Recreational Vehicles and "Oversized" Vehicles

Daisy Sanchez - City Manager's Office Intern
Important definitions

- **Recreational Vehicle**: A motor home, travel trailer, truck camper, or camping trailer, with or without motive power, designed for human habitation for recreational, emergency or other occupancy (California Health and Safety Code 18010)

- **“Oversized” Vehicle**: Any vehicle greater than 22 feet in length, 7 feet in width and 8 feet in height (Per Section 670 of the California Vehicle Code)

- This distinction is essential as it entails whether enforcement may apply to anything further than recreational vehicles (such as commercial vehicles). It also allows more leeway for smaller recreational vehicles.
Current concerns:

- Complaints about safety:
  - Fire and Emergency access is reduced especially on narrow streets and cul-de-sacs
    - Unhitched trailers impede parking circulation, particularly in case of emergencies that would require immediate removal
  - Detached trailers constitute a safety hazard as some may not have an independent braking system
  - Obstruction of line of sight of approaching traffic at driveways and intersections
  - Persons living in vehicles near residences, schools and businesses
Concerns continued

- Reduced roadway for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists
- Trip and fall hazards due to temporary electrical hook up to residences
- Illegal dumping of garbage and waste onto streets
- Use of public streets as auxiliary storage
- Reduced on street parking on impacted areas
- Concerns about aesthetics
  - Cause visual blight, aesthetically displeasing
Current Codes - El Segundo Municipal Code

- Title 8, Chapter 5, Section 6 of the El Segundo Municipal Code:

- On Parking:
  - A. Seventy Two Hours: No person who owns or has possession, custody or control of any vehicle shall park the vehicle upon any street or alley for more than a consecutive period of seventy two (72) hours.
  - B. Forty Eight Hours For Certain Vehicles: Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to park or stand any trailer, camp car or any other similar type of equipment owned, operated or controlled by such person, in or upon any public street, court, drive, alley or other public place in the city for more than forty eight (48) consecutive hours within any period of seven (7) days. (Ord. 659, 3-13-1967)
Current Codes: El Segundo Municipal Code

- On living in vehicles:
  
  - Section 7.6.1: A. Mobile Home, Campers: No person shall use or occupy or permit the use or occupancy of any mobile home, camper, house trailer or other recreational vehicle for human habitation, including, but not limited to, sleeping, eating or resting, on any street, park, beach, square, avenue, alley, public parking lot or public way, within the city between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) P.M. and six o'clock (6:00) A.M.

- B. Motor Vehicles: No person shall use or occupy or permit the use or occupancy of any motor vehicle for human habitation, including, but not limited to, sleeping, eating or resting, on any street, park, beach, square, avenue, alley, parking lot or public way, within the city, between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) P.M. and six o'clock (6:00) A.M. For purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" shall mean any self propelled vehicle other than a house car, camper or trailer coach. For purposes of this section "habitation" shall mean the use of a motor vehicle for a dwelling place, and shall not mean the use of a motor vehicle for amelioration of sickness or other temporary physical inabilitys causing an inability to operate such a motor vehicle. (Ord. 1261, 10-1-1996)
Enforcement Concerns:

- Vehicle habitation is a misdemeanor so citations must be served personally.
  - Police officers may knock on the door of an inhabited vehicle, but if nobody answers, then no person may be cited.
- By keeping current policy, RV owners follow the 48 hour law but usually end up moving their vehicles a small distance at the end of this period, thereby not helping parking circulation as the policy intended.
Current Survey of RV's in El Segundo -
June 28th - July 7th

Methodology:
Surveys took place Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 am for two weeks.
License plate data was used to determine where vehicles were registered.
Initially surveyed the entire city, but as there were not any RV's parked east of Sepulveda Blvd, we stopped surveying that region.
Recreational and Oversized Vehicles in El Segundo Field Survey Results

- Sightings along Smoky Hollow: 57 (40%)
- Sightings along Imperial: 21 (15%)
Imperial Avenue and Franklin Avenue Pictures
Additional Photos

E. Elsey Place and Center Street
Recreational and Oversized Vehicle Survey - License Plate Registration
City/State

Mississippi
Kentucky
Oklahoma
Louisiana
Arizona
Victorville
Gardena
Visalia
Alhambra
Murrieta
Sunland
Lawndale
Claremont
Camarillo
Los Angeles
Torrance
Inglewood
Redondo Beach
Hermosa Beach
Hawthorne
El Segundo

Recreational and Oversized Vehicle Registration - Total Percentage

Other Cities
El Segundo
0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00%
Public Opinion Survey

- Conducted from June 7th 2016 until August 1st 2016
- Survey link was accessible through the City website
  - Promoted mostly through ESPD's Nixel
- 828 responses (sufficient to make the survey statistically significant)
How would you characterize yourself?

El Segundo Resident 749 90.5%
Employee for a firm in El Segundo 51 6.2%
City of El Segundo Employee 16 1.9%
Business Owner 42 5.1%
Property Owner 177 21.4%
Visitor 23 2.8%

Do you own an RV? (Recreational vehicles are defined to include motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers)

No, I do not own an RV 733 88.5%
Yes, I do own an RV 95 11.5%
I am aware of the 48 hour parking limitation for any trailer, recreational vehicle or similar type of equipment:

- No, I was not aware of this policy: 465 (56.2%)
- I was aware of this policy but I do not always follow it: 29 (3.5%)
- I was aware of this policy and I do follow it: 334 (40.3%)

I feel that vehicle habitation (i.e. persons living in RV's) is:

- Not a problem in El Segundo: 213 (25.7%)
- Becoming a problem in El Segundo: 316 (38.2%)
- A current problem in El Segundo: 172 (20.8%)
- A significant problem in El Segundo: 127 (15.3%)

74.3% believe it is a problem in El Segundo.
Oversized vehicles (for example vehicles over 20 feet in length, 7 feet in width, or 8 feet in height) parked on the street block my line of sight while driving:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very infrequently</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequently (At least once a week)</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the time</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

60.4% answered frequently or all of the time

If El Segundo considers a new oversized vehicle limitation, it should be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less restrictive than the current 48 hour limitation</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional limitations are unnecessary, our current 48 hour limitation is adequate</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More restrictive than the current 48 hour limitation</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
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</table>
If new oversized vehicle limitations are to be considered, I would prefer:

- An overnight ban of oversized vehicles parking on the street: 116 (14%)
- An overnight ban and a permit system that allows temporary street parking for things like loading and unloading and holidays: 216 (26.1%)
- A permit system - like one that limits street parking to residents and businesses: 217 (26.2%)
- A ban on street parking of oversized vehicles on weekdays (Monday through Friday): 38 (4.6%)
- A ban on oversized vehicle parking within 25 feet from an intersection: 131 (15.8%)
- Other: 110 (13.3%)

52.2% would prefer a form of a permit system.
Public Opinion Survey additional comments:

- 195 of the 828 (24%) total respondents gave additional comments

- Respondents who added these comments generally spoke about:
  - A need for a permit system for oversized and recreational vehicles
  - Voiced concern about people living in recreational vehicles
  - The traffic concerns of having recreational and oversized vehicles parked on public streets
  - The lack of enforcement of the current 48-hour restriction
Solutions by other municipalities: Redondo Beach

- Prohibits oversized vehicle (22 ft. in length, 8 ft. in height, 7 ft. in width) parking on all streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. - using permit system to allow residents and their guests to park on-street temporarily
  - Requires permitted vehicles to be parked within 400 ft. of resident’s property
  - Allows permits for disabled access vehicles
  - Allows for residents to obtain a 7-day (maximum) permit for an out-of-town guest, with a maximum of 3 such permits per year
  - Allows residents to obtain a 1-day permit for unloading and loading purposes, they can get 6 of these permits per month and 60 permits per year
  - Residents may park on the weekend (Saturday through Monday) without a permit as well as on national holidays
Solutions by other municipalities: Redondo Beach continued

| RESIDENT-REGISTERED (CITY ISSUED RED AND WHITE "OVERSIZED VEHICLE" BUMPER STICKER) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 0200 HOURS TO 0600 HOURS-PARKED IN FRONT OF HOME OR WITHIN 400 FT OF RESIDENCE |

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXEMPT-OK TO PARK</td>
<td>PERMIT REQUIRED</td>
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Solutions by other municipalities: Manhattan Beach

On detached trailers:

- Manhattan Beach Municipal Code Section 14.36.180 prohibits the parking of detached trailers or non-motorized vehicles on City streets (includes boat trailers, utility trailers, fifth-wheels, and camper trailers).
  - Exceptions for loading and unloading and emergency repairs

On oversized vehicles:

- Manhattan Beach Municipal Code Section 14.46.020 prohibits the parking of oversized vehicles (greater than 22 ft. in length, 7 ft. in width, 8 ft. in height) within 25 ft. of an intersection, adjacent to schools, City parks and City operated community centers and where posted.
Solutions by other municipalities: Torrance

- Per City of Torrance Ordinance No. 3686: No person shall park or leave standing any Oversized Vehicle upon any public street or highway in the City.

- No person shall park or leave standing any Trailer, regardless of length or width, upon any public street or highway in the City

- Exemptions:
  - If issued an Oversized Vehicle Parking Permit or Oversized Vehicle Handicap Parking Permit
  - Oversized Vehicles or Trailers parked or left standing as a result of a mechanical breakdown so as to allow the performance of emergency repairs on the vehicle for a period not to exceed seventy-two hours
  - Commercial vehicles making pickups or delivery of goods, wares or merchandise
  - Tow trucks and similar vehicles that are in the course of providing services
  - Public or utility vehicles that are in the course of providing services
  - Any public emergency vehicle
Permit System - Analysis:

Pros:
- Allows for residents to store oversized vehicles on-street for a certain period of time
- This time could be used for the purposes of loading and unloading
- Allows flexibility for visitors of residents
- Could be enabled by virtual permits to lower administrative burden

Cons:
- Increased administrative burden associated with issuing permits
- Requires signage on streets
- Potential for fraudulent permits or abuse of legal permits
- Additional enforcement burden for ESPD
Prohibition of Overnight Parking of Oversize Vehicles - Analysis:

- **Pros:**
  - Easier to implement
  - Easier to enforce
  - Limited initial administrative burden

- **Cons:**
  - Signage installation and maintenance costs
  - Lack of accommodation and flexibility for residents with oversized vehicles
  - Potential impacts on El Segundo’s economy as this will require businesses who need oversize vehicles to develop alternate parking solutions
  - Additional enforcement burden for ESPD
Next steps

- Ultimately, the solution depends on the problem Council is trying to address.
  - If the problem is seen to be RV habitation, then an overnight ban or a permit system would be appropriate
  - If the problem is recreational and oversized vehicles from other cities parking in town, then a permit system limited to residents would be appropriate
  - If, in addition, recreational and oversized vehicle parking by residents is a problem then the city could impose an overnight ban and restrict permits to temporary loading and visitors
  - If Council wishes to impose additional restrictions, they should direct staff and the City Attorney to return with an amendment to the El Segundo Municipal Code