

46  
3-8-22

## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Greg Hillson <ghillson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2022 9:35 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Mark McHugh; Brittany Williams; Regina Benavides; Suzanne Derr; LaShawn Timmons; Tracy Thompson; Karl Bach; Gloria Sitton; Emily Baker; Joanna Anderson; Christina Brown; Don Hayes; Jason North; Yon Lambert; Hillary Orr; katie.north@alexandriava.org; Alex Block; Max P Devilliers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ordinance for Violations by Heavy Vehicles (City Council 3/8/22 Legislative Mtg., Item 46)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

City Council:

For years, various large semi trucks have been permitted to endanger the safety of the West End's children, pedestrians, and cyclists on South Pickett Street by parking illegally on the street for days on-end, blocking bike lanes and impeding traffic -- often yards away from thousands of residences and Tucker Elementary School.

On February 28, 2022, the Traffic and Parking Board finally approved a draft ordinance concerning this illegal parking by heavy commercial vehicles that would impose a \$100 fine for the first violation, with incremental increases in fines for the second and third violations and towing or booting for the fourth violation. The ordinance as approved by the Traffic and Parking Board imposed these fines as well as booting or towing irrespective of **whether the violator had paid or otherwise settled prior fines**. Doing so is important since there is nothing to prevent a company from paying the first citation immediately, thereby avoiding any increased fines, towing or booting for repeated future violations.

**The current draft ordinance needs to be revised to increase the dollar amounts of fines for second and third violations as well as to eliminate the reference to "section 3-2-355." Section 3-2-355(a), which would give illegally parked tractor trailers a huge loophole whereby their vehicles would never be booted unless they did not pay or otherwise settle their three previous tickets.** In other words, all the tractor trailers have to do is pay their first ticket and they could continue to always park illegally since they would never be towed or booted. These trucks simply perceive the initial fine as the cost of doing business. Given the fact that the Alexandria Police Department told the Traffic and Parking Board that over 90 percent of the 626 violations occurred on South Pickett, towing or booting are likely the only remedies that might stop these repeat violations.

The final ordinance should require the following:

- (a) \$100 for the first violation,
- (b) \$250 for the second violation (**even if the first violation has been paid or otherwise settled**)
- (c) \$350 for the third and any subsequent violation (**even if one or more of the first two violations have been paid or otherwise settled**), and
- (d) upon the fourth and any subsequent violation (**even if one or more of the first three violations have been paid or otherwise settled**) the vehicle shall be (i) immobilized or (ii) be removed for safekeeping, in accordance with the process set forth in Article C, Chapter 8, Title 5.

Please pass these provisions to ensure that South Pickett is a safe street for children, pedestrians, and cyclists and so that trucking companies do not continue to flout and disrespect our city's laws by using S. Pickett as their personal parking yard.

Thank you,  
Greg Hillson

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**Gloria Sitton**

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**From:** Art Impastato <cameronstacivic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2022 2:06 PM  
**To:** Justin Wilson; Amy Jackson; Canek Aguirre; Sarah Bagley; John Chapman; Alyia Gaskins; Kirk McPike  
**Cc:** Mark McHugh; Brittany Williams; Regina Benavides; Suzanne Derr; LaShawn Timmons; Tracy Thompson; Karl Bach; Gloria Sitton; Emily Baker; Joanna Anderson; Christina Brown; Don Hayes; Jason North; Yon Lambert; Hillary Orr; katie.north@alexandriava.org; Alex Block; Max P Devilliers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Comments of the Cameron Station Civic Association on the Ordinance for Violations by Heavy Vehicles (City Council 3/8/22 Legislative Mtg., Item 46)  
**Attachments:** REDLINE South Pickett Truck Parking Ordinance .pdf

RE: Comments of the Cameron Station Civic Association on the Ordinance for Violations by Heavy Vehicles (City Council 3/8/22 Legislative Mtg., Item 46)

Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council:

I am writing this email on behalf of the Cameron Station Civic Association to recommend revisions to the draft ordinance on escalated fines for heavy vehicles illegally parked in commercial business areas. This matter is item 46 on the docket for the City Council legislative meeting on March 8, 2022.

At the outset, we wish to thank the Mayor, City Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins and a handful of others for their assistance in addressing what has become an increasing safety hazard near our community. For more than a decade the residents of my community and businesses on South Pickett have tried in vain to work with the City to stop the illegal industrial parking in the 600 and 700 blocks of South Pickett Street. These two blocks are designated 2-hour heavy industrial parking and no parking from 11 pm until 7 am.

According to the memorandum to the City staff Traffic and Parking Board dated February 28, 2022, the police have issued 626 citations for violations of City Code section 10-4-46 by heavy vehicles since March 2021. The situation has gotten out of hand because the tractor trailers act as if the fines are cheap parking and just a small cost of doing business. The illegal parking in the 600 and 700 blocks of South Pickett Street obstructs visibility for cars and bicyclists and exacerbates traffic congestion, to the extent that the present fines are largely ineffective as a deterrent.

On February 28, 2022, the Traffic and Parking Board approved a draft ordinance that would have imposed a \$100 fine for the first violation, with incremental increases in fines for the second and third violations and towing or booting for the fourth violation. The ordinance as approved by the Traffic and Parking Board imposed these fines as well as booting or towing irrespective of whether the violator had paid or otherwise settled prior fines. Doing so is important since there is nothing to prevent a company from paying the first citation immediately, thereby avoiding any increased fines, towing or booting for repeated future violations.

We believe that the current draft ordinance needs to be revised to increase the dollar amounts of fines for second and third violations as well as to eliminate the reference to "section 3-2-355." Section 3-2-355(a) would give illegally parked tractor trailers a huge loophole whereby their vehicles would never be booted unless they did not pay or otherwise settle their three previous tickets. In other words, all the tractor trailers have to do is pay their first ticket and they could continue to always park illegally since they would never be towed or booted. Given the fact that the Alexandria Police Department told the Traffic and Parking Board that over 90 percent of the aforementioned 626 violations occurred on South Pickett, towing or booting are likely the only remedies that might stop these repeat violations.

Based on the foregoing, we would recommend the following language (for ease of reference, we attach a redlined version):

The penalties for the below violations that are not contested and tendered to the Director of Finance within 30 days from the date the citation was issued shall be as follows:

(1) For violations of section 10-4-46, "Parking heavy vehicles in commercial business areas":

(a) \$100 for the first violation,

(b) \$250 for the second violation (even if the first violation has been paid or otherwise settled)

(c) \$350 for the third and any subsequent violation (even if one or more of the first two violations have been paid or otherwise settled), and

(d) upon the fourth and any subsequent violation (even if one or more of the first three violations have been paid or otherwise settled) the vehicle shall be (i) immobilized or (ii) be removed for safekeeping, in accordance with the process set forth in Article C, Chapter 8, Title 5;

If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you very much for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Arthur "Sash" Impastato  
President  
Cameron Station Civic Association

***We would love to have you join the Civic Association.*** To join, send a check made payable to the Cameron Station Civic Association for \$10 per person (ages 18 and older) with your name(s), address, phone number and email address to: Cameron Station Civic Association 200 Cameron Station Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22304. To contact the Civic Association please email [cameronstacivic@gmail.com](mailto:cameronstacivic@gmail.com).

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South Pickett Truck Parking Ordinance 3-2-22 DRAFT

Ordinance by City Staff

The penalties for the below violations that are not contested and tendered to the director of finance within 30 days from the date the citation was issued shall be as follows:

(1) For violations of section 10-4-46, "Parking heavy vehicles in commercial business areas":

(a) \$100 for the first violation,

(b) ~~\$250~~ for the second violation ~~(even if the first violation has been paid or otherwise settled)~~,

(c) ~~\$350~~ for the third and any subsequent violation ~~(even if one or more of the first two violations have been paid or otherwise settled), and~~

(d) upon the fourth and any subsequent violation ~~(even if one or more of the first three violations have been paid or otherwise settled)~~ the vehicle ~~shall~~ be ~~(i) immobilized, or (ii)~~ be removed for safekeeping, in accordance with the process set forth in Article C, Chapter 8, Title 5;

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