



**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
LAW, BUILDINGS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT
Ginnie Farrell, Chair**

DATE: **THURSDAY, March 20, 2025**

TIME: **5:30PM**

LOCATION: **Council Chambers-2nd Floor, City Hall**

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- **Ordinance 21.71.24**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO TRUCK PARKING RESTRICTIONS
- **Ordinance 24.81.24**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) AND CHAPTER 251 (PARKS AND RECREATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO THE OPERATION OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY OF ALBANY
- **Local Law L of 2024**
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE I (EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT) OF CHAPTER 62 (LABOR) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO BROADENING THE EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: YES

Council Member Frederick and Flynn introduced the following:

ORDINANCE 21.71.24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO TRUCK PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The City of Albany, in Common Council convened, does hereby ordain and enact:

Section 1. Subsection (G) of Section § 359-22(B) (Parking, standing and stopping restrictions.) of Article II (Traffic Regulations) of Chapter 359 (Vehicles and Traffic) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

G. Park a tow truck, as defined in § 353-50 of Chapter 353 on any street; with a vehicle in tow, on any street or park a tow truck without a vehicle in tow between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

(1) with a vehicle in tow,

(2) without a vehicle in tow between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., or

(3) without a vehicle in tow for more than one hour between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after enactment.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
20TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024**

Corporation Counsel

To: **Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk**

From: **Bryan Jimenez, Senior Legislative Aide**

Re: **Common Council Legislation**
Supporting Memorandum

Date: **May 28, 2024**

Sponsor: **Council Member Frederick and Flynn**

ORDINANCE 21.71.24

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO TRUCK PARKING RESTRICTIONS

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

This legislation would amend City of Albany traffic regulations concerning the parking of tow trucks on City streets between certain hours and updates the restrictions on tractors and commercial vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds to match the new tow truck restrictions.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

Tow trucks idling and parking in residential areas and areas with high foot traffic lead to increased emissions and decreased business. By regulating where tow trucks are allowed to idle and park, local air quality is improved and additional on-street parking spaces are opened up for both residents and local businesses near their homes and places of business.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Council Members Farrell and Zamer introduced the following:

ORDINANCE 24.81.24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) AND CHAPTER 251 (PARKS AND RECREATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO THE OPERATION OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

The City of Albany, in Common Council convened, does hereby ordain and enact:

Section 1. Article I (Bicycles and Motor Vehicles) of Chapter 359 (Vehicles and Traffic) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

Article I
Bicycles and All Motor Vehicles

§ 359-1 Alarm bells for bicycles. Definitions

~~All persons riding or propelling with the feet a bicycle, tricycle, velocipede or other vehicle of propulsion on the public streets or avenues or in the parks of this City shall attach to and carry on such vehicle an alarm bell, which said bell the persons shall ring or sound on approaching and within 30 feet of the intersection of any street or avenue proposed to be crossed.~~ For purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Bicycle

A two or three wheeled device upon which a person or persons may ride, propelled by human power through a belt, a chain or gears, with such wheels in a tandem or tricycle, except that it shall not include such a device having solid tires and intended for use only on a sidewalk by pre-teenage children. Bicycles with Electric Assist are not bicycles for purposes of this Chapter.

Bicycle with Electric Assist

A bicycle as defined in § 102-c of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Electric Scooter

A device weighing less than one hundred pounds that (a) has handlebars, a floorboard or a seat that can be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor, (b) can be powered by the electric motor and/or human power, and (c) has a maximum speed of no more than twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. Wheelchairs or other mobility aids used to provide transportation for a disabled person, whether or not powered by electricity, are not electric scooters for purposes of this Chapter.

Light Electric Vehicle

Any small and lightweight electric vehicles, not exceeding 100 pounds, such as electric bikes, electric scooters, and electric skateboards.

Other Human Propelled Device

Any human powered device not included in the definitions of “Bicycle” or “Pedestrian” herein, including, but not limited to, skateboards, roller skates, unicycles, and similar devices.

Pedestrian

Any individual walking or traveling in a wheelchair or other mobility aid used to provide transportation for a disabled person.

Unregistered Motorized Device

Any vehicle that cannot be registered or operated on New York State sidewalks, streets or highways. This definition does not include light electric vehicles and bicycles as defined in this Chapter, and it does not include wheelchairs and other mobility aids used to provide transportation for a disabled person.

§ 359-2 Speed limit for bicycles. Public Roadways

No person using a bicycle, tricycle, velocipede or other vehicle of propulsion on the public streets or avenues or parks of this City shall propel such vehicle at a rate of speed greater than eight miles an hour, and all such persons shall observe the law of the road. Light Electric Vehicles, Bicycles, Electric Scooters, Bicycles with electric assist, and other Human Powered Devices may be operated upon the public roadways of this City consistent with New York State Vehicle Traffic Law Article 34.

§ 359-3 Number abreast limited. All Terrain Vehicles

No greater number of persons than two abreast shall parade or ride in the streets or avenues or parks of this City at any time on such bicycles, tricycles, velocipedes or other vehicles of propulsion. Nothing herein shall permit the use of All Terrain Vehicles, as defined in chapter 357 of the Code of the City of Albany, to operate on the streets, sidewalks, paths, or public property of the City of Albany.

§ 359-4 Riding on sidewalks prohibited; exceptions.

No person shall ride any bicycle, tricycle, velocipede or other vehicle of propulsion on or over any footpath in any of the parks, or on or over any of the sidewalks of any of the streets or avenues in this City, except if it is to go into a yard, lot or building; provided, however, that the foregoing provision of this section shall not apply to children under 10 years of age; and provided further that this section shall not be so construed as to prohibit the riding of any bicycle, tricycle or similar vehicle upon or over the unpaved portion of the sidewalk of any such street or streets outside of the thickly settled part of the City as shall be designated in writing by the Mayor. Every designation so made as aforesaid shall be filed with the Chief of Police and may be revoked by the Mayor at any time in his discretion.

A. Pedestrians shall have right of way on all sidewalks in the City of Albany.

B. Bicycles or other human propelled devices may only be operated on a sidewalk when:

1. Operation on an adjacent roadbed is unsafe or otherwise prohibited, and
2. Speed does not exceed eight (8) miles per hour.

C. While passing pedestrians on a sidewalk, users of bicycles or other human propelled

devices as defined in this Article shall not operate a bicycle or other human propelled device within four feet of a pedestrian. When the operation of bicycles and other human propelled devices on the sidewalk cannot be exercised with due care, users shall stop and dismount until operation with due care is possible.

D. Light electric vehicles and motor vehicles may not be operated on any sidewalk in the City of Albany except if it is to go into a yard, lot, or building.

§ 359-5 Operation of motor vehicles generally.

A. It is required that all motor vehicles operated within the City of Albany be in good and safe operating condition, and each shall be operated only:

1. While having a valid New York State Certificate of Inspection affixed on the vehicle in the proper location.
2. While in full compliance with Article 9 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
3. While in full compliance with Article 10 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
4. While in full compliance with Article 2 of the Transportation Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
5. While in full compliance with Article 6 of the Transportation Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
6. While in full compliance with Article 21 of the Tax Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
7. While in full compliance with Article 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.
8. While registered in accordance with Article 14 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, as amended, which article is fully incorporated herein by reference.

B. No motor vehicle may operate within the City of Albany if that vehicle has been determined to be in an unsafe condition by a certified New York State inspector or by a person certified by the State of New York to conduct such inspections.

C. No motor vehicle may operate within the City of Albany if it has been determined that the vehicle should be put out of service by a New York State Department of Transportation inspector.

§ 359-6 Driver restrictions.

No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle nor permit another person to operate or drive a motor vehicle unless the person driving or operating the motor vehicle is duly and properly licensed with a license for the class of vehicle being operated which is in full force and effect and valid pursuant to Articles 19 and 20 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York, as amended, which articles are fully incorporated herein by reference.

§ 359-7 Motorized scooters Unregistered Motorized Devices.

- A. ~~Definition of "motorized scooter." For purposes of this section, the term "motorized scooter" shall mean any wheeled device that is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, is powered by an electric motor or by a gasoline motor that is capable of propelling the device without human power, is less than 24 inches in height and is not capable of being registered with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. For the purposes of this section, the term "motorized scooter" shall not include wheelchairs or other mobility aids designed for use by disabled persons, electric or gas powered devices not capable of exceeding 15 miles per hour or "electric personal assistive mobility devices" defined as self balancing, two non tandem wheeled devices designed to transport one person by means of an electric propulsion system.~~
- B. No person shall operate ~~an motorized scooter unregistered motorized device~~ on public streets or roadways in the City of Albany pursuant to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.
- CB. Any person who violates Subsection B A of this section may be liable for a civil penalty in the amount of no more than \$1,000. Authorized employees of the Police Department shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section. In addition, such violation shall be a traffic infraction and shall be punishable in accordance with § 1800 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.
- DC. Any ~~motorized scooter unregistered motorized device~~ that has been used or is being used in violation of the provisions of this section may be impounded and shall not be released until any and all removal charges and storage fees and the applicable fines have been paid or a bond has been posted in an amount satisfactory to the Chief of Police.
- ED. No person shall sell, lease or rent ~~an motorized scooter unregistered motorized device~~ to another person in the City of Albany without informing such buyer, leaser or renter, in writing, that the ~~motorized scooters unregistered motorized device~~ as defined in this section chapter are illegal to be driven on public streets or roadways pursuant to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Further, anyone selling, leasing or renting ~~motorized scooters unregistered motorized devices~~ shall, at his or her place of business, post a sign not less than 8 1/2 inches by 14 inches stating their illegal use on public streets and roadways pursuant to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.
- EE. Any person who violates Subsection D of this section may be liable for a civil penalty of no more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each sale, lease or rental of a motorized scooter in

violation of Subsection D shall be deemed a separate violation. Authorized employees of the Department, the Police Department, and of any other agency designated by the Mayor shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section.

Section 2. Section 359-24 (Vehicle Use on Areas Designated for Bicycles) of Article II (Regulations) of Chapter 359 (Vehicles and Traffic) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 359-24 Motor ~~V~~ehicle use on areas designated for bicycles.

Except as provided in § 359-23 above and § 25.05 of the Parks and Recreation Law, no motor vehicle shall be operated or parked on a path, lane, shoulder or portion of a slope that has been designated for the use of bicycles.

Section 3. Section 359-112 (Drivers to exercise due care) of Article XII (Vehicle and Traffic Controls) of Chapter 359 (Vehicles and Traffic) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 359-112 Drivers to exercise due care. (Reserved)

- A. ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicyclist, pedestrian or domestic animal upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary. For the purpose of this section, the term "domestic animal" shall mean domesticated sheep, cattle and goats which are under the supervision and control of a pedestrian.~~
- B. Approaching horses.
 - (1) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any horse being ridden or led along a public highway.~~
 - (2) ~~Every driver of a vehicle shall, at a reasonable and prudent speed, approach a horse being ridden or led along a public highway so as to avoid frightening such horse and shall pass the horse at a reasonable distance.~~
 - (3) ~~No driver of a vehicle shall sound the horn when approaching or passing a horse on a public highway.~~

Section 3. Section 251-7 (Use of bicycles, tricycles, and vehicles in Washington Park and Beaver Park) of Article I (Public Grounds Designated as Parks; Government and Care of Parks and Parkways) of Chapter 251 (Parks and Recreation) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 251-7 Use of bicycles, tricycles and ~~v~~ehicles in Washington Park and Beaver City Parks.

- A. ~~No animals, bicycles, tricycles or motors or~~ vehicles shall be permitted to either stand, congregate or loiter upon the driveways of these parks or in any other parts thereof to the obstruction of the way or to the inconvenience of or interference with travel therein, except

on such occasions as may be specially designated by the Superintendent Commissioner of Parks Recreation.

- B. Neither shall ~~bicycles, tricycles, motors or~~ vehicles go together in numbers or abreast, except in pairs, to the inconvenience, obstruction or interference with the ~~driving~~ public.
- C. No part of ~~such Washington or Lincoln~~ parks shall be used for a place of instruction in the use ~~or management~~ of any motor vehicle. ~~including bicycles, tricycles and motors, and drivers or wheelmen must turn to the right hand in passing, and in all cases bicycles, tricycles and motors must carry lighted lamps after dark.~~
- D. ~~No vehicle drawn by horses, or propelled in any other way, including bicycles, tricycles and motors, shall travel or use the park roads at a greater rate of speed than eight miles an hour, and on short curves four miles an hour.~~
- E. ~~The use of bicycles, tricycles or vehicles of any kind is not permitted on the paths or walks of these parks.~~
- FD. The Commissioner of ~~Parks and~~ Recreation shall regulate the parking of motor vehicles within and upon the roadways of ~~Washington Park~~ city parks in connection with special events and theatrical events held therein and may establish and collect fees to offset the expense thereof.
- E. The Commissioner of Recreation shall, in coordination with the Active Transportation Planning Commission, designate times and days where active roadway vehicle traffic in Washington or Lincoln Parks is expected to be low to permit instruction in the use of non-motor vehicles on those roadways in such parks.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after enactment.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
26TH DAY OF JULY, 2022**

Corporation Counsel

To: **Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk**

From: **Jake Eisland, Research Counsel**

Re: **Common Council Legislation**
Supporting Memorandum

Date: **May 23, 2024**

Sponsor: **Council Members Farrell and Zamer**

ORDINANCE 24.81.24

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 359 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) AND CHAPTER 251 (PARKS AND RECREATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO THE OPERATION OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

To improve the safety and easy of using Active Transportation on the streets and in the parks of the City of Albany.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

Albany's Code pertaining to vehicles is old and outdated, offering more deference for horses than pedestrians or users of Active Transportation. This legislation adopts state definitions for various types of vehicles and ensures certain laws only apply to motor vehicles,

Furthermore, bicycles and other human propelled devices are safest when they are in a protected lane separated from motor vehicles. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration suggests minimizing sidewalk riding in order to be visible and predictable to drivers. However, when there is no protected lane, as is too often the case, the sidewalk can be the safest choice when traffic volume or speed is high. Nonetheless, pedestrians always have the right of way on sidewalks and bicycles, and other human propelled devices on the sidewalk are safest when they maintain speeds similar to pedestrians.

FISCAL IMPACT

TBD

Council Members Anane and Balarin introduced the following:

LOCAL LAW L OF 2024

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE I (EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT) OF CHAPTER 62 (LABOR) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO BROADENING THE EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Be it enacted, by the Common Council of the City of Albany, as follows:

Section 1. Article I (Employee Residency Requirement) of Chapter 62 (Labor) of Part I (Administrative Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to read as follows:

Article I Employee Residency Requirement

§ 62-1. Employee residency; residency preference

- A. The legislative body determines that individuals who are employees of the City of Albany have a greater interest, commitment and more involvement with the government which employs them if the employee lives within near that municipality. Thus, the Common Council believes that the public need is sufficient to require that employees hired after the effective date of this section be residents of the City of Albany the County of Albany or a county within the state contiguous thereto. This section shall not supersede or override any other residency provision existing in state or federal law, state civil service regulation, or existing in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Albany.
- B. All labor, skilled or unskilled, persons employed by or for the City of Albany, its various municipal boards, departments, and officials or agents, shall be performed only by citizens of Albany, and to further observe the best interests of the taxpayers in disbursing public moneys and secure the best possible workmanship, mechanics affiliated with the trade organizations of their crafts shall be given preference in the performance of contracts wherever and wherever practicable. City of Albany residents shall be given a preference for seasonal and temporary positions residents of the County of Albany or a county within the state contiguous thereto. When a position is filled through a competitive examination, preference for filling such position will be given to candidates who are residents of the City of Albany. In furtherance of this goal, the City shall create a preferred certification list. Once the City of Albany resident-preferred list has been exhausted, such positions may be filled by canvassing a non-residency preferred list.
- C. All department heads subject to confirmation by the Common Council hired after the effective date of the law shall be residents of the City during such employment or become residents of the City within 180 days after confirmation by the Common Council. Said department heads may petition the Common Council for a waiver of the residency requirement which may be granted by a majority vote of the Common Council. Those persons expressly exempted by the Public Officers Law of the State of New York are hereby exempt from the provision.

D. Residency for new employees. Except as otherwise provided by this section, the Common Council hereby establishes a residency requirement for all prospective employees of the City. Every person initially employed by the City of Albany shall, as a qualification of employment, be or become a resident of the City County of Albany or a county in the state contiguous thereto within 180 days of the date of initial appointment ~~for to~~ said City. Furthermore, employees hired after the effective date of this section shall continue to be a resident of the City County of Albany, or a county in the state contiguous thereto, throughout their employment with the City, and the failure to move into one ~~the City Albany County or a county in the state contiguous thereto~~ shall be deemed a voluntary resignation. The City may require annual proof of residency from affected employees.

E. Board of Residency. There is hereby created by this section a Board of Residency. This Board shall consist of five members and shall consist of the Mayor of the City of Albany or the Mayor's appointee, the Corporation Counsel of the City of Albany or a representative of the Corporation Counsel and three Council members. All members of this Board shall be City of Albany residents. The Board shall have the following powers and obligations:

(1) The Board shall meet within 30 days upon receipt of a written request of the Mayor or independently elected or appointed official heading an office, to make a determination granting or denying a one -year waiver of the residency requirement for prospective employees. The granting of the waiver exempts said employee from the provisions of this section for a one-year period. This determination shall be based upon one or more of the following criteria: a) the degree of specialization and professionalism required in any given field of employment; b) the existence of hardship such as may be determined by the Board; and c) the lack of qualified candidates residing within ~~the City County of Albany or a county in the state contiguous thereto~~. A request for an extension of the waiver may be made and determined in the same manner provided herein for the initial request.

Section 2. Article I (Employee Residency Requirement) of Chapter 62 (Labor) of Part I (Administrative Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended by adding a new Subparagraph F to read as follows:

F. Nothing in this section shall require an individual whose residency met the requirements under an older version of this chapter, not including waivers from the Board of Residency, to move residences to stay in compliance with this section.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect upon passage, public hearing, and filing with the Secretary of State.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
XXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024**

Corporation Counsel

To: **Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk**

From: **Jake Eisland, Esq., Research Counsel**

Re: **Common Council Legislation**
Supporting Memorandum

Date: **September 3, 2024**

Sponsor(s): **Anane**

LOCAL LAW L OF 2024

TITLE

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE I (EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT) OF CHAPTER 62 (LABOR) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO BROADENING THE EMPLOYEE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

This local law will modify the residency requirement to allow departments to hire employees who live Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND CHANGES TO EXISITING LAW

It has become difficult for many city offices to fill vacant positions with qualified applicants. This law will broaden the pool of qualified applicants by allowing prospective qualified employees to live outside of the City of Albany.

FISCAL IMPACT(S)

None.