

Prohibited Yard Parking

Prohibited Yard Parking - Topics

- Overview of enforcement
- Hinderances to enforcement
- Future Concerns

Prohibited Yard Parking - Overview of Enforcement

- Section 28-303(b)
 - for any person to park or to cause, suffer or permit the parking of a vehicle or equipment on any surface that is not an improved surface
 - It is presumed that the registered owner of the vehicle or equipment is the person who parked



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“... asphalt, concrete, permeable pavement, or other materials approved by the Director of Houston Public Works or his designee.” -Section 28-302, *Improved surface*

Prohibited Yard Parking - Hinderance - Messaging

- Possibility of confusion due to 2011 restructuring of City departments.
 - Passing of the yard ordinance = Jan.2009, when HPD had a Neighborhood Protection Corps.
 - Creation of Department of Neighborhoods = Aug.2011, restructuring of and disbandment of HPD's Neighborhood Protection Corps into Department of Neighborhoods.

Prohibited Yard Parking - HPD's Enforcement

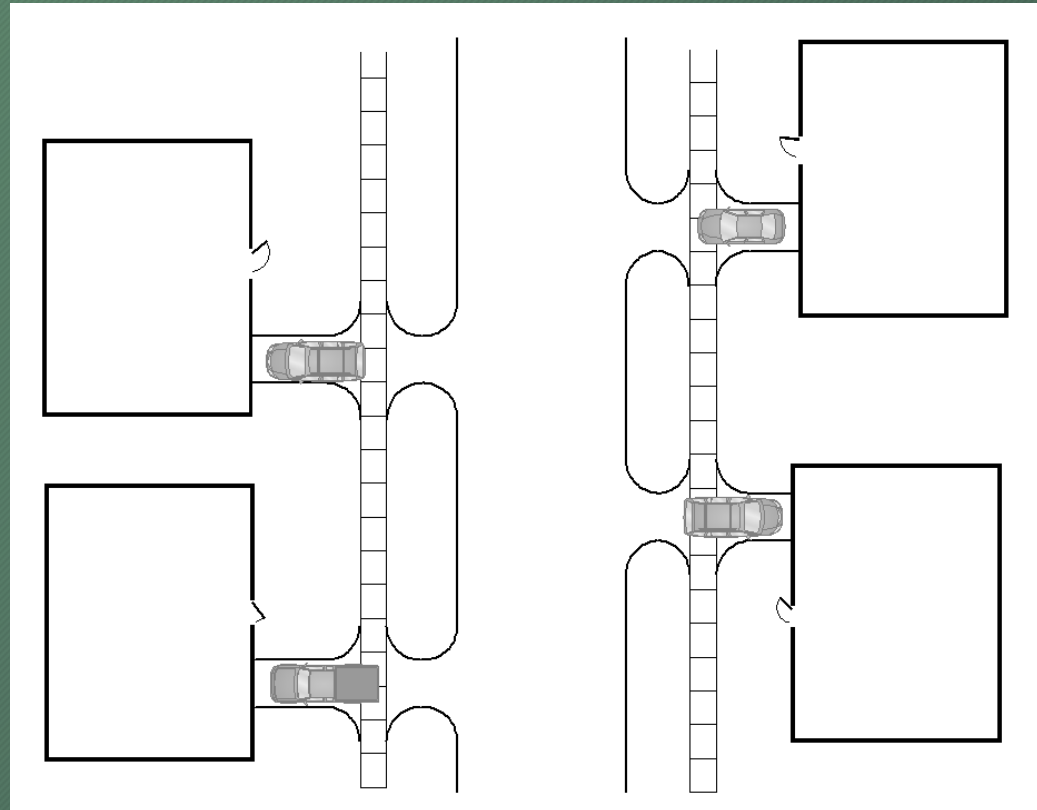
- Police Department's Involvement:
 - **Criminal Nexus** - *(Illicit mechanic business, illicit car sales, automobile scrap yard, narcotics sales from inside the vehicle)*
 - **Fire hazard** - *(Parked vehicle being used as a storage facility in the front yard)*
 - **Health hazard** - *(Parked vehicle is being used as a lavatory / outhouse)*
 - **Substantial quality of life issue** - *(Vagrants living inside the vehicle, a growing beehive is inside the car)*

Prohibited Yard Parking - HPD's Enforcement

- Determine applicability of:
 - Houston Municipal Code - Chapter 10, article 8 - *Junk Vehicles*
 - Texas Transportation Code - Section 683.071 - *Junk Vehicles*
- Warnings / Education
- Citations

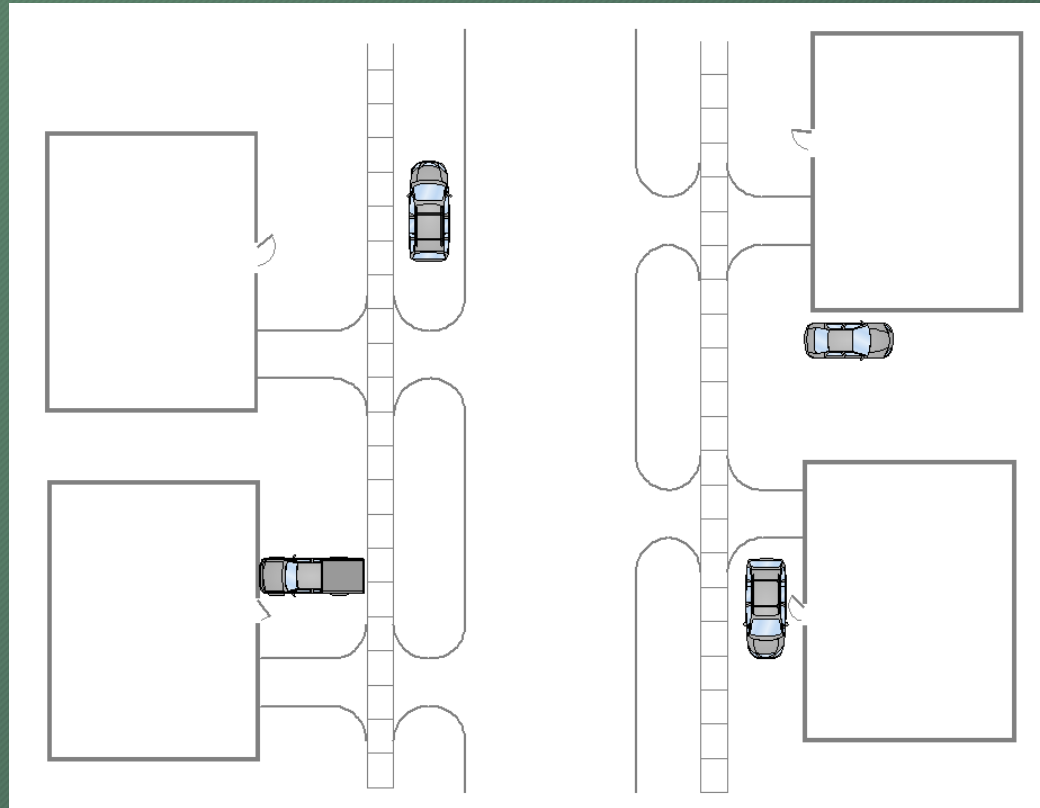
Future concerns...

- First, I received a ticket in my own driveway for blocking the sidewalk.



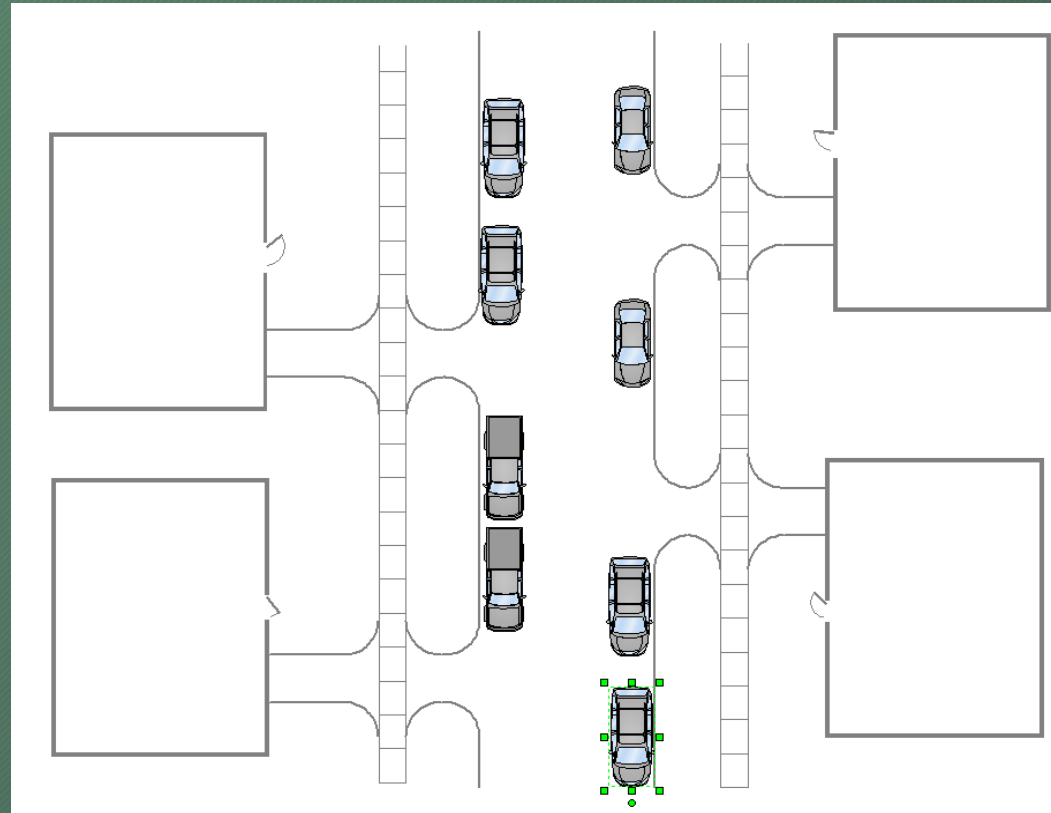
Future concerns...

- Then, I received a ticket for parking my car in my own yard as to not block the sidewalk.



Future concerns...

- Now, my entire street is impassable with all the cars parked along the curb.



Conclusion / Issues:

- Clarification on definition of:
 - Permeable pavement
 - Other materials approved by Director of Public Works
- Messaging
 - DON or HPD involvement or Park Houston
- Possibility of shifting the issue:
 - Blocking a sidewalk
 - Congested roadway