION (b) TITLED “SCHOOLS AND PARKS,” PROHIBITING THE PARKING OR STORING OF ANY COMMERCIAL VEHICLE WHICH EXCEEDS ONE TON IN MANUFACTURER’S GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING OR THAT HAS MORE THAN TWO AXELS WITHIN FIVE-HUNDRED (500) FEET OF ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL, PARK, OR PUBLIC PLAYGROUND; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, commercial vehicles, especially large trucks and delivery vans, can obstruct visibility for drivers and pedestrians near schools. Restricting their parking can help maintain clear sightlines and reduce the risk of accidents and collisions in the vicinity and

WHEREAS, schools are often surrounded by a high volume of pedestrian traffic, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. Large commercial vehicles may pose a threat to the safety of children walking to and from school, as well as other pedestrians in the area and

WHEREAS, quick and unobstructed access to the school is crucial in an emergency, such as a fire or medical incident. Allowing commercial vehicles to park too close may impede emergency response vehicles and hinder their ability to reach the school promptly and

WHEREAS, authorities can create a safer and more controlled environment by enforcing specific parking regulations for commercial vehicles around schools, ensuring that drivers adhere to traffic rules and contribute to overall public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The City of Laredo Land Development Code, Section 24.65.0, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 24.65.0 General Supplemental Provisions

(a) Residential

- i. No commercial vehicle which exceeds 16,000 pounds in manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or which has more than two axels, nor any commercial farm trailer exceeding twelve feet in length, shall be parked or stored on any residential lot in any R-1, R-1A, R-1B, R-1-MH, R-2, R-3, RSM, RS, or R-O single family residential zoning district.
- ii. No commercial vehicle which exceeds one ton in manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or which has more than two axels, shall be parked or stored on any

public street, or public right-of-way, any R-1, R-1A, R-1B, R-1-MH, R-2, R-3, RSM, RS, or R-O single family residential zoning district.

- iii. No commercial farm or utility trailer shall be parked or stored on any public street or public right-of-way in any R-1, R-1A, R-1B, R-1-MH, R-2, R-3, RSM, RS, or R-O single family residential zoning district.
- iv. The provisions of Sections 24.65.0 (a) I, ii, and iii above shall not apply to street construction equipment, maintenance and repair equipment or trucks, rollers or implements, equipment trailers or vehicles used by public service utilities when used, or intended for use, in the general vicinity; motor buses when taking on or discharging passengers at customary bus stops; vehicles parked while in the act or accepting from the immediate shipper or delivering to a consignee or addressee any transportable thing; vehicles with mechanical defects during the time it takes to make emergency repairs, or the temporary parking of said vehicles, with attached trailers, for loading and unloading purposes only between the hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm and for not more than ninety minutes.

(b) Schools and Parks

i. No commercial vehicle ~~which~~ that exceeds one ton in manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or ~~which~~ that has more than two axels, nor any commercial farm trailer exceeding twelve feet in length, shall be parked or stored in any manner within ~~one thousand (1,000) feet~~ five-hundred (500) feet of any public or private elementary or secondary school, park, or public playground. Additionally, ingress and egress by the abovementioned vehicles shall not be allowed onto any public right-of-way within ~~one thousand (1000) feet~~ five-hundred (500) feet of any public or private elementary or secondary school.

ii. Exception. (b)(i) shall not apply in the following situations:

(A) a buffer exists or is created where the City of Laredo believes is adequate to ensure the safety of pedestrians around schools, parks, or public playgrounds;

(B) the landowner or developer has an alternative method of ingress and egress to a road that does not abut a school, park, or playground;

(C) the landowner or developer agrees to not allow tractor trailers from entering a school zone from 6 AM to 6 PM, excluding weekends, holidays, and school breaks;

(D) Businesses that have already been in operation or landowners that have been received a final recorded plat for industrial development before the passage of section (b)(i) may continue to operate under non-conforming use status;

(E) (b)(i) does not apply to commercial vehicles delivering goods to grocery stores or retail establishments;

iii. Special Use Permits: If a landowner or developer does not meet any exceptions in section (b)(ii), the landowner or developer may apply for a conditional use permit.

iv. Commercial Vehicles may not remain idle while parked on land subject to (b).

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause,

sentence, paragraph, or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. The City Secretary of the City of Laredo is hereby directed to publish the proposed Ordinance as required by Section 2.09 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective sixty days from the date of the public hearing.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS
_____DAY IN _____2024.**

**DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR**

ATTESTED:

**JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY**