

MUNICIPAL CODE  
OF THE  
CITY OF ROCHESTER  

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TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

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1913  

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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1913



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**OF THE**

**CITY OF ROCHESTER**

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THE  
MORRISON  
PRESS

**MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE  
CITY OF ROCHESTER**

**VOL. II—PART FIRST—TITLE I—PENAL  
ORDINANCES**

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**Passed October 11th, 1904**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER  
AS FOLLOWS:**

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**CHAPTER IV**

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOOD ORDER**

**ARTICLE I  
ACTS FORBIDDEN**

**Within the city of Rochester no person shall**

**Sec. 4. Hose and sprinkling carts—  
While using a sprinkling cart or hose**

**Careless sprinkling** for sprinkling streets or any other purposes carelessly or maliciously throw water upon any person, animal or vehicle.

**Gongs regulated** Sec. 5. **Gongs**—Carry or use upon any vehicle a gong similar to that used on ambulances or the vehicles of the fire or police departments.

**Tying horses**  
**Vehicles on crosswalks**  
**Street cars on crosswalks**  
**Hitching to trees or posts**  
**Feeding horses in streets**

Sec. 13. **Vehicles and animals standing in streets**—Permit any horse or mule to stand in a public street unattended without being securely tethered or tied to a post, ring or secure weight or other secure fastening; or permit any animal or vehicle to stop or stand upon a crosswalk, sidewalk or footpath of any bridge, or so as to obstruct any crossing, except in case of accident or other emergency, or when directed to stop by the police; or permit a street surface car to stop or stand upon a crosswalk at the intersection of two or more streets, or at the Court House, Reynolds Arcade, or midway between Front and Water Streets, except in case of accident or other emergency, or when directed to stop by the police; or without authority fasten any animal to a tree or public lamp post; or feed any animal in a public street without permission of the owner or occupant of the adjoining premises; or place or per-

mit any vehicle to remain crosswise of any street for a period longer than may be actually necessary for the purpose of loading or unloading, and in such case the horse or horses, if any, attached to such vehicle, shall be turned so as to stand parallel with the sidewalk and headed in the general direction of travel for the side of the street on which the vehicle is standing; or permit any vehicle, including a street surface car, to stop or stand within the intersection of streets, except in case of accident or other emergency, or when directed to stop by the police, or to allow another vehicle or pedestrian to cross its path; or permit any vehicle to stop or stand within twenty-five feet of a street corner unless actually necessary for the purpose of loading or unloading; or permit any vehicle to stop or stand in a public street or highway except close to the curb, unless in case of accident or other emergency, or when directed by the police to stop, or to allow another vehicle or pedestrian to cross its path; or permit any vehicle to stop with its left side to the curb; or between the hours of 7 A. M. and 7 P. M. permit any vehicle to stop or stand in any place in the congested district more than thirty minutes, unless actually necessary for loading or unloading goods, wares or

Vehicles  
across streets

Vehicles  
at crossings

Vehicles  
at corners

Vehicles  
at curb

Right side  
to curb

30 minute  
limit

merchandise; or between the hours of 5 P. M. and 6.30 P. M. permit any vehicle to stop or stand on Main Street between the westerly line of Fitzhugh street and the easterly line of East Avenue, on State Street between the northerly line of Main Street and the southerly line of Corinthian Street, on South Avenue between the southerly line of Main Street and the southerly line of Ely Street, on St. Paul Street between the northerly line of Main Street and the northerly line of Division Street, on Clinton Avenue North between the northerly line of Main Street and the northerly line of Division Street, unless and no longer than actually necessary for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers or occupants, or loading or unloading goods, wares or merchandise; or at any time permit any vehicle to stop or stand on the easterly side of Stone Street, unless and no longer than actually necessary for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers or occupants, or loading or unloading goods, wares or merchandise. The provisions of this section shall apply to vehicles of all classes and descriptions, including motor vehicles, motorcycles, motor bicycles, and only so far as specifically mentioned to street surface cars.

Main St.  
clear in  
rush hours

Stone St.  
clear

All vehicles  
included

*(As amended Feb. 14, 1911.)*

Sec. 14. **Driving on sidewalks and sidepaths**—Drive any vehicle, or lead, ride or drive any animal along upon any sidewalk intended for the use of pedestrians, or upon a sidepath constructed and intended for the use of bicycles, or upon any street car track, when such track runs inside the street curb, except that baby carriages and invalid chairs may be propelled on sidewalks and bicycles may be ridden on said sidepaths and street car tracks. The provisions of this section shall apply to all vehicles, including motor vehicles.

Vehicles  
off walks

Baby carriages,  
invalid chairs,  
bicycles

*(As amended July 11, 1905).*

**Sec. 17. Speed limits—**

Subdivision (a). Drive or ride any animal or vehicle upon a public street at a speed exceeding eight miles per hour, or upon any bridge, excepting the stone arch bridges over the Genesee River, at a speed faster than a walk; drive or ride any motorcycle or motor bicycle upon a public street at a speed exceeding ten miles per hour, or upon any bridge, excepting the stone arch bridges over the Genesee River, at a

Ordinary  
vehicles  
8 miles except  
on bridges

Motorcycles  
10 and 4 miles



**Motor vehicles on bridges**  
**Exceptions** speed faster than four miles per hour; drive or ride any motor vehicle on any bridge, excepting the stone arch bridges over the Genesee River, at a speed faster than four miles per hour. This subdivision shall not apply to motor vehicles except as specifically mentioned herein, to street surface cars, to the apparatus of the fire and police departments, to vehicles carrying United States mail, to ambulances, or to vehicles of physicians, providing it is shown that the physician at the time is responding to an emergency call.

**Street cars**  
**7 and 15 miles** Subdivision (b). Drive or operate street surface cars at a speed exceeding seven miles per hour on Main Street between Elm Street and the Erie Canal, on Exchange Street between Main Street and the Erie Canal, or State Street between Main Street and Central Avenues; or at a speed exceeding fifteen miles per hour on any other public street or highway in the city.

**Motor vehicles**  
**10, 15 and 18 miles** Subdivision (c). Operate or run a motor vehicle on any public street within the congested district as defined in this ordinance, at a speed exceeding ten miles per hour, or upon any public street outside of said congested district and within one mile of the intersection

of Main, Exchange and State Streets, at a speed exceeding fifteen miles per hour; or upon any other public street at a speed exceeding eighteen miles per hour. This subdivision does not apply to motor cycles or motor bicycles.

Subdivision (d). Drive, operate or run a vehicle with a reckless or negligent disregard of the conditions then obtaining and the rights of others, or so as to endanger the life or limb of any person or the safety of any property. The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to vehicles of all classes and descriptions, including surface cars and motor vehicles.

Reckless  
driving

*(As amended June 28, 1910).*

Sec. 18. **Wide tires**—Drive upon any improved street any vehicle having upon it a weight which together with the weight of the vehicle shall exceed two thousand pounds unless the tires upon such vehicle shall be at least three inches in width, or any vehicle having upon it a weight which together with the weight of the vehicle shall exceed five thousand pounds, unless such tires shall be at least four inches in width. This section shall not apply to vehicles used by farmers coming into the city with produce or fuel.

3 and 4 inch  
tires

## ARTICLE II.

### ACTS REGULATED

Within the city of Rochester acts affecting public safety and good order are regulated as follows:

#### Sec. 32. Rules of the road—

Subdivision (a). Vehicles shall keep to the right and as near the right-hand curb as possible, and when meeting shall pass each other to the right; vehicles overtaking others shall in passing keep to the left and shall at the intersection of public streets keep to the right of the intersection of the centers of such streets when turning to the right, and pass to the right of such intersection when turning to the left; and shall when crossing from one side of the street to the other turn to the left so as to head in the same direction as the traffic on that side of the street; vehicles moving slowly shall keep as close as possible to the curb line on the right so as to allow faster moving vehicles free passage on the left. The driver of every vehicle shall keep the same at least four feet from the running board or lower step of any surface car which has stopped for the purpose of taking on or discharging passengers, and shall slow down and bring the vehicle under

Keeping to right curb

To right when meeting to left when overtaking

Turning at intersections

Turning with traffic

Slow vehicles at curb

Vehicles approaching street cars

control and pass the surface car with care for the safety of the passengers alighting from or getting on said car, and if by reason of the presence of other vehicles or by reason of the narrowness of the street it is not possible to preserve the distance of four feet from such running board or lower step, the driver of said vehicle shall stop the same until such car shall have started. A vehicle shall not be driven through the streets loaded with iron or other material that may strike together, without properly deadening such material so that it will cause no unnecessary noise. The driver of any vehicle shall not delay or obstruct the passage of surface cars, and shall immediately upon signal from the motorman or conductor of a car, turn out or to one side so as to permit the passage of said car. Police, fire department, emergency repair wagons, United States mail vehicles, and ambulances shall have the right of way in any street and through any procession. No funeral shall pass through Main Street between Plymouth Avenue and East Avenue, except in crossing Main Street at intersecting streets, without written permission from the commissioner of public safety.

Care for alighting street car passengers

Noisy loads

Obstructing street cars

Right of way

Funerals on Main St.

(As amended February 8, 1910).

The congested district

Subdivision (b). The congested district shall comprise the following streets: Main Street from the westerly line of Plymouth Avenue to the easterly line of East Avenue; State Street from the northerly line of Church Street to Main Street; Exchange Street from the canal bridge to Main Street; St. Paul Street from the northerly line of Division Street to Main Street; South Avenue from the southerly line of Ely Street to Main Street; Clinton Avenue North from the northerly line of Division Street to Main Street; Franklin Street from the northerly line of North Street to Main Street; North Street from the northerly line of Franklin Street to Main Street; East Avenue from the easterly line of Stillson Street to Main Street. The following rules shall be observed in the congested district between the hours of seven A. M. and seven P. M.:

7 A. M. to 7 P. M.  
25 feet clear

ahead in passing

10 feet between vehicles

A vehicle overtaking another vehicle shall not in order to pass the vehicle ahead, leave the line on the right unless there is a clear way of at least twenty-five feet in advance on the left. A vehicle, including a surface car, while in motion shall not come within ten feet of any vehicle in front of it at or near a crosswalk at the intersection of two or more streets, or at the Court House, Reynolds Arcade or mid-

way between Front and Water Streets. Every driver of a vehicle shall in slowing up or stopping give a signal to those behind by raising a hand or whip vertically. In turning while in motion, or in starting to turn from a stand-still, a signal shall be given by the driver of the vehicle about to be turned by raising a whip or hand indicating the direction in which the turn is to be made. Before backing, ample warning shall be given by voice or uplifting hand, and while backing unceasing vigilance must be exercised by the driver not to injure those behind; and if it is necessary in order to turn that the vehicle be backed up and the same cannot be done without delaying or obstructing traffic, then the turn shall be made by going around the block or on some other street.

Signal  
when stopping

Signal  
when turning

Signal  
when backing

Obstructing  
traffic  
by backing

*(As amended July 9, 1912).*

Section 1. Subdivision (c) of Section 32 of the ordinance in relation to Public Safety and Good Order, as amended February 8, 1910, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Subdivision (c). A vehicle the width of which, with or without its load, exceeds nine feet, shall not be driven or conveyed through any of the streets in

Vehicles over  
9 feet wide

Vehicles for  
advertising  
purposes

the congested district, unless a permit therefor is obtained from the Commissioner of Public Safety. No vehicle shall while used exclusively for advertising purposes be driven or conveyed through any of the streets in the congested districts, between the hours of twelve A. M. and seven P. M.

Vehicles across  
congested  
streets

Subdivision (d). In the congested district between the hours of nine A. M. and six P. M., no vehicle shall be allowed to stand crosswise for the purpose of loading or unloading any goods or merchandise, excepting pianos, safes, boilers and heavy machinery, without written permission from the commissioner of public safety.

*(As amended February 8, 1910).*

Drivers and  
motormen must  
obey orders

Subdivision (e). Motormen and Conductors of street surface cars and drivers of vehicles, including motor vehicles, motorcycles and motor bicycles, must at all times comply with the direction by hand or voice of any member of the police force as to stopping, starting, standing, approaching or departing from a place, or loading or unloading passengers or goods. Every driver of a slow moving or heavily loaded or unusually large vehicle for transporting goods, wares or merchandise, not having

a load to deliver or pick up on Main Street between Plymouth Avenue and East Avenue, shall obey the direction of a police officer not to drive upon or through such portion of Main Street; and every driver of a loaded hay wagon not having hay to deliver on Main Street between East Avenue and the Erie Canal, or on West Avenue between the Erie Canal and Genesee Street, shall obey the direction of a police officer not to drive upon or through such portions of Main Street and West Avenue.

*(As amended April 11, 1911).*

Subdivision (f). Riders of bicycles when dismounted may lead their bicycles along the sidewalk in single file, except that they shall not lead their bicycles along the sidewalk on any of the streets in the congested district.

Leading bicycles  
on walks  
regulated

*(As amended February 8, 1910).*

Subdivision (g). No person shall open a muffler cut-out on a motor vehicle, motorcycle or motor bicycle except on steep grades more than a mile distant from the intersection of Main and Exchange Streets.

Noisy  
motorcycles  
forbidden

No motor vehicle, motorcycle or motor bicycle shall display or have lighted a light burning acetylene, or gas formed

Dazzling lights  
forbidden



from or by acetylene, or a searchlight, unless in either case the same be screened or covered so as not to glare or dazzle.

Horns and  
lights  
required

As amended June 27th, 1911: No horn, siren or whistle, other than a bulb horn, in, upon or attached to a motor vehicle, motorcycle, motorbicycle, or bicycle, shall be blown, sounded or operated.

Lights on  
vehicles  
regulated

Every vehicle, excepting motor vehicles, motorcycles, motor bicycles and bicycles, which are required by law or otherwise by this ordinance to have certain specified lights, shall exhibit during the period from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, on the left side of the vehicle, a white light visible within a reasonable distance in front of such vehicle, and a red light visible within a reasonable distance in the rear thereof, which lights if otherwise complying with this ordinance may be combined in one lamp or apparatus.

*(As amended November 28, 1911).*

*(Adopted November 14, 1911).*

Section 1. Subdivision G of section 32 of the ordinance relating to Public Safety and Good Order, as amended February 14, 1911, is hereby amended

by adding thereto at the end thereof the following: Dense smoke shall not be caused, suffered or permitted to be discharged from any motor vehicle, motorcycle or motor bicycle in any public highway, street, park or place.

(Adopted November 28, 1911).

Section 1. Subdivision H of Section 32 of the ordinance relating to Public Safety and Good Order as amended February 10, 1910, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Sub. H. A person shall not ride or drive a bicycle, motorcycle or motor bicycle with the hands off the handle bars, or practice any trick or fancy riding thereon in any public highway, street, park or place.

Coasting on  
bicycles  
forbidden

A person riding or driving a motorcycle or motor bicycle in any public highway, street, park or place, shall not carry thereon any other person except on a seat securely fastened to the machine in the rear of the driver, and provided with foot rests and hand grips.

Subdivision (i). The provisions of this section shall apply to vehicles of all classes and description, including motor vehicle, motorcycles, motor bicycles,

Vehicles  
included

and only so far as specifically mentioned, to street surface cars.

*(As amended February, 1910).*

**Sec. 33. As to fires—**

**Right of way** Subdivision (a). **Right of way**—At any fire, or alarm of fire, the fire apparatus, and all city officials and employees, in the discharge of their duty, shall have right of way and full unobstructed use of the streets.

**Impeding employees at fires** Subdivision (d). **Disorderly conduct**—No person shall in any way impede the access to the fire, or its vicinity, of any apparatus, official or employee of the city in the discharge of his duty, or break through or come unauthorized within the fire line when established by the police, or by disorderly conduct or otherwise, impede the work of extinguishing fire, or protecting lives and property.

**Fire lines**

*(As amended June 27, 1905).*

**Sec. 34. As to morgues and funerals**

**Driving across funeral processions** Subdivision (c). **Funeral processions**—No person shall drive any vehicle or animal between the conveyances of a funeral procession, or interrupt or detain such procession or any part thereof in any manner, while it is mov-

ing along any of the public streets. This shall not apply to the drivers or persons in charge of public or private ambulances, the vehicles and apparatus of the fire department, or to conveyances of physicians while responding to emergency calls. **Exceptions**

Sec. 40. **Penalties**—A violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one hundred fifty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or by a penalty not less than five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars to be recovered by the city of Rochester in a civil action. **Fine and imprisonment**

*(As amended June 28, 1910).*

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