

**PART FIVE - TRAFFIC CODE  
TITLE THREE  
TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**

- 521 Operation of Vehicles
  - 522 Weight Limitations
  - 523 Operation in Parks
  - 525 Pedestrians
  - 527 Snow Routes
  - 528 Prohibiting Use of Mobile Telephones by Persons Operating Vehicles
  - 529 Cruising
- 

**ARTICLE 521  
OPERATION OF VEHICLES**

- 521.01 Entering Obstructed Intersection
- 521.02 Driving Through Procession
- 521.03 Driving or Parking on Sidewalk
- 521.04 Horns and Sounding Devices
- 521.05 Use of Snow Tires or Chains

**CROSS REFERENCES**

- State Regulations of Traffic Operation -- See Vehicle Code §3101 et seq.
  - Taxicabs - See Business & Tax Article 313
  - Taxicab Driver's License – See Business & Tax Article 315
  - Operation in Parks – See S.U. & P.S. 951.05, et seq.
- 

**521.01 ENTERING OBSTRUCTED INTERSECTION**

No operator of a vehicle shall enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal to proceed. (9898 §7 9/18/62)

**521.02 DRIVING THROUGH PROCESSION**

No operator of a vehicle shall drive between vehicles comprising a funeral when such vehicles are conspicuously designated or between vehicles of any military convoys or other authorized processions while they are in motion. (9898 §7 9/18/62)

**521.03 DRIVING OR PARKING ON SIDEWALK**

The operator of a vehicle shall not drive within any sidewalk area except at a permanent or temporary driveway, nor shall any person park a vehicle at any place between the curb line and property line of any street unless specifically granted an exception, by Council, in the form of a resolution, where it is determined that such use will not interfere with the public's use of right-of-way, and a written agreement with the City. (9898 §7 9/18/62; 13771 §1 7/22/99)

**521.04 HORNS AND SOUNDING DEVICES**

Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating a zone of quiet, no operator of a vehicle within any such zone shall sound the horn or other warning device of such vehicle except in an emergency. No person shall at any time sound the horn or other warning device of a vehicle except when absolutely necessary as a warning signal while actually driving such vehicle. (9898 §7 9/18/62)

**521.05 USE OF SNOW TIRES OR CHAINS**

In the event an emergency is declared by the Mayor or his duly designated representative because of snow or ice accumulation, no person shall use, operate or drive any motor vehicle on any street or highway within the City without the vehicle being equipped with snow tires or chains. (8592 §9a 3/4/58)

---

**ARTICLE 522  
WEIGHT LIMITATIONS**

522.01 Vehicle Weight Limits Established on Certain Bridges

---

**522.01 VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS ESTABLISHED ON CERTAIN BRIDGES**

A. On the following bridges or parts thereof, by authority granted by Section 4902(a) of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to drive any vehicle or combination having a gross weight in excess of the maximum prescribed below for that bridge or part thereof, as the case may be:

<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Maximum Gross Location</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Combinations</b>
Gordon Street	Over Jordan Creek	3 Tons	3 Tons
Ott Street	Over Cedar Creek	27 Tons	40 Tons
Walnut Street (County Owned)	Over Cedar Creek	3 Tons	3 Tons
Catalina Avenue (12770 §1 6/3/87; 14148 §1 1/22/04)	Over Little Lehigh Creek		16 Tons

B. Any person who violates any provision of the section shall be prosecuted under Stations 4902(a) and 4902(g-1) of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars plus One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars for each five hundred (500) pounds, or part thereof, in excess of three thousand (3,000) pounds over the maximum allowable weight, and costs. (12770 §1 6/3/87)

---

**ARTICLE 523  
Operation in Parks**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Traffic and parking regulations for vehicles in parks are contained in Sections 951.05 et seq. of the Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code.

---

**ARTICLE 525  
PEDESTRIANS**

- 525.01 Pedestrians to Keep to Right on Crosswalks
- 525.02 Overtaking Vehicles to Permit Pedestrians to Cross
- 525.03 Pedestrians Crossing at Intersections

CROSS REFERENCES

- Pedestrians Right-of-Way – See Vehicle Code §3541 *et seq.*
  - Pedestrians Soliciting Rides – See Vehicle Code §3545
  - Blind Pedestrians -- See Vehicle Code §3549
- 

**525.01 PEDESTRIANS TO KEEP TO RIGHT ON CROSSWALK**

Pedestrians shall move whenever practical upon the right half of crosswalks. (9898 §8 9/18/62)

**525.02 OVERTAKING VEHICLES TO PERMIT PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS**

Whenever any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the highway, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall pass such stopped vehicle. (9898 §8 9/18/62)

**525.03 PEDESTRIANS CROSSING AT INTERSECTIONS**

Pedestrians shall not leave the curbstone to cross at controlled intersections unless:

- A. Directed by a police officer;
- B. On the green or "GO" traffic signal at intersections not having pedestrian signals; or

C. On the "WALK" signal at intersections having pedestrian signs. Pedestrians shall not cross highways anywhere except at intersections nor at intersections having pedestrian signals except at the places and in the manner directed. (9898 §8 9/18/62)

---

**ARTICLE 527  
SNOW ROUTES**

- 527.01 Definitions
- 527.02 Declaration of Snow Emergency
- 527.03 Snow Emergency Routes
- 527.04 Prohibited Parking
- 527.05 Removal of Vehicles
- 527.06 Snow Removal
- 527.99 Penalty

**CROSS REFERENCES**

Use of Snow Tires or Chains -- See Traffic Article 521.05  
Impounding -- See Traffic Article 535  
Sidewalk Snow Removal -- See General Offenses Article 711.05

---

**527.01 DEFINITIONS**

The following words, when used in this Article shall, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, mean or include as follows:

1. **Street** means every way or place of whatever nature, within the City, open to the use of the public as a matter of right, for purpose of vehicular travel.
2. **Vehicle** means any device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public street.
3. **Person** means any natural person, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation.
4. **City** means the City of Allentown. (11784 §1 1/7/70)

**527.02 DECLARATION OF SNOW EMERGENCY**

In the event weather conditions make it necessary for motor vehicle traffic to be expedited and parking on City streets be prohibited or restricted for snow plowing and other purposes, the Mayor or the Mayor's designated representative shall declare a snow emergency. The declaration of a snow emergency may be made on any of the seven (7) days of the week at anytime between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Such declaration shall not go into effect until four (4) hours after it has been announced. Once in effect, a prohibition under this Section shall remain in effect until terminated by announcement of the Mayor or the Mayor's representative, except that any street area which has become clear of snow and ice from curb to median line for the length of the entire block shall be automatically excluded therefrom. While the prohibition is in effect, no person shall park or allow to remain parked any vehicle on any portion of a snow emergency route. (13283 §1 10/6/94)

However, nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit parking at any time or place where it is forbidden by any other provision of law. (11838 §1 12/1/70; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

**527.03 SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES**

UPON DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY AND FOR THE DURATION THEREOF  
PARKING SHALL BE PROHIBITED ON THE FOLLOWING STREETS,  
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 527.02:

<b>STREET</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
Chew	4 <sup>th</sup>	City Line
South 8th	Walnut	Union
South 8th	Harrison	Susquehanna
Emaus Ave	Bradford	Mack Boulevard
15th	Elm	Mauch Chunk Road

North 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gordon	Chew
South 4 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton	Walnut
South 4 <sup>th</sup>	Priscilla	Susquehanna
Front	North-City Line	Gordon
Gordon	American Parkway	Front
East Hamilton	Carlisle	Aubrey
Hamilton	Front	4 <sup>th</sup>
Hamilton	12 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
Hanover Avenue	East Hamilton	City Line
Irving	Hanover Avenue	Union Boulevard
Lehigh	Auburn	South 12 <sup>th</sup>
Liberty	17 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
North 19 <sup>th</sup>	Liberty	Roth Avenue
Oxford Drive	Lehigh	Salisbury Drive
7 <sup>th</sup>	Union	City Line
17 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton	City Line
Susquehanna	South 4 <sup>th</sup>	City Line
Tilghman	Front	30 <sup>th</sup>
12 <sup>th</sup>	Green	Tilghman
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton	Walnut
24 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton	East Texas Boulevard
Union Boulevard	Irving	Club Avenue
Walnut	South 4 <sup>th</sup>	South 12 <sup>th</sup>
St. John	South 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lehigh
South 10 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr.	Wyoming
(13557 §1 3/20/97;14961 12/26/2011)		

#### **527.04 PROHIBITED PARKING**

In the event any street is scheduled by the Mayor, or the Mayor's designated representative, for snow removal, it shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle at or failure to remove a vehicle from any place along such street:

- A. Four (4) hours following such posting on all established four (4) hour or less parking meter zones on streets;
- B. Four (4) hours following such posting on all established limited parking zones on streets; and
- C. Six (6) hours following such posting on all other streets (11984 §1 1/3/73; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

#### **527.05 REMOVAL OF VEHICLES**

Any vehicle parked in violation of the provisions of this ordinance may be removed by any member of the Police Bureau, their designee, or a designated Allentown Parking Authority personnel. Any vehicle removed may be towed to and placed at any area designated by the Mayor or his duly designated representative, for impounding of vehicles. All costs for removal, towing, storage or parking of any vehicle removed under the provisions of this section shall be paid by the owner of the vehicle and the vehicle shall remain impounded until all costs are paid. (11784 §4 1/7/70; 13283 §1 10/6/94; 13727 §1 1/7/99)

#### **527.06 SNOW REMOVAL**

A. No person shall remove snow or ice from private property and put, place, deposit or cause to be put, placed or deposited snow or ice so removed upon the right-of-way of any street. (11784 §5 1/7/70)

B. No person shall remove or cause to be removed snow or ice from any sidewalk or footway and put, place, deposit or cause to be put, placed or deposited snow or ice so removed upon that portion of the street normally used for the travel of vehicles. (11784 §6 1/7/70)

C. This section shall not be in force and effect in areas where curbside parking is prohibited or there is no available private property upon which to put, place or deposit snow or ice so removed. (11784 §6 1/7/70; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

#### **527.99 PENALTY**

A. Any police officer or other duly authorized Parking Authority employee shall place on motor vehicles/conveyances parked in violation of the provisions of Section 527.02, Declaration of Snow Emergency, and 527.03, Prohibited Parking, a notice of said violation. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 8/5/87; 13227 §1 12/1/93)

Each such owner or operator may, within ten (10) days of the time when such notice was attached to his motor vehicle/conveyance, pay as a penalty and in full satisfaction of each violation, the sum of Thirty-five (\$35) Dollars. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 8/5/87; 13283 §1 10/6/94; 13901 §1 4/19/01)

Each such owner or operator may, from the eleventh (11th) to the twentieth (20th) day of the time when such notice was attached to his motor vehicle/conveyance, pay as a penalty and in full consideration of each violation, the sum of Fifty (\$50) Dollars. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 8/5/87; 13227 §1 12/1/93; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

Failure of the owner or operator to make payment after twenty (20) days shall make the owner or operator subject to a penalty not to exceed One Hundred (\$100) Dollars and in default of payment of fine and costs, be imprisoned not more than ten (10) days. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 8/5/87; 13283 §1 10/6/94; 13901 §1 4/19/01)

B. Whoever violates Section 527.06(A), Snow Removal, shall upon conviction thereof, pay a fine or penalty of not less than Twenty-five (\$25) Dollars nor more than Three Hundred (\$300) Dollars and costs, and in default of payment of fine and costs be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 7/15/87; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

C. Whoever violates Section 527.06(B), Snow Removal, shall upon conviction thereof, pay a fine or penalty of One Hundred (\$100) Dollars and costs, and in default of payment of fine and costs be imprisoned not more than three (3) days. (12658 §1 6/6/85; 12784 §1 7/15/87; 13283 §1 10/6/94)

---

**Article 528**  
**Prohibiting Use of Mobile Telephones by Persons Operating Vehicles**

**528.01 Legislative Findings**  
**528.02 Definitions**  
**528.03 Prohibited Conduct**  
**528.04 Exceptions to Prohibited Conduct**  
**528.99 Penalties**

This legislation was enacted as Ordinance 14782, passed and signed by the Mayor on March 9, 2010.

---

**528.01 Legislative Findings**

1. Mobile telephone usage has continued to increase in popularity in the United States. Studies show:

- a. Mobile phone usage while driving increases the likelihood of a crash fourfold;
- b. Drivers operating motor vehicles while using a mobile phone are as impaired as drivers with a 0.08 percent blood alcohol level-the level that defines drunk driving in most states;
- c. The act of dialing a mobile phone is the most dangerous part of making a mobile phone call while operating a motor vehicle;
- d. The cost of crashes caused by mobile phone usage while operating a motor vehicle is estimated at \$43 billion, annually.

2. Text messaging, instant messaging, web browsing and other mobile phone technologies are becoming increasingly popular and present an additional danger to motor vehicle operators. Studies show:

- a. The use of text messages has increased over 1,000 percent from June of 2005 to June of 2007.
- b. Today, Americans send and receive more text messages per month than phone calls.
- c. The use of mobile phones while operating a motor vehicle, skateboard, inline skates or bicycle poses a great risk to the health, safety and welfare of the operator of those vehicles, as well as pedestrians.
- d. Requiring the use of hands-free device for mobile phones while operating a vehicle within the City of Allentown is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Allentown.

3 Failure to use a hands-free device for a mobile phone while operating a vehicle within the City of Allentown shall constitute a violation of the Allentown Code.

#### 528.02 Definitions

1. "Hands-free device" shall mean an external device that connects to a mobile telephone or wireless communication device that allows the user to engage in a call without touching the user's telephone or wireless communication device.
2. "Street" means a right-of-way dedicated to the public for the movement of traffic with space for utilities and providing access to abutting properties.
3. "On-board communications device" shall mean a communications system or device that is hard-wired into the motor vehicle.

#### 528.03 Prohibited Conduct

No person shall use a mobile telephone or wireless communication device in any way, including for voice communication, messaging or emailing:

- a. While operating a motor vehicle on any Street within the City;
- b. While using a skateboard, scooter, inline skates or bicycle on any Street within the City.

#### 528.04 Exceptions to Prohibited Conduct

- a. Persons using a hands-free device for voice communication provided that such person does not touch the mobile telephone or wireless communication device connected to such hands-free device while operating or using the vehicle, except as permitted under subparagraph (c).
- b. Persons using a mobile telephone for voice communication to call "911" in an emergency, or to report a traffic accident or unsafe driving by another motorist.
- c. Persons using a mobile telephone or wireless communication device while maintaining a motor vehicle in a stationary position in a parking lane or space out of moving traffic lanes, and not in gear.
- d. Persons using ~~on-board~~ any communications device for non-personal communication in the course of ordinary business in their employment with a City, State or Federal agency or authority.

#### 528.99 Penalties

Any person convicted of violating this article shall be guilty of a Summary Offense, and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$150.00 nor more than \$300.00. (14782 3/9/2010)

---

### 529 CRUISING

- 529.01 Purpose
- 529.02 Definitions
- 529.03 Cruising Prohibited
- 529.04 Exclusions
- 529.99 Penalty

---

#### 529.01 PURPOSE

A general public nuisance and threat to the public safety results from the repetitive unnecessary driving of motor vehicles, also known as cruising, in a designated area of downtown Allentown. The purpose of this article is to reduce the noise, air pollution and congestion resulting from cruising, and to insure access for safety vehicles to and through said designated area by restricting repetitive driving of motor vehicles in said designated areas. (12644 §1 1/16/85)

#### 529.02 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this article the following definitions shall apply:

1. **Cruising** is driving a motor vehicle on a street past a traffic control point, designated by a police officer, in the designated area under conditions in which traffic is congested at or near the control point, three (3) or more times within any two (2) hour period from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. Passing the control point a third time under the same conditions stated herein shall constitute cruising and therefore a violation of this section. (12644 §1 1/16/85)

2. **Designated Area** shall mean that area of the City of Allentown bounded by Front Street on the east, Union Street on the south, 14th Street on the west, and Liberty Street on the north and shall include the aforementioned boundary streets. (12945 §1 12/14/89)

3. **Traffic Control Point** shall mean a reference point on a street in the designated area selected by a police officer for the purpose of enforcing this article. (12644 §1 1/16/85)

#### **529.03 CRUISING PROHIBITED**

No person shall cruise. For the purposes of this prohibition the person having care, custody, or control of a motor vehicle shall be considered the person cruising regardless of whether that person was actually driving the motor vehicle.

For the purposes of this section, the person having "care, custody or control of a motor vehicle" shall mean either the owner of said vehicle, if present in the vehicle at the time of the violation or, if the owner is not so present, the person or persons having the owner's express authority to use the vehicle. (12644 §1 1/61/85)

#### **529.04 EXCLUSIONS**

This section shall not apply to official emergency or police vehicles, licensed taxicabs for hire, other business vehicles being driven for business purposes, and for residents of the designated area traveling to a specific destination. (12644 §1 1/61/85)

#### **529.99 PENALTY**

Any person violating the provisions of this Article shall be fined Twenty-five (\$25) Dollars. (12644 §1 1/61/85)