

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-O-91

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 19 (“MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”), ARTICLE III, SECTION 19-74 (“REMOVING VEHICLE FROM SCENE”) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, BY REVISING THE SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY; PROVIDING FOR UPDATED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo, Texas, is authorized to regulate traffic and promote public safety pursuant to its police powers and applicable state law; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 19, Article III, Section 19-74 of the City Code currently regulates the removal of vehicles from the scene of an accident; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is necessary to review and update these provisions to ensure clarity, consistency with current law, and the efficient investigation of traffic accidents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that requiring vehicles involved in accidents to remain at the scene until authorized by a law enforcement officer promotes public safety, preserves evidence, and facilitates proper emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that limited exceptions may be necessary when immediate transportation of injured persons or notification of law enforcement is required; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend Section 19-74 in its entirety to better serve the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Laredo.

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

Section 1. Section 19-74 of Chapter 19, Article III of the City of Laredo Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety, which is set forth below in brackets and indicated with strikethrough, and substituting in its place new language, which is underlined and italicized, as provided herein.

Sec. 19-74. Removing vehicle from scene.

~~[It shall be unlawful for the driver or any other person to remove any vehicle involved in an accident from the scene of the accident until authorized to do so by a police officer of the police department of the city; provided, however, this section shall not apply if there exists or arises a duty on the part of such driver or other person in control of such vehicle to use the vehicle in carrying any person injured in the accident to a physician or surgeon for medical or surgical treatment or to notify the police department of the accident.]~~

Drivers involved in a minor, non-injury collision must immediately move their vehicles from the main lane, ramp, shoulder, median or adjacent area of a freeway to a suitable location to minimize traffic interference when each vehicle involved can be normally and safely driven. If a person involved is injured or killed, or if the vehicle cannot be safely driven, the requirement to move the vehicle does not apply.

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 publishers of the City Code of Laredo, Texas are authorized to amend said code to reflect the changes adopted herein and to correct typographical errors and to index, format and number paragraphs to conform to the existing code.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**DULY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS
THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.**

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

MARIO MALDONADO
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY

JOAQUIN A. RODRIGUEZ
FIRST ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY