

December 16, 1994

Introduced by:

JANE HAGUE

Proposed No.:

95 - 075

ORDINANCE NO. **11783**

AN ORDINANCE relating to penalties for obstructing a designated fire lane; changing the penalty and citation for violation of fire lane parking to be consistent with state law by decriminalizing such activity; amending Ordinance 7980, Section 1 and K.C.C. 17.04.070 and Ordinance 2097 (part) and K.C.C. 17.04.080, all as amended.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 7980, Section 1, as amended and K.C.C. 17.04.070 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Fire lanes - Establishment - Vehicle obstruction and impoundment. A. Establishment of fire lanes. Fire lanes in conformance with this code shall be established by the King County fire marshal or his authorized designee, and shall be referred to as designated fire lanes in this section.

B. Definition of fire lanes. The area within any public right-of-way, easement, or on private property designated for the purpose of permitting fire trucks and other fire fighting or emergency equipment to use, travel upon, and park.

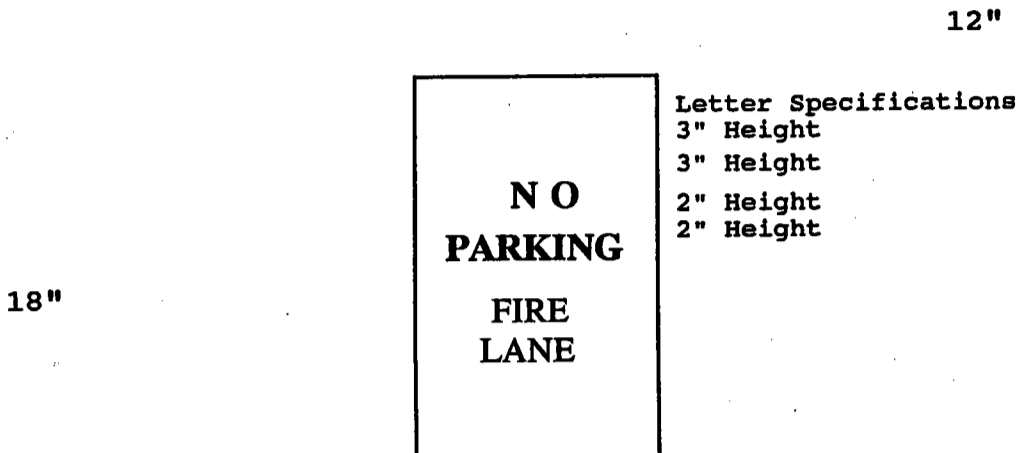
C. Marking of fire lanes. All designated fire lanes shall be clearly marked in the following manner:

1. Vertical curbs (6 inch) shall be painted yellow on the top and side, extending the length of the designated fire lane. The pavement adjacent to the painted curbs shall be marked with minimum 18 inch in height block lettering with a minimum 3 inch brush stroke reading: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE." Lettering shall be yellow and spaced at 50 foot or portion thereof intervals, or

2. Rolled curbs or surface without curbs shall have a yellow 6 inch wide stripe painted extending the length of the designated fire lane. The surface adjacent to the stripe shall be marked with minimum 18 inch in height block lettering with a minimum 3 inch brush stroke reading: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE."

1 Lettering shall be in yellow and spaced at 50 ft. or portion
2 thereof intervals, or

3 3. Fire lane signs shall be installed per the
4 illustration:



- 10
- 11 a. Reflective in nature.
- 12 b. Red letters on white background.
- 13 c. Signs to be spaced 50 feet or portion thereof
14 apart and posted on or immediately next to the curb.
- 15 d. Top of signs to be not less than 4 feet nor more
16 than 6 feet from the ground.
- 17 e. Signs may be placed on a building when approved by
18 the fire marshal as the designee of the manager of building and
19 land development.

20 When posts are required they shall be a minimum of 2 inch
21 galvanized steel or 4 inch x 4 inch pressure treated wood.
22 Signs to be placed so they face the direction of the vehicular
23 travel.

24 D. Obstruction of fire lanes prohibited. The obstruction
25 of a designated fire lane by a parked vehicle or any other
26 object is prohibited, shall constitute a traffic hazard as
27 defined in state law and an immediate hazard to life and
28 property.

29 E. Alternate materials and methods. The fire marshal as
30 designee of the manager of building and land development may
31 modify any of the provisions herein where practical
32 difficulties exist. The particulars of a modification shall be

1 granted by the fire marshal and shall be entered into the
2 records of the office.

3 F. Existing fire lane signs and markings.

4 1. Signs (minimum 9 inch by 16 inch) may be allowed to
5 remain until there is a need for replacement and at that time a
6 12 inch x 18 inch sign shall be installed.

7 2. Markings may be allowed to remain until there is a
8 need for repainting and at that time the provisions outlined in
9 Section C, 1, 2 or 3 shall be complied with.

10 G. Maintenance. Fire lane markings shall be maintained
11 at the expense of the property owner(s) as often as needed to
12 clearly identify the designated area as being a fire lane.

13 H. Towing notification. At each entrance to property
14 where fire lanes have been designated, signs shall be posted in
15 a clearly conspicuous location and shall clearly state that
16 vehicles parked in fire lanes may be impounded, and the name,
17 telephone number, and address of the towing firm where the
18 vehicle may be redeemed.

19 I. Property owner responsible. The owner, manager, or
20 person in charge of any property upon which designated fire
21 lanes have been established shall prevent the parking of
22 vehicles or placement of other obstructions in such fire lanes.

23 J. Violation - (~~misdemeanor~~ penalty) civil
24 infraction. Any person who fails to mark or maintain the
25 marking of a designated fire lane as prescribed in this
26 chapter, or who parks a vehicle in, allows the parking of a
27 vehicle in, obstructs, or allows the obstruction of a
28 designated fire lane (~~is guilty of a misdemeanor~~) commits a
29 civil infraction to which the provisions of R.C.W. 7.80 shall
30 apply. The penalty for failing to mark or maintain the marking
31 of a designated fire lane shall be one hundred and fifty
32 dollars (~~or imprisonment in the King County jail for a period~~
33 ~~not to exceed thirty days~~). The penalty for parking a vehicle
34 in, allowing the parking of a vehicle in, obstructing, or

1 allowing the obstruction of a designated fire lane shall be
2 ((thirty)) fifty dollars.

3 K. Violation - Civil Penalty. In addition to, or as an
4 alternate to, the provisions of subsection E, any person who
5 fails to meet the provisions of the fire lane requirements
6 codified in this title shall be subject to civil penalties in
7 conformance with K.C.C. Chapter 23.

8 L. Impoundment. Any vehicle or object obstructing a
9 designated fire lane is hereby declared a traffic hazard and
10 may be abated without prior notification to its owner by
11 impoundment pursuant to the applicable state law.

12 SECTION 2. Ordinance 2097 (part), as amended and K.C.C.
13 17.04.080 are hereby amended to read as follows:

14 Enforcement. A. The fire marshal or his authorized
15 designee is authorized to enforce the provisions of this
16 chapter, the ordinances codified in it, and any rules and
17 regulations adopted thereunder pursuant to the enforcement and
18 penalty provisions of Title 23.

19 B. The fire marshal, or his authorized designee, any
20 officer of the department of public safety, and the chief of
21 the fire district, or his authorized designee, is authorized to
22 take such lawful action, including the writing and issuance of
23 ((misdemeanor)) citations for civil infractions, as may be
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1 required to enforce the provisions of the fire lane ordinance
2 codified in this title.

3 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 12th day
4 of February, 1995.

5 PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 15th day of
6 May, 1995.

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9
10 Kent Pullen
11 Chair

12 ATTEST:

13
14 Janet Masno
15 Deputy Clerk of the Council

16 APPROVED this 25th day of May, 1995.

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18 Romy Locke
19 King County Executive
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21 Attachments:
22 None
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