



Message from the City Manager's Office

We want to take a moment to address recent concerns regarding increased traffic enforcement and code compliance activity in our community. The City Council has shared feedback from residents expressing concern over what some perceive as a lack of enforcement in certain areas. This has led to questions about the effectiveness and consistency of our current approach. Historically, our enforcement efforts have emphasized education and voluntary compliance, often using warnings. According to the Council, it has become clear that this strategy is no longer meeting the expectations of the community or the elected officials. The Council, as the body responsible for setting policy, has directed staff to take a firmer approach in enforcing existing laws and ordinances. It is our responsibility as City staff to carry out that policy in a fair, respectful, and balanced manner.

We want to be clear: enforcement is being carried out within the limits of the law, and staff are not taking extreme actions such as towing vehicles from private property without cause. However, citations are now being issued for violations including blocking sidewalks, high grass and weeds, parking on grass, excessive speeding, visible junk in front yards, and junk vehicles. Please note that under Texas law, blocking a sidewalk is illegal under both the Penal Code and the Transportation Code. Importantly, no citations have been issued for simply parking on a public street where it is otherwise permitted.

In the upcoming issue of the *Lion's Roar*, you'll also see notice that beginning September 1, 2025, Code Enforcement staff will begin issuing citations for dead trees on private property, in line with the ordinance passed by City Council.

As someone who has served this City for over 20 years, I've seen public sentiment and Council direction shift between stricter and more lenient enforcement. Our staff continuously strives to strike the right balance. I know in the past some staff were overinterpreting the code. This staff is not overinterpreting the code—we are enforcing what is clearly stated. For example: a sidewalk is either blocked or it is not; a vehicle is either parked on the grass or it isn't; a registration is either properly displayed or it's not.

We understand that this transition may be challenging for some. Staff remain committed to professionalism, consistency, and respectful interaction with the public. Please keep in mind that once a citation is issued, only the City Prosecutor or Municipal Judge has the authority to dismiss it. Officers do still have the discretion to issue warnings, and for certain code violations such as high weeds or junk in yards, a notice and a 10-day correction period is provided before a citation is issued.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this shift in enforcement direction. If you believe a citation was issued in error, we encourage you to exercise your right to appear before the judge and present your case.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe, clean, and respectful for all residents.