

Ordinance No. 2026-6222

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AMENDING SECTION 10.44.220 OF THE SANTA BARBARA MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODIFY ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING VIOLATIONS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1

Section 10.44.220 of Chapter 10.44 of Title 10 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

10.44.220. Restriction of Oversized Vehicle Parking.

A. Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth in this subsection:

1. Bus. A bus as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 233; a school bus as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 545; a transit bus as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 642; a bus regulated by the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 34500(b); a tour bus regulated by the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 34500.1; or a bus of a charter-party carrier with a valid permit issued pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 5375.

2. Oversized Vehicle. Any vehicle, as that word is defined in California Vehicle Code Section 670, or a combination of connected vehicles (including, but not limited to, trailers as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 630), which exceeds 25 feet in length, or 80 inches in width, or 82 inches in height, exclusive of such projecting lights or devices as are expressly allowed pursuant to the California Vehicle Code as it now exists or hereafter may be amended. Oversized vehicle shall not mean or include a pickup truck which is less than 25 feet in length and 82 inches in height.

B. Restriction on oversized vehicle parking. No person shall park or leave standing any oversized vehicle on any streets or portions of streets in areas where the Public Works Director has caused signs or markings giving adequate notice of the restriction to be placed, except as provided in subsection C below.

1. Warning Required. Only one warning shall be provided for a violation of this chapter prior to issuance of a citation. Upon issuance of the warning, information shall be provided to the individual regarding the New Beginnings Safe Parking Program. Movement of the oversized vehicle following issuance of a warning or citation shall not constitute compliance where the vehicle remains within the City or returns to the same or nearby location for the purpose of avoiding enforcement. A person shall not continuously relocate an oversized vehicle to evade citation under this section. No additional grace

period shall be required after the initial warning, and subsequent violations may be cited immediately.

C. Exceptions. Subsection B above shall not apply to:

1. Any oversized commercial vehicle actively engaged in the loading or unloading of materials, supplies or goods, in the delivery of goods, wares, merchandise, or other materials at an adjacent business or residence for no longer than 30 minutes;

2. Any inoperable oversized vehicle upon which a person is actively engaged in making emergency repairs, as authorized by Section 10.44.040, for no longer than four hours;

3. Any vehicle belonging to or under contract with federal, state, or local government authorities, or a public utility, and any emergency vehicles as defined by California Vehicle Code Section 165;

4. Any bus for no longer than two hours, and any bus in an area specifically posted to allow bus parking for a prescribed time;

5. Any oversized vehicle properly displaying both a valid distinguishing disabled placard or license plate issued pursuant to the California Vehicle Code and a valid oversized vehicle disability parking permit issued pursuant to subsection D of this section;

6. Any oversized vehicle that has been issued and is displaying a temporary oversized vehicle parking permit issued pursuant to subsection E of this section; or

7. Any oversized commercial vehicle that has been issued and is displaying a contractors oversized vehicle parking permit issued pursuant to subsection F of this section.

D. Oversized vehicle disability parking permits. Any person that possesses a distinguishing disabled placard or license plate properly issued pursuant to the California Vehicle Code may park in any blue zone within the City, unless that parking location has been designated by the City's Traffic Engineer that parking an oversize vehicle at a particular blue zone creates or exacerbates a dangerous traffic safety condition. A sign must be erected at any blue zone notifying this prohibition. A person may obtain an oversized vehicle disability parking permit for a specific oversized vehicle to be parked at a specific location or locations separate from any blue zone if he or she demonstrates in writing to the satisfaction of the Public Works Director or his or her designee, on an application form prepared by the Public Works Director and upon payment of a fee prescribed by resolution of the City Council, that they meet each of the following conditions:

1. The person owns or lawfully possesses an oversized vehicle;

2. The person is a permanent city resident as determined under the law of California;

3. The person possesses a distinguishing disabled placard or license plate properly issued pursuant to the California Vehicle Code;

4. The proposed parking location is necessary to provide access to a specific fixed residential address sited with a lawful dwelling unit at which the person

resides or to a specific facility or facilities at which the person is employed or receives services;

5. The proposed parking location does not create or exacerbate a dangerous traffic safety condition;

6. The person demonstrates that by reason of the disability which warranted issuance of their California distinguishing placard or license plate, the oversized vehicle is specially equipped and necessary to accommodate the disability of the person seeking the permit so that a reasonable modification to the City's on-street parking regulations is warranted under state and federal law.

7. Oversized vehicle disability parking permits shall be valid for so long as the person remains disabled, but for no longer than one year. Permits may be renewed provided that the permit holder demonstrates in writing that he or she continues to meet the conditions of this subsection. Oversized vehicle parking with an oversized vehicle disability parking permit shall be subject to all applicable parking restrictions in the California Vehicle Code and the Santa Barbara Municipal Code, including, without limitation, Chapter 7.28 [Street Sweeping], Section 10.44.060 [72-Hour Parking Limit], Section 10.44.200 [Unlawful Parking of Trailers, Mobilehomes, Recreational Vehicles, Trucks and Buses] and Chapter 10.46 [Permit Parking].

E. Temporary oversized vehicle parking permits. A person may obtain a temporary oversized vehicle parking permit for a specific oversized vehicle if he or she demonstrates in writing to the satisfaction of the Public Works Director or his or her designee, on an application form prepared by the Public Works Director and upon payment of a fee prescribed by resolution of the City Council, that they meet each of the following conditions:

1. The person owns or lawfully possesses an oversized vehicle;

2. The person is a permanent City resident as determined under the law of California that wishes to temporarily park their oversized vehicle adjacent to their residence; or a commercial business that wishes to do business in the City; or to seek services or medical appointments for a temporary period at a specific fixed residential, commercial, or medical or service facility address with the consent of the resident or occupant of that address; or a non-resident temporarily visiting a specific fixed residential address with the consent of the resident of that address; or consent of the owner or operator of a service or medical facility provider;

3. The proposed parking location is reasonably situated to provide temporary access to a specific fixed residential, commercial, or service or medical facility address; and

4. The proposed parking location does not create or exacerbate a dangerous traffic safety condition.

5. A temporary oversized vehicle parking permit shall be valid for no longer than five consecutive calendar days. Permits may be renewed for up to an additional five days provided that the permit holder demonstrates in writing that he or she continues to meet the conditions of this subsection. In no event shall temporary oversized vehicle parking permits be issued to a resident, commercial business, medical or service facility provider or non-resident for a total period in excess of 10 days within any

consecutive 90 calendar day period. Oversized vehicle parking with a temporary oversized vehicle parking permit shall be subject to all applicable parking restrictions in the California Vehicle Code and the Santa Barbara Municipal Code, including, without limitation, Chapter 7.28 [Street Sweeping], Section 10.44.060 [72-Hour Parking Limit], Section 10.44.200 [Unlawful Parking of Trailers, Mobilehomes, Recreational Vehicles, Trucks and Buses] and Chapter 10.46 [Permit Parking].

F. Contractors oversized vehicle parking permits.

1. A person may obtain a contractors oversized vehicle parking permit for a specific oversized commercial vehicle if he or she demonstrates in writing to the satisfaction of the Public Works Director or his or her designee, on an application form prepared by the Public Works Director and upon payment of a fee prescribed by resolution of the City Council, that they meet and agree to each the following conditions:

a. The person owns or lawfully possesses an oversized commercial vehicle which is registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles as a commercial vehicle and displays identifiable California commercial license plates;

b. The person possesses a valid business license certificate issued pursuant to Chapter 5.04 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code and has paid all other applicable City taxes;

c. The oversized commercial vehicle is necessary for use in the business for which the city business license certificate has been issued;

d. The oversized commercial vehicle will at no time be parked unattended in any location that creates or exacerbates a dangerous traffic safety condition; and

e. The oversized commercial vehicle will not be parked on the street unattended between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day, except as provided below when the vehicle is necessary at the parking location, and actually in active use, for work needed to control and repair an emergency situation that poses an immediate threat to public health and safety.

2. Contractors oversized vehicle parking permits shall be valid for a period of not to exceed a single fiscal year, commencing July 1st of each year. Permits issued after July 1st of any year shall expire on June 30th of the following year and any fees shall be prorated to the nearest month. Permits may be renewed annually effective July 1st of each year, provided that the permit holder demonstrates in writing that he or she continues to meet and agree to the conditions of this subsection.

3. Contractors oversized commercial vehicles may be parked between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day only when the vehicle is necessary at the parking location, and actually in active use, for work needed to control and repair an emergency situation that poses an immediate threat to public health and safety. If the emergency location is not immediately apparent from the adjacent public right-of-way, the contractors oversized commercial vehicle shall bear a clearly visible notice in the driver's side window which identifies the emergency location by address and

unit number, if applicable, and includes contact information which would allow City safety or enforcement personnel to contact the vehicle operator immediately.

G. Nuisance declared. The City Council finds, determines and hereby declares that parking oversized vehicles in violation of this section constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety and general welfare, thereby creating a public nuisance. Unlike much of Southern California which was developed following World War II, Santa Barbara's street grid was established in the 18th and 19th centuries at a time before modern oversized vehicles could have been contemplated. Parked oversized vehicles interfere with and obstruct visual access to streets, traffic control signs and signals, other vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and sidewalks, thereby substantially increasing the risk of collisions between vehicles, as well as collisions between vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians, at intersections, near driveways, and on all streets in the city, including curved roadway sections, narrow streets, busy streets, commercial districts, and neighborhood streets. Parked oversized vehicles create an immediate threat to the public health, safety and general welfare by obstructing visual access to scenic resources, including historic landmarks and natural resources, such as the coastal mountains, beaches, and Pacific Ocean. Parked or stopped oversized vehicles are frequently left with engines, refrigeration systems or generators running, thereby contributing to the deterioration of local air quality and quiet neighborhoods. The City further finds that the proliferation and concentration of oversized vehicles within the City has resulted in recurring obstructions of public rights-of-way, reduced emergency access, blocked driveways and sidewalks, and interference with lawful use of public spaces. Oversized vehicles are frequently used for habitation and associated activities that generate refuse, wastewater, and other waste discharge onto public property, creating sanitation hazards and environmental impacts. The accumulation of trash, debris, human or animal waste, graywater discharge, and other refuse associated with oversized vehicle parking further contributes to public nuisance conditions affecting nearby residents, businesses, and public infrastructure.

H. Integration with other permit parking. Oversized vehicles shall not be considered "eligible vehicles" under Section 10.46.060.A for parking permits issued pursuant to Chapter 10.46. Oversized vehicles with Chapter 10.46 permits that were issued before December 16, 2016 shall be valid until they expire and shall not be renewable thereafter.

I. Rules and regulations. The Public Works Director is authorized to promulgate and publish rules and regulations to interpret and implement this section.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6222

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
)
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was introduced on May 12, 2026, and adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on May 19, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Eric Friedman, Oscar Gutierrez, Meagan Harmon, Mike Jordan, Wendy Santamaria, Kristen W. Sneddon, Mayor Randy Rowse.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on May 19, 2026.



Sarah P. Gorman, MMC
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing ordinance on May 19, 2026.

Randy Rowse
Mayor