

CHAPTER 10

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

ARTICLE I. ENFORCEMENT OF AND OBEDIENCE TO REGULATIONS

Sec. 10-1. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

The City Council may place and maintain in any street such marks, signs, signals, guides or notices as they may deem proper for the direction or control of traffic therein, and no person shall keep, ride, drive or lead any horse or draft animal, or keep or move any vehicle in any street contrary to such mark, sign, signal, guide or notice.

Sec. 10-2. TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS OF STREET TRAVEL.

When in their judgment the public good or safety so requires, the City Council may temporarily prevent or restrict travel, by persons or vehicles, or both, in any street or part thereof.

Sec. 10-3. AUTHORITY OF POLICE OFFICERS.

(a) It shall be the duty of the officers of the Police Department or such officers as are assigned by the Chief of Police to enforce all street traffic laws of this city and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to street traffic in this city.

(b) Officers of the Police Department or such officers as are assigned by the Chief of Police are hereby authorized to direct all traffic by voice, hand, or signal in conformance with traffic laws, provided that, in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to safeguard pedestrians, officers of the Police Department may direct traffic as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of the traffic laws.

(c) Officers of the Fire Department, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic thereat or in the immediate vicinity.

CROSS REFERENCE: Control of and blocking off of traffic on streets at scene of any fire; see Section 5-1.

Sec. 10-4. REQUIRED OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC ORDINANCE: VIOLATION AS MISDEMEANOR.

It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

Sec. 10-5. OBEDIENCE TO POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of a police officer or fire department official.

CROSS REFERENCE: All persons to obey commands of officer at scene of fire, see Section 5-2.

Sec. 10-6. OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC OFFICER.

No person in charge of any horse or draft animal or vehicle in any street shall disobey the order of any police traffic officer relating to its position, in the direction or control of traffic therein.

Sec. 10-7. DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND PHRASES.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section.

- (a) Authorized Emergency Vehicle. Vehicles of the Fire Department, police vehicles, ambulances and such other emergency vehicles of other municipal departments or public service corporations as are designated or authorized by the Chief of Police or the City Council.
- (b) Bicycle. Every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is over twelve inches in diameter.
- (c) Driver. Every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.
- (d) Hydrant Area. A rectangular space twenty feet long and ten feet wide, one of the longer dimensions being the line of the curb, with the middle thereof at or opposite an adjacent hydrant.
- (e) Motorcycle. Every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor.
- (f) Motor Vehicle. Every vehicle which is self-propelled.
- (g) Official Traffic Control Devices. All signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this chapter placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.
- (h) Park. When prohibited means the standing of a vehicle whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading.
- (i) Parking Lot. The words "parking lot" shall mean and include all areas of land owned, leased or controlled by the City of Montpelier and prepared by it for public parking purposes.
- (j) Police Officer. Every officer of the municipal Police Department or any officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.
- (k) Sidewalk. That portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.
- (l) Stop. When required, means a complete cessation of movement.

(m) Stop, Stopping, or Standing. When prohibited means any stopping or standing of a vehicle whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control sign or travel.

(o) Traffic. Pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, and other conveyance either singly or together while using any street for purposes of travel.

(p) Trailer. A trailer is a vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

(q) Semi-Trailer. A semi-trailer is a vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight or of its load rests upon or is carried by the towing vehicle.

(r) Vehicle. Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

CROSS REFERENCE: Authority to direct traffic, see Sec. 10-3 (b) of this Chapter.

Sec's. 10-8 to 10-199. Reserved.

Enacted October 25, 1972.