DRAFT ORDINANCE

CITY OF TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. - 04 2026
AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 193, "Vehicles and Traffic," of the Code of the City of Taneytown to (i) prohibit the storage of certain commercial vehicles, trailers, and recreational vehicles on residential streets except for limited active loading/unloading; (ii) authorize immobilization (booting) and removal for violations; (iii) establish procedures for notice, release, and appeal; and (iv) provide for codification, severability, and an effective date.

WHEREAS

A. The Mayor and Council find that the long-term parking or storage of certain commercial vehicles, trailers used to transport equipment, and recreational vehicles on residential streets creates safety hazards, restricts travel lanes and sight distance, impedes emergency access, and negatively impacts traffic flow and neighborhood character; and

B. The Mayor and Council further find that reasonable time-limited loading and unloading is necessary for residents and businesses; and

C. The Mayor and Council desire to provide a clear, enforceable, and fair process, including notice and an opportunity to appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Taneytown, Maryland, as follows:

SECTION 1. Definitions

Chapter 193 is hereby amended by adding a new section to be codified as §193-15.1 to read as follows:

§193-15.1 Street Storage of Certain Vehicles; Immobilization and Removal

A. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

1. **Commercial vehicle** means any motor vehicle that is:
    - (a) registered as a commercial vehicle; or

- (b) owned or leased by a business and primarily used in the course of business; or
- (c) designed or used to transport tools, equipment, merchandise, construction materials, or similar items, including vehicles with attached racks, liftgates, or permanent equipment boxes;
  excluding passenger vehicles used for personal transportation.

2. **Trailer** means any towed vehicle, semi-trailer, equipment trailer, cargo trailer, utility trailer, or similar towed conveyance, including any trailer used to transport equipment, materials, or items.
3. **Recreational vehicle (RV)** includes a motor home, camper, travel trailer, fifth wheel, pop-up camper, or similar vehicle designed for temporary living quarters.
4. **Residential street** means any public street where the predominant abutting land use is residential (single-family, townhouse, apartment, or similar), as determined by the enforcing officer based on the immediate block face.
5. **Active loading/unloading** means the continuous, observable transfer of persons or property between a structure/lot and the vehicle or trailer. "Active loading/unloading" does not include leaving a vehicle parked while work occurs elsewhere, staging, resting, waiting, or intermittent activity.
6. **Immobilization device** means a wheel clamp or similar device ("boot") installed by or under the authority of the City to prevent vehicle movement.

SECTION 2. Prohibited Street Storage; 30-Minute Exception

B. Prohibited street storage.

1. **General rule.** No person shall park, stand, or store a commercial vehicle, trailer, or recreational vehicle on any residential street for longer than 30 minutes, except while active loading/unloading is occurring.
2. **Loading/unloading limit.** The active loading/unloading exception is limited to 30 minutes total unless a longer period is expressly authorized by the Chief of Police (or designee) due to documented necessity.
3. **No activity, must remove.** If active loading/unloading is not occurring, the vehicle or trailer must be removed from the residential street immediately upon notice from an enforcing officer.
4. **Multiple-unit/complexes.** For multi-family or mixed residential areas, the officer may require that loading/unloading occur as close as practicable to the applicable entrance/loading area and may direct relocation to reduce interference with traffic and safety.

SECTION 3. Obstruction and Hazard; Tow Authority

C. Obstruction and hazard.

1. **Immediate hazard.** If any vehicle or trailer is parked or positioned so as to obstruct a travel lane, restrict sight distance, block a driveway or intersection approach, impede emergency access, or otherwise create an immediate traffic hazard, the enforcing officer may order the vehicle moved immediately.
2. **Towing.** If the vehicle is not promptly moved, the City may cause the vehicle to be towed and stored at the owner's expense, consistent with applicable law and other provisions of Chapter 193.

(Note: This keeps "booting" focused on storage violations and allows faster clearance when something is truly in the way.)

SECTION 4. Authority to Boot for Storage Violations

D. Immobilization (booting) for storage violations.

1. **Boot authorization.** When an enforcing officer has reasonable cause to believe a vehicle or trailer is in violation of §193-15.1B, the City may install an immobilization device.
2. **Notice.** At the time of immobilization, the City shall affix a conspicuous notice to the vehicle or trailer stating:
    - the reason for immobilization;
    - the date/time immobilized;
    - the steps required for release;
    - the applicable fees;
    - the method to request an administrative hearing;
    - a City contact telephone number and hours.
3. **Release upon payment.** The immobilization device shall be removed upon payment in full of all applicable immobilization fees adopted by resolution, plus any related citations lawfully issued.
4. **Additional enforcement.** Immobilization does not preclude issuance of citations and does not limit the City's authority to tow when authorized.
5. **Removal after time.** If a vehicle or trailer remains immobilized for more than 72 hours, the City may cause it to be towed and stored at the owner's expense in addition to immobilization fees, unless a hearing request is pending and the vehicle is not creating a hazard.

SECTION 5. Fees Adopted by Resolution

E. Fees. The Mayor and Council shall set immobilization fees by resolution. Fees may include:

1. a one-time immobilization/removal fee; and
2. a daily immobilization fee accruing after immobilization.

SECTION 6. Exemptions

G. Exemptions. This section does not apply to:

1. police, fire, ambulance, and other emergency vehicles;
2. City vehicles and vehicles under contract to the City while actively performing City work;
3. utility vehicles actively responding to outages/emergencies;
4. vehicles or trailers specifically authorized by a temporary right-of-way permit or written authorization from the City.

SECTION 7. Tampering

H. Tampering prohibited. No person shall remove, damage, or tamper with an immobilization device installed under this section. Violations are subject to citation and any other lawful penalties.

SECTION 8. Conforming Amendments to Existing Sections

A. Amend §193-1 (Weight Limits)

Section §193-1 be amended to the following to include "park" and simplify redundancies

"No person may operate or park a vehicle, whether loaded or unloaded on any street listed in the City of Taneytown's "Official Schedule of Vehicle Weight Limits" if the vehicle exceeds the prescribed weight limits. The schedule is incorporated by reference and is on file with the Clerk"

B. Amend §193- 4 (Violations and penalties)

Section §193-4 be amended by removing specific fee amounts to be set by resolution of Council.

C. Amend §193-6(C) (Loading/Unloading)

Section **§193-6(C)** is amended by adding the following sentence at the end:

> "Notwithstanding the foregoing, loading/unloading of vehicles subject to §193-15.1 on residential streets shall be limited to the time and conditions set forth in §193-15.1."

D. Amend §193-7 (Notice of violation; payment of penalty; issuance of summouns)

Section **§193-7** to be replaced with the below language to reflect that violations under this chapter are civil infractions in accordance with Maryland law.

1. "**Issuance of Notice or Citation**
   A duly authorized police officer who observes a violation of this chapter may issue a notice of violation or citation to the owner or operator of the vehicle. The notice shall:
   - Describe the nature of the violation.
   - State the applicable penalty; and
   - Provide instructions for payment of the penalty or for requesting a hearing before the District Court of Maryland for Carroll County.
2. **Payment or Contesting**
   The person receiving the notice may:
   - Elect to pay the prescribed civil penalty within the time specified on the notice, thereby waiving the right to a hearing; or
   - Request a hearing before the District Court to contest the violation.
3. **Failure to Respond**
   Failure to pay the penalty or request a hearing within the prescribed time may result in additional civil penalties or other enforcement actions as authorized by law.
4. **Civil Nature of Violations**
   Violations of this chapter are civil infractions. No person shall be subject to arrest solely for a violation of this chapter. "

E. Amend §193-12 (Maximum Time for Continuous Parking)

Section **§193-12** is amended as follows:

A. No vehicle shall be parked on any street for more than 48 consecutive hours, except when:

1. The vehicle is parked directly in front of property owned, leased, or occupied by the vehicle's driver; or
2. The parking is authorized by the owner, lessee, or occupant of the adjacent property.

B. No vehicle with a gross vehicle weight exceeding 13,000 pounds, including but not limited to any commercial truck, bus, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer, and no house trailer or towed vehicle, regardless of weight, shall be parked on any street for more than one consecutive hour.
This subsection shall not apply to commercial trucks actively engaged in public or private work for or on behalf of any person, institution, or governmental entity, provided such work is being performed within 300 feet of the parked vehicle.
C. No motor home or camper shall be parked on any street for more than 24 consecutive hours.

F. Amend §193- 32 (Violations and penalties)

Section §193-32 by removing specific fee amounts to be set by resolution of Council.

G. Amend §193- 25 (Parking prohibited)

Section §193-25 by adding 'or any Cul de sac' to the snow accumulation language.

SECTION 9. Codification; Severability; Effective Date

A. Codification. The Code Editor is authorized to codify, renumber, and make non-substantive formatting changes consistent with this Ordinance.

B. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

C. Effective date. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by the Charter and applicable law.

INTRODUCED THIS 10 DAY OF February, 2026

Clara Kalman
CLARA KALMAN, CITY CLERK

PASSED THIS 13th DAY OF April 2026 BY A VOTE OF 4 COUNCILMEMBERS IN FAVOR AND 0 COUNCILMEMBERS OPPOSED.

Clara Kalman
CLARA KALMAN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF April 2026.

CHRISTOPHER G MILLER, MAYOR