



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Council Summary

To: Blaine Griffin, Council President

From: Lucas Reeve, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Date: July 1, 2025

CC: Council Staff

Re: Paid Parking Facility Legislation, Ordinance **#726-2025**

**Ordinance was introduced at City Council Meeting June 2nd*

Goal: To impose new safety and security requirements on paid parking facilities across the city by establishing clear standards and accountability measures for operators. As a prototype for future city-wide expansion, additional safety measures may apply to facilities located downtown, where the city is prioritizing targeted interventions to improve public safety - recognizing that addressing crime requires a coordinated effort among operators, owners, law enforcement, and community partners.

Current Ordinance Overview: Parking lot regulations have been in place since 1976, with several updates in the 1990s and 2000s. The existing sections in Chapter 457 govern a range of operational and physical requirements for paid parking facilities, including landscaping and screening, lighting, licensing and associated fees, signage, maintenance, parking fee payments, penalties, enforcement and the appeals process.

Proposed Amendments: The proposed amendments to the codified ordinances relate to public safety enhancements as well as general updates and cleanup of dated language. These include:

Lighting:

- Minimum requirements for public garages would be established as one (1) footcandle for all walking surfaces and ten (10) footcandles in stairwells / landings. These are based on industry best practices of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)
- Illumination at facilities would be required to be shielded to protect glare on any adjacent residential buildings

Licensing:

- Applications would need to include a certificate of occupancy and accurately scaled / dimensioned images of signage
- For Downtown Designated Districts (*Downtown Core, Warehouse, Erieview and Gateway*) The license application would require operators to list the security measures they have in place. These security measures would be reviewed and approved by the Cleveland Division of Police. This plan would include an outline of items such as perimeter security, staffing, surveillance (inc. cameras), signage, access control, safety features, etc. In practice, Cleveland Police would review each application on a case-by-case basis, including facility location, size, and a review of any criminal activity in the past year. The applicant may be

asked to supply additional information or if it's determined the security measures are not sufficient, the applicant may be required to submit revised security measures list for review. As part of the enforcement process, if Cleveland Police identify three or more nuisance activities or criminal violations at a facility within a six-month period, the operator's approved security plan may be subject to review. The operator may be required to submit an updated security measures plan in response. If the plan is inadequate or no agreement on additional security measures is reached, a hearing may be held, and the license could be revoked

Maintenance:

- Facilities are already required to maintain proper grading for drainage, use approved surface materials, and remain free of trash and debris (*current CCO 547.02 incorporates CCO 349.07 which contains these requirements*). The update under Section 457.09 places this requirement within the maintenance section for greater clarity and consistency
- Operators would be required to maintain clear, accurate signage and take reasonable measures so that parking payments are collected directly by the operator, not by any fraudulent third parties

Penalties:

- Criminal penalties for violators of sections 457.01, 457.04, 457.06, 457.08, and 457.09, mostly concerning licensing and signage, will increase from \$100.00 to \$150.00