



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

The Vehicle Resident Assistance Program

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
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Overview of Legislative Package

1. Vehicle Resident Assistance Program RES
2. Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program ORD
3. Outdoor Storage Land Use Code Changes ORD
4. Finance and Administrative Services Lease Authority ORD
5. Junk Vehicle Definition Update ORD
6. Appropriations ORD

Legislation 1: Vehicle Resident Assistance Program RES

States the goals for this legislative package:

- Create a structured pathway out of vehicle residency to shelter and housing.
- Provide legal stability for eligible residents in motor homes and travel trailers to remain parked within designated areas in industrial zones.
- Encourage coordination between the Human Services Department (HSD), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Seattle Police Department (SPD) on parking enforcement, service referrals and permit compliance.
- Support the development of safe lots and shelter storage through additional tools to handle vehicle residency.
- Set clear expectations for engagement with service providers and behavior in the City's right of way.

Legislation 2: Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program (1/5)

Changes parking rules and creates a new permit program for motor homes and trailers

- Establishes definitions for "motor homes" and "travel trailers."
- Effective April 30, 2027, would establish general parking restrictions on motor homes and travel trailers to:
 - Restrict parking to two hours maximum in all areas of the city.
 - Prohibit parking between midnight and 6 a.m.
- Creates a Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit for motor homes and travel trailers to:
 - Allow general parking of permitted vehicles, following established parking regulations
 - Allow parking between midnight and 6.a.m. in Industrial zones and within geographic service areas established by HSD.

Legislation 2: Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program (2/5)

Would direct SDOT to develop a Director's Rule

- SDOT to establish program standards and administrative procedures.
- Requires that certain criteria must be included in the Director's Rule related to permit eligibility, conditions and enforcement.
- Requires coordination between the SDOT, HSD, and SPD to establish the Director's Rule.

Legislation 2: Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program (3/5)

Permit eligibility criteria

- Directs HSD to conduct a one-time census of individuals and vehicles in Seattle.
 - Only individuals and vehicles identified through this census are eligible to receive a permit.
 - The program would not be open to late comers.
- One permit per person, must be registered owner of vehicle.
- HSD and affiliated service providers would be able to support applications on behalf of eligible individuals.

Legislation 2: Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program (4/5)

Permit conditions criteria

- Permit will establish geographic service areas, within industrial zones, where overnight parking is allowed. Permit holder will be assigned a geographic area they must park in overnight as a condition of their permit.
- Geographic service areas would be aligned with outreach contracts to allow service providers to remain in contact with permit holders with offers of shelter and housing and other support and services.
- Permit will be revoked if a permit holder turns down offers of appropriate shelter six times.
- HSD would maintain a certification list and document offers of appropriate shelter in support of administering the permit.
- Permit would also include other conditions related to the maintenance and condition of the permitted vehicle, surrounding streets and sidewalks, and occupant behavior.

Legislation 2: Vehicle Resident Assistance Permit Program (5/5)

Permit enforcement criteria

- Permit enforcement would rely on the SPD's Parking Enforcement Division.
 - HSD would establish policies and procedures to document and report violations of permit conditions, initiate revocation, and support review of appeals.
 - The legislation would take effect on April 30, 2027
 - The legislation would direct City departments to establish the process for taking permit applications by April 30, 2027.
 - Warnings would be issued for the first 90 days of implementation
 - The legislation would begin enforcement of parking restrictions by July 31, 2027.

Legislation 3: Outdoor Storage Land Use Code Updates

- Updates the definition of 'Recreational Vehicle' to note that it may contain its own motor or may be towed behind a motorized vehicle;
- Updates the definition of outdoor storage to include storage of unoccupied recreational vehicles or other formerly lived-in vehicles
- Adjusts the definition of flexible-use parking to exclude storage of recreational vehicles.

Legislation 4: FAS Lease Authority

- Ordinance 127423, passed by City Council in March 2026, allows the Director of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to execute leases on properties up to 65,000 square feet without needing Council approval, if the site is to be used for transitional encampments (which includes safe lots).
- This legislation would also expand the FAS Director's authority to execute leases for outdoor storage for vehicles and overnight respite areas for drivers, including truck drivers.
- It would also increase the FAS Director's authority to execute leases for sites being used for transitional encampments, outdoor storage of vehicles and overnight respite areas for drivers from 65,000 square feet to 100,000 square feet.

Legislation 5: Junk Vehicle Definition Update (1/2)

Under the current SMC, to be considered a junk vehicle a vehicle must meet at least three of the following requirements:

1. Left on private property without the permission of the person having right to the possession of the property;
2. Left on a street, alley way open to the public, or on municipal or other public property for twenty-four (24) hours or longer;
3. Extensively damaged, such as a broken window or windshield, missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission.
4. Apparently inoperable;
5. Having a fair market value of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or less;
6. Without a current certificate of registration or a current and proper vehicle license.

Legislation 5: Junk Vehicle Definition Update (2/2)

This ordinance would update the Traffic Code's definition of Junk Vehicles by:

- Clarifying what is meant by a vehicle that is extensively damaged
- Clarifying what is meant by a vehicle that is apparently inoperable
- Clarifying that part of having a current vehicle license/registration is having current vehicle license tags
- Adding two new criteria that can cause a vehicle to be considered a junk vehicle:
 - The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is obscured or not easily visible
 - The vehicle has no license plate

Legislation 6 - Appropriations Bill (1/2)

- The 2026 Adopted Budget contains \$3.5 million in on-going funding to support vehicle residents' transition to shelter.
- Additionally, \$1.5 million one-time funding for vehicle residents that was allocated for this work in the 2025 Adopted Budget continues to be available.
- That total funding of \$5 million resides in the Human Services Department's (HSD) Addressing Homelessness BSL.

Legislation 6 - Appropriations Bill (2/2)

- Creates eight new positions, one Permit Technician in SDOT and seven outreach staff (Counselors) in HSD, related to implementation of the new Vehicle Resident Permitting Program.
- Transfers \$216,000 in appropriation authority from HSD to SDOT to pay for IT and staffing costs related to implementation of a Vehicle Resident Permitting Program:
 - \$100,000 for IT system updates in Accela
 - \$116,000 is for half of the annual fully loaded costs of a new Permit Technician.
- Modifies an existing HSD proviso on \$2 million in funding, to allow funding to be spent on outreach and expand population that can be served to all vehicle residents.
- Imposes a new proviso of \$2 million, restricting funds for:
 - Service providers engaged in outreach to persons living in vehicles, including capacity building and increased staffing in order to reduce case management ratios
 - To help vehicle residents meet code requirements related to their vehicle

Timeline & Next Steps

August 11 – Discussion of six pieces of legislation at the Public Safety Committee (as informational items only)

August 18 – All six pieces of legislation on the Introduction & Referral Calendar

September 22 – Discussion, public hearing, and possible vote at the Public Safety Committee

Questions?