

614 – PARKING POLICY AT DESIGNATED FORT BEND COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

Section 614.01 Regulating Parking at Fort Bend County Designated Property

The Fort Bend County parking policy regulates parking by the general public as well as employees on designated County owned property. This policy is included in this manual to inform all employees that they are required to adhere to the parking policy at all times when parking at the Courthouse Complex, whether they are operating a county-owned vehicle, or a privately owned vehicle.

This policy is adapted from the *Order Creating Rules and Regulations for Parking at Designated Fort Bend County Owned Property* adopted by Commissioner Court and effective April 1, 2009.

Elected Officials, Department Heads, and other employees who violate this policy shall be responsible for any applicable fines and/or removal, impoundment or storage fees, whether the vehicle is a county-owned vehicle or a privately owned vehicle. County-owned vehicles must be retrieved from storage promptly (usually within 24-hours). In addition, an employee who repeatedly disregards or violates this parking policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

Section 614.02 Scope Courthouse Complex, Richmond, TX

The scope of this policy will only include the County owned properties described below and furthermore, these properties and their surface parking lots will be referred to as the "Courthouse Complex, Richmond TX."

- Courthouse, 401 Jackson Street, Richmond TX
- William B. Travis Building, 309 S. 4th Street, Richmond TX
- Jane Long Annex, 500 Liberty Street, Richmond TX
- O.J. "Mac" MacDowell Jury Assembly Room, 212 Houston Street, Richmond TX
- Emergency Medical Services, Station 6, 204 Main Street, Richmond TX

Section 614.03 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect and promote the general health, safety, welfare, public convenience and good government of Fort Bend County by regulating parking on property owned by the County, and to communicate to the general public, County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and employees, the County's formal policy and procedures for parking on County owned property.

Section 614.04 Authority and Application

This policy is issued under the authority of Section 445.001 of the Local Government Code, and applies to all County Elected Officials, Department Heads, employees and the public.

**Section 614.05
Responsibility**

It shall be the responsibility of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office or Constables' Offices, whichever agency is available, to enforce parking regulations on County owned property, whether the property is located within a city limits or in an unincorporated area of the County.

**Section 614.06
Policy**

1. Commissioners Court may designate areas on County-owned land to be used for parking vehicles and shall direct where County Elected Officials, Department Heads, employees and the public shall park. Signage will be posted where appropriate to facilitate parking policy compliance.
2. It is the responsibility of the motor vehicle operator to find a legal parking space.
3. Lack of space is not a valid reason for violating a parking regulation.
4. Vehicles are considered parked when left unattended for any period of time.
5. All areas not specifically designated for parking are "No Parking" zones. These areas will not be posted.
6. The owner or operator of a vehicle may not leave a vehicle unattended on county owned property that:ⁱ
 - a. Is in or obstructs a vehicular traffic aisle, entry, or exit of the County-owned land
 - b. Prevents a vehicle from exiting a parking space on County owned land
 - c. Is in or obstructs a marked fire lane
 - d. Is in or obstructs a posted reserved parking space
 - e. Does not display the special license plates issued under Section 504.201 of the Transportation Code, or the disabled parking placard issued under Chapter 681, Transportation Code, for a vehicle transporting a disabled person and is in a parking space that is designated for the exclusive use of a vehicle transporting a disabled person
 - f. Has been designated as Reserved and properly posted as such under Occupation Code 2308.305.
7. These prohibitions do not apply to an emergency vehicle responding to an emergency, that is owned by, or the operation of which is authorized by, a governmental entity.
8. These prohibitions will be in place Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. exclusive of County Holidays.

**Section 614.07
Enforcement**

A person commits an offense if the person parks a vehicle in violation of a rule adopted under this section. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor,ⁱⁱ or subject to a fine as imposed by Transportation Code §681.011(g).

The County reserves the right to remove and impound any vehicle that is parked in such a way as to constitute a serious hazard or is in violation of any rule stated herein. The owner of any vehicle that is removed for violation of these rules will be required to pay all costs for the removing, impounding and storing of such vehicle,ⁱⁱⁱ in accordance with the *Revised Order Creating Rules and Regulations for Non-Consent Towing and Storage Services of Fort Bend County*.

In addition, as per Section 614.01, an Elected Official, Department Head or other County employee who violates any parking regulation while operating a County owned vehicle, shall be responsible for all costs for the removing, impounding and storing of such vehicle, and any applicable fines. A County owned vehicle that has been impounded must be retrieved promptly (usually within 24 hours).

Policy Approved and Adopted By:
Fort Bend County Commissioners Court
March 24, 2009

ⁱ Occupations Code §2308.251

ⁱⁱ Local Government Code § 445.001(c)

ⁱⁱⁱ Local Government Code § 445.001(d)