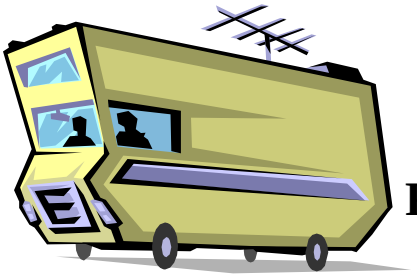

Recreation Vehicle (RV) Ordinance

The City of Orange recently amended the Recreational Vehicle (RV) ordinance relating to parking and storage. To assist in understanding the changes following is a list of commonly asked questions with answers.

Q: When was the amended RV ordinance adopted?

A: The amended Recreational Vehicle ordinance No. 4-06 was adopted by the Orange City Council on February 28, 2006 and went into effect on April 14, 2006.

Q: What does the new 2006 RV Ordinance say?

A: The amended RV ordinance prohibits the parking of RVs in the first 20 feet of the front yard as measured from the back of the sidewalk or if no sidewalk, from the curb.

Q: What exceptions are there to the 20-foot setback requirement?

A: There are essentially three. First, disabled recreational vehicle owners who have a current Disabled Person placard issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Second, residents whose sole mean of transportation is the RV that is parked within the 20-foot setback and who have obtained a "sole means of transportation permit" from the Orange Police Department Traffic Division. And three, RV owners may park within the 20-foot setback for no more than two consecutive days for the purpose of loading and unloading the RV in preparation for and upon return from a trip.

Q: Am I subject to the new ordinance if my RV was previously parked legally under prior City laws?

A: The new ordinance provides that if your RV was legally stored at your current residence when you first bought and stored the RV at your current residence, then you may continue to store the RV at your residence; provided that you continue to store the RV in compliance with the law that existed at the time you first stored the RV at your current residence.

Following is a summary of the regulations that may be applicable to your storage. The regulations that apply will be those that existed at the time you first stored your RV at your current residence. Of course, if your RV storage complies with the new law, you can store it at your home as well.

STORAGE DATE	20'-FOOT SETBACK REQUIREMENT	SIZE LIMITS
Pre 7/1/95	No but must be parked on a driveway leading directly to an enclosed parking space such as a garage	No height or size limits
7/2/95-7/1/04	Yes	Height 12 feet, length 36 feet
7/2/04-4/13/06	No	Height 12 feet, length 36 feet
4/14/06-present	Yes	Height 12 feet, length 36 feet

Q: If I have an RV that is grandfathered-in can I upgrade my RV?

A: Yes. If you first bought and stored your RV prior to 1995, there are no height or size limits. If you first bought and stored your RV at your current residence after 1995, the new RV cannot be any taller than 12 feet or longer than 36 feet.

Q: What kind of proof do I need to show that I get the benefit of prior laws and am not subject to the new law?

A: The City will accept any dated documentation or other evidence you believe may help prove you bought and stored your RV on your property. . Examples of documentation are dated photos, RVs registration, date of purchase of RVs, etc.

Q: Can I transfer my grandfathered-in status to a buyer of my home?

A: Generally no. In limited cases, if significant improvements were made to your property to accommodate legal storage of an RV, then a subsequent buyer may be able to continue to utilize such improvements. However, you will be required to provide proof that at the time the improvements were made they were utilized for legal RV storage.

Q: How many RVs can I park or store on my property in the side or rear yard?

A: You may park or store more than one RV in your side or rear yards as long as they are behind a 6' solid fence.

Q: If I have visitors can they park their RVs on the street?

A: Visitors need a permit from the Police Department to park their RVs on the street. The permit is good for seven consecutive days, but the RV must be parked in the street adjacent to the home being visited. It cannot be parked in front of someone else's home. Six permits are allowed per year.

Q: How much time do I have to comply with the new ordinance?

A: If you parked an RV at your current residence prior to the effective date of the new law, you have six months from the time of the ordinance effective date of April 14, 2006, or until October 14, 2006, to comply.