city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 15, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager 202601367

Subject: **Ordinance – Public Parking Lot & Garage License Updates**

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

> **MODIFYING** the provisions of Chapter 413, "Parking Garages and Parking Lots," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code ("CMC") by **ORDAINING** new Section 413-35, "Hardship Reductions and Exemptions," by **AMENDING** Sections 413-17, "Walls or Fences Surrounding Parking Lots," 413-19, "Posting of Signs," 413-21, "Parking Payment Tickets," 413-23, "Removal of Vehicles, Unauthorized Use," 413-27, "Protection Against Theft or Conversion," 413-28, "Reports as to Vehicles Stored More Than Seventy-Two Hours," 413-29, "Sanitary Conditions," 413-41, "Rules and Regulations," and 413-99, "Penalties;" and **MODIFYING** the provisions of Title XV, "Code Compliance and Hearings," of the CMC by **AMENDING** Sections 1501-8, "Class C1 Civil Offenses," 1501-11, "Class E Civil Offenses," 1501-14, "Class E1 Civil Offenses," and 1501-18, "Class E3 Civil Offenses," to establish clear standards for licensed parking garages and parking lots to provide for the safety, security, and welfare of the pedestrian public and persons using parking garages and parking lots; reduce crime; and prevent predatory practices and conduct.

BACKGROUND

In 1962 the City established a licensing requirement and associated standards for privately owned parking lots and garages within the City. As a condition of operating a public parking lot/garage under the licensing program, each licensee must meet established standards for security, barrier control, signage and other similar requirements. The Department of Public Services, Parking Division assumed management of this program in 2024 and has been working to update the licensing program requirements to ensure the license requirements are up to date with best practices.

PROGRAM CHANGES

The proposed updates to the program are to meet the following goals:

1. Deter incidences of crime within publicly offered parking lots/garages
2. Protect customers, pedestrians and private property.
3. Ensure clear terms and conditions for the public utilizing publicly offered parking lots and garages.

To achieve these goals, the proposed updates to the licensing program are as follows.

- New Standards for Lighting – The proposed update will add a requirement for illumination to meet the National Parking Association's recommendations for illumination for parking lots and garages. This will expand the licensing requirements security requirements.
- New Standards for Staffing or Security Cameras – The proposed update will add a requirement that parking lot and garage operators must have staff present during all hours of operation or must install security cameras that are either live monitored, registered with CONNECT CINCINNATI or integrated through CONNECT CINCINNATI.
- Updated Standards for Perimeter Barriers/Landscaping – The proposed update will expand the existing perimeter barrier requirement. The current requirement includes a vehicular barrier on all sides of the parking lot/garage to ensure that adjacent buildings are protected, cars do not hang onto the side walk or adjacent street and cars cannot leave the parking lot other than the designated entrance and exit. The proposed update will require that the perimeter barrier also limits pedestrians from entering and exiting the parking lot/garage at locations other than the designated entrance and exit.
- Updated Standards for Signage – The proposed update would ensure signage stating business rules, contact information for the operator and parking rates are placed at specific locations within each licensed facility. The update will also require where a customer is not furnished with a parking payment ticket upon entrance, the lot or garage will have signage indicating how the customer can pay for parking.
- Updated Standards for Removal of Vehicles (Towing, Booting, Transfer Stations) – The proposed change would prohibit towing or vehicle immobilization within the first twenty minutes of a vehicle's arrival at a lot or garage. It would also require monthly reporting on the details of vehicles that have been towed or immobilized at each parking garage or lot in the past month.
- Updated Standards for Property Conditions – The proposed update clarifies that when removing snow from parking lots and garages it cannot be pushed into the adjacent sidewalk or street. Licensees will continue to be required to clear the sidewalks of ice, sleet and snow.

The Ordinance also contains an updated fine schedule for violations of the licensure requirements and process for seeking reductions or exemptions from certain licensure requirements. The Ordinance contains a six month grace period from the effective date of the ordinance to allow licensees time to ensure their operations comply with the licensure requirements. During this grace period, Parking Enforcement will provide inspections of licensed facilities and provide them with feedback on their facility's adherence to the licensure requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends approval of this Ordinance.

Attachment: Ordinance

Copy: Mark A. Riley, Director, Public Services