



Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

MEDIA: Clarification on RV policy & disabled placards

4 messages

Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>
To: Jen.Kwart@sfcityatty.org

Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 12:27 PM

Hi Jen,

I am Yesica Prado, an investigative reporter with El Tecolote. I am writing to seek legal clarification to an urgent question about the 2-hour parking time limits for large vehicles citywide and how it affects people with disabilities.

As you know, the California Vehicle Code § 22511.5(a)(1)(B) explicitly states that a vehicle displaying a valid disabled placard or license plate "is allowed to park for unlimited periods in any... parking zone that is restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted as indicated by a sign erected pursuant to a local ordinance." The new 2-hour parking restriction for oversized vehicles appears to be precisely this type of time-limited restriction.

Therefore, the policy prompts the following questions:

1) What is the specific legal authority the City is relying on to supersede this state law and deny the standard disabled placard exemption to qualified residents living in large vehicles?

Furthermore, the Mayor's office has [stated](#) that the city will not tow RVs with disabled placards.

2) If the placard does not provide a legal exemption from the 2-hour limit, what is the policy basis for this non-enforcement?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter. I have asked other city departments, DEM and the Mayor's office, but they were not able to explain the legalities of the policy. **Therefore, I would appreciate answers to our two inquiries by the end of day tomorrow to meet our publishing deadline.** I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Yesica Prado
Investigative Reporter | El Tecolote
EL TECOLOTE

Kwart, Jen (CAT) <Jen.Kwart@sfcityatty.org>
To: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 4:13 PM

Hi Yesica,

Multiple departments have said that vehicles with disabled placards will not be cited or towed for violation of the 2-hour large vehicle restriction. Could you please let me know what policy you're referring to that leads you to believe the City intends to do the opposite?

Thanks,



Jen Kwart (she/her)

Communications Director

Office of City Attorney David Chiu

(415) 554-4662 Direct

www.sfcityattorney.org

From: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2025 12:28 PM**To:** Kwart, Jen (CAT) <Jen.Kwart@sfcityatty.org>**Subject:** MEDIA: Clarification on RV policy & disabled placards

Hi Jen,

I am Yesica Prado, an investigative reporter with El Tecolote. I am writing to seek legal clarification to an urgent question about the 2-hour parking time limits for large vehicles citywide and how it affects people with disabilities.

As you know, the California Vehicle Code § 22511.5(a)(1)(B) explicitly states that a vehicle displaying a valid disabled placard or license plate "is allowed to park for unlimited periods in any... parking zone that is restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted as indicated by a sign erected pursuant to a local ordinance." The new 2-hour parking restriction for oversized vehicles appears to be precisely this type of time-limited restriction.

Therefore, the policy prompts the following questions:

1) What is the specific legal authority the City is relying on to supersede this state law and deny the standard disabled placard exemption to qualified residents living in large vehicles?

Furthermore, the Mayor's office has **stated** that the city will not tow RVs with disabled placards.

2) If the placard does not provide a legal exemption from the 2-hour limit, what is the policy basis for this non-enforcement?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter. I have asked other city departments, DEM and the Mayor's office, but they were not able to explain the legalities of the policy. **Therefore, I would appreciate answers to our two inquiries by the end of day tomorrow to meet our publishing deadline.** I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Yesica Prado

Investigative Reporter | El Tecolote



image001.jpg
526K

Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>**To:** "Kwart, Jen (CAT)" <Jen.Kwart@sfcityatty.org>

Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 10:16 AM

Hi Jen,

Thank you for your prompt response. I appreciate the clarification that multiple departments have stated vehicles with disabled placards will not be towed. However, this statement of non-enforcement practice is precisely what prompts my legal question.

The city's written ordinance ([SEC. 7.2.54 – Large Vehicle Parking Restrictions](#)) establishes a citywide, two-hour parking restriction for large vehicles. This ordinance, as written, does not contain an exemption for vehicles with disabled placards. It only contains exemptions for the following scenarios:

- (a) *When reasonably necessary to accomplish the loading or unloading of merchandise or passengers on, or from, a vehicle and while anything connected with the loading, or unloading, is being executed; or*
- (b) *When the Municipal Transportation Agency has issued a permit pursuant to Division II of this Code, temporarily exempting the permittee and the vehicle from the time limitation set forth in this Section 7.2.54, and the permittee is in compliance with all applicable permit conditions; or*
- (c) *When the vehicle displays a valid Residential Parking Permit issued by the Municipal Transportation Agency pursuant to Section 905 for the specific residential parking permit area in which the vehicle is parked; or*
- (d) *Commercial vehicles subject to Section 7. 2. 84.*

As written, this creates a direct conflict with California Vehicle Code § 22511.5, which explicitly grants vehicles with disabled placards the right to park without time limits in any time-restricted zone established by local ordinance.

Most importantly, as highlighted in an October 28 [Mission Local](#) article, there was a perception that a disabled placard did not provide an exemption, though the Mayor's office subsequently stated the city would not tow placarded vehicles:

"After learning about the RV ban from turning on the news, he soon began the application process, until he heard from a friend that all he needed was a disabled placard to avoid the ban. That was incorrect — a placard did not exempt an RV user from the parking ban without a permit. But after publication the mayor's office told Mission Local that the city would not tow RVs with disabled placards."

Together, these records show that the ordinance may seek to supersede state law, and the public perception is that disabled placards don't exempt you from the ordinance. This discrepancy is causing public confusion. So, my questions are specifically about this legal conflict:

- 1) What is the specific legal authority that allows the City to enact a time-limit ordinance that, on its face, does not comply with the state's exemption for disabled placards? Is the City relying on a different section of the vehicle code, or an attorney general opinion, that carves out an exception for this specific program?
- 2) If the City is choosing not to enforce the ordinance against placarded vehicles *as a matter of policy*, does this mean the ordinance itself is legally unenforceable against those individuals? In other words, is the non-enforcement policy an implicit acknowledgment that the CVC § 22511.5 exemption applies, and if so, why is it not formally written into the ordinance to provide clear and permanent protection for these vulnerable residents?

The concern for our reporting is that a "policy of non-enforcement" can change at any time, leaving disabled residents with no legal protection. If there's a formal exemption written into the law or a clear legal justification for the current approach that would provide certainty to impacted residents and our readers.

If my questions are still not clear, please let me know. Thank you again for your help in clarifying this urgent matter.

Best,

Yesica Prado
Investigative Reporter | El Tecolote

[Quoted text hidden]

Kwart, Jen (CAT) <Jen.Kwart@sfcityatty.org>
To: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 3:36 PM

Hi Yesica,

State law exempts vehicles with disabled placards from the 2-hour large vehicle restriction, and they will not be cited or towed for violation of the 2-hour large vehicle restriction. There is no contradiction between our local ordinance and state law.

Also, what Mission Local wrote is unattributed and wrong. Unattributed, incorrect statements printed in independent publications cannot reasonably be interpreted as City policy.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



image001.jpg
526K



image003.jpg
8K