

# REGULATION OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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City Council  
May 2017

City of Hampton  
Community Development Department



# Current Regulations

- Recreational vehicle is defined as:
  - A travel trailer, camper, coach, motorized dwelling, pickup camper, coach, converted bus, tent trailer or similar device used as a portable residential dwelling, boat, and amphibious houseboat, and any utility trailer used for transporting any of the above named vehicles, whether occupied by such vehicle or not.
- Recreational vehicles are permitted on residential lots only when:
  - No greater than 28' long, 8' wide, and 10' tall
  - Meets accessory structure setbacks
  - Not parked in a front yard, except when loading or unloading (max 48 hours)
- If a recreational vehicle does not meet the requirements, it must be stored off-site

# Challenges with Current Regulations

## Enforcement Challenges

- Industry standard for size of recreational vehicles has evolved over time
- Regulations not aligned with other localities
- Loading/unloading exception makes the general prohibition on front yard parking difficult to enforce
- Height and length not easy to determine
- Ability to move recreational vehicles to circumvent requirements

# Key Questions

- Should the number of recreational vehicles that can be parked on a lot be capped?
- Should recreational vehicles be allowed to be parked in the front yard?
- If recreational vehicles are permitted in the front yard, should size be limited?

# Other Localities

	# Permitted	Size	Front Yard
Chesapeake	No Limit	No Limit	Not Permitted
Newport News	2 Max	No Limit	Permitted
Norfolk	No Limit	No Limit	Not Permitted
Portsmouth	No Limit	No Limit	Not Permitted*
Virginia Beach	No Limit	No Limit	Not Permitted

\*Only permitted in front yard if side yard is less than 11'

# Staff Generated Options (1)

	# Permitted	Size	Front Yard
Feb. CC Proposal	2 Max	No Limit	Permitted*
Option 2	No Limit	No Limit	Permitted**
Option 3	No Limit	No Limit	Not Permitted

\*1 RV permitted in front yard

\*\* Only single-axle tow-behind RVs permitted in front yard

# Additional Considerations

- If a recreational vehicle can be parked forward of the house, it must be on a paved surface and cannot extend into public right-of-way, including sidewalk
- No recreational vehicle can be less than 3' from property line
- Similar regulations to other localities
- Move regulations into City Code
  - Allow for code enforcement to issue parking tickets
  - Ideally, ticket could be issued based on visual inspection from the street
- No need to measure length or height

# Next Steps

- Take direction from City Council and re-draft the ordinance
- Bring the RV package, which includes the repeal of current zoning regulations and adoption of new city code regulations, to Planning Commission for a public hearing in June
- City Council public hearing and action July 12



# Direction From City Council

- Should RV's be allowed in the front yard?
- If so, do you want to limit the number allowed in the front yard?
- Do you want to limit the maximum size of RV's permitted in the front yard?
- Do you want to limit the number of RV's that can be stored on a given property?

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**Questions?**

# Enforcement

## Examples



Meets current code

# Enforcement

## Examples



Meets current code



Meets current code

# Enforcement

## Examples



Does not meet current code (exceeds permitted length and does not meet side setbacks); would NOT meet proposed amendments (would not meet 3' side setback)



# Enforcement

## Examples



- Does not meet current code (exceeds permitted length)
- Would meet proposed amendments (no maximum length if it can fit on property within setbacks)