

RV parking restriction & refuge permit program

APT November 2023

RV parking restriction citywide

- Define “RV” = class of large vehicles built for, or adapted to, dwelling
- May not park an RV on a city street for more than 24 hours or between 3:00am and 6:00am; parking the RV in another location within the city within the 24 hour period on a city street is a violation of this section. (Olympia WA version)
- [Towable offense](#) (after three citations/warnings)
- Applies on every street in SF; refuge permit exempts vehicle
- Becomes effective 6-9 months after adoption to allow for refuge permit registration (and general transition for conventionally-housed RV owners etc)

Shelter vehicle emergency refuge permit

- Exempts permitted vehicle from RV parking restriction
- Issued and administered by HSH / HSA (not SFMTA)
- Occupant must connect with HSH, commit to entering safe parking site when space becomes available, commit to housing track, commit to good neighbor practices
 - Otherwise, no exemption from RV restriction, best to move along
 - (Adequacy of shelter offer? How many offers declined before permit void?)
- City will spend 6-9 months engaging and logging RVs and registering their dwellers before RV restriction goes into effect
- After 6-9 months, registration closes – new RVs coming to SF are not eligible for exemption (closed set of eligible RVs, those “resident” in SF as of Date X)
- Permitted vehicles’ license plates logged for ongoing reference
 - Integrate into PCO handhelds or otherwise make easy to check
 - Provide permit log access to SFPD and GGNRA rangers and RPD rangers etc
- Permit expires after [18 months/some finite period]
 - Emergency accommodation, not a permanent residency arrangement

Visitor RV permit (if necessary)

- For visitors, short-term (5 days?), non-renewable for six months/one year
- Associated with a housed resident (like RPP visitor but not dependent on RPP)
- If you own an RV and store it on the street, you’ll need to find a lot or barn

Questions/loose ends

Repeal Police Code Art 1.1 (or add “notwithstanding” escape for refuge permit)

Hard to enforce (misdemeanor), legally tenuous, morally awkward, unhelpful

Can permit-registered RVs move around SF, or do they have to stay put?

Some movement necessary for street cleaning

Some de-concentration could be beneficial in places, but best not to impose the problem on new locations, to the extent feasible

Define sanctioned streets for permitted vehicles? Or leave where they are?

With RV restriction operating, displacement into new areas should be greatly reduced – leave RVs where they are (near jobs and services) and prioritize shrinking the biggest encampments, vs moving them to new streets with all the turmoil that would bring

Permit-registered RVs still subject to all other parking rules & regs

Won't address people living in sedans, oversized commercial vehicles

RV dwellers/ sedan dwellers/ big commercial vehicles – three similar but different issues, best to treat them separately (revisit and tighten Sec 7.2.84; evaluate sedan-dweller situation after RV restriction runs for a while, may not need new parking rules vs HSH focus)

Participation commitment to qualify for permit? Adequacy of shelter offer? How many offers declined before permit is void?

RVs (“sick” or otherwise) need to be taken off the street to keep them from being re-inhabited, complications come from rental or murky ownership/registration – RV/bus/van dwellers often don't own the vehicle they're living in, don't hold registration, may be renting from someone (or “My buddy gave it to me in Idaho”)

RV buyback program? RV dwellers are understandably reluctant to surrender their one big asset and one “stable” refuge

Fix-it fund (already in HSH budget & practice) to help get vehicles fit and safe and registered and get folks moving (Homeward Bound or otherwise)

As always, this program depends on adequate supply of off-street “safe parking” and/or supportive/healthy housing – can't move folks off the street if there's no place to offer them