


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: January 6, 2017

To: The Heads of All Departments,
Department Homeless Coordinators

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer 

Subject: **REVISED LAMC SECTION 85.02 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2017:
USE OF VEHICLES AS LIVING QUARTERS**

On November 23, 2016, the City adopted an ordinance repealing Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 85.02 in its entirety, in response to a U.S. Court of Appeals judgment and replaced it with a version that decriminalizes living in vehicles, while balancing the needs of all City residents, businesses and visitors for clean, healthy and safe public areas. The new LAMC Section 85.02 regulates the conduct of dwelling in a vehicle on a public street and is not a parking restriction. From 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., persons are allowed to use a vehicle for dwelling, subject to posted parking restrictions, in most areas of the City that are more than 500 feet from licensed schools, pre-schools, day care facilities or parks. From 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., persons are allowed to use a vehicle for dwelling, subject to posted parking restrictions, on streets in non-residential zones that are not located within 500 feet of a licensed school, pre-school, day care facility or park. The provisions of the new LAMC Section 85.02 become effective on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and expire on July 1, 2018, unless extended by ordinance. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has indicated enforcement will begin in early February.

The City will continue to provide public outreach regarding the provisions of this ordinance. The City's outreach efforts will be further supplemented with the assistance of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and their homeless service providers. Additionally, the City has developed several maps to assist the public in identifying streets where vehicle dwelling is allowed. The maps are publicly available on the City's website (www.lacity.org/vehicledwelling). The maps are also available within the City's Zone Information and Map Access System (<http://zimas.lacity.org/>). Printed versions of the maps are available at local City Halls, libraries, and community police stations for surrounding neighborhoods and street segments. If requested, our Office encourages all departments with public counters to provide the 85.02 pamphlets (attached) and if feasible provide printed maps.

Our Office will coordinate the collection and analysis of data and information by City departments and third party organizations with relevant expertise for purposes of determining the impacts to public health, safety and the physical environment due to the implementation of these vehicle dwelling regulations. The resulting data and analysis will be compiled into a report with recommendations for action to the City Council and Mayor within eighteen months of the effective date of this ordinance.

If you have any questions, please call Jason Killeen 213-473-7574 in my Office.

Attachments

New Regulations



Vehicle Dwelling (LAMC 85.02)



Daytime: 6 AM to 9 PM
Persons may live in their vehicles in most areas of the City that are more than 500 feet away from licensed schools, pre-schools, daycare facilities, or parks.



Nighttime: 9 PM to 6 AM
Persons may live in their vehicles in non-residentially zoned areas that are more than 500 feet away from licensed schools, pre-schools, daycare facilities, or parks.



Living in a vehicle is **prohibited at all times** within 500 feet of parks, licensed schools, pre-schools, or daycare facilities.



Persons living in their vehicles must comply with all posted parking restrictions at all times.



For assistance with general questions please call **3-1-1** or email: 311@lacity.org



New regulations are in effect beginning Saturday, January 7, 2017. Enforcement will begin in early February.



Printed maps displaying where vehicle living is restricted are available at City Hall downtown, City Hall Van Nuys, local libraries and community police stations. Maps also available on the City's website at:

www.lacity.org/vehicledwelling

Maps will be updated periodically.

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Maps will be updated periodically.

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 85.02 – Vehicular Dwelling

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the revised Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 85.02 become effective?

The provisions of the new LAMC Section 85.02 become effective on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and shall expire on July 1, 2018, unless extended by ordinance. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has indicated enforcement will begin in early February.

2. When will the maps depicting where vehicular dwelling is restricted be published?

The maps are available online (www.lacity.org/vehicledwelling) and we will continue to work with City departments and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to ensure that hard copies will also be available at various locations within the City.

3. What are the criteria for permissible vehicular dwelling?

Vehicular dwelling on streets is allowed more than 500 feet away from parks and licensed schools, pre-schools, and daycare facilities in:

- all areas of the City between 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.; and
- all non-residential zoned areas of the City between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

Persons must still comply with posted parking restrictions

4. How will this ordinance be enforced and what can be done to ensure that persons experiencing homelessness are not further burdened by expensive fines?

The City wants individuals to know where they can lawfully live in their vehicles. A combination of departments and agencies will continue to work with LAHSA, homeless service providers, faith-based organizations, and communities to provide information and outreach about vehicular dwelling. This ordinance regulates the conduct of dwelling in a vehicle on a public street and is not a parking restriction. The LAPD has the authority to issue a citation under this ordinance. An officer may issue a citation if more than one of the following activities are observed and when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that a person is using a vehicle as a place of residence or accommodation:

- Possessing inside or on a vehicle items that are not associated with ordinary vehicle use, such as a sleeping bag, bedroll, blanket, sheet, pillow, kitchen utensils, cookware, and cooking equipment.
- Obscuring some or all of the vehicle's windows
- Preparing or cooking meals inside or on a vehicle
- Sleeping inside a vehicle

A first violation of this section is punishable as an infraction not to exceed \$25. A second violation is \$50 and all subsequent violations are \$75. Individuals cited may be eligible for referral to a diversion program such as the Office of the City Attorney's Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART).

ORDINANCE NO. 184590

An ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 85.02 to establish regulations governing the use of vehicles for dwelling on City public streets and to provide a sunset of the regulations in 18 months.

The City finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, for a variety of social, economic and personal reasons, many people dwell in their vehicles on City public streets;

WHEREAS, some people with homes choose temporarily to dwell in their vehicle on public streets because of financial considerations, such as a person catching an early morning flight or train and instead of paying for a hotel room decides to dwell in his or her vehicle overnight on a public street near the airport or train station;

WHEREAS, some people have no housing and they believe their safest option for dwelling is in their vehicle on public streets;

WHEREAS, substantial public health, safety and quality-of-life concerns are posed by persons who use their vehicles for dwelling on public streets, especially on streets in residential areas or in sensitive areas, such as near schools, day care facilities and parks;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous complaints by residents of litter, unsanitary conditions, noise and crime, sometimes resulting in altercations, when persons dwell in their vehicles in residential and sensitive areas;

WHEREAS, the conditions described above have resulted in and will likely continue to result in blight, sanitary and public health concerns, excessive noise and crime, not only affecting residents, but also affecting persons who dwell in vehicles and are at a heightened risk of assault, robbery and other criminal activity;

WHEREAS, dwelling in vehicles on public streets diminishes the economic viability of the City and its many tourist attractions;

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in balancing the needs of those individuals who dwell in their vehicles and the needs of all City residents, businesses and visitors for clean, healthy and safe public areas;

WHEREAS, the City's existing law addressing vehicle dwelling was found to be unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal in *Desertrain v. City of Los Angeles*;

WHEREAS, the City currently has no reliable information on the number and location of people using vehicles as dwellings or the impacts to health, safety and the physical environment, if any, resulting from this activity, and is unable to obtain such information from other sources;

WHEREAS, the City has reasonably determined that gathering the information necessary to evaluate the impacts to health, safety and the physical environment, if any, due to the use of vehicles for dwelling on public streets will take approximately eighteen months;

WHEREAS, the City intends to allow vehicle dwelling in order to gather data and information related to impacts to public health, safety and the physical environment, if any, for use in developing permanent regulations pertaining to the use of vehicles for dwelling on public streets in the City;

WHEREAS, the City intends to allow vehicle dwelling only on non-residential streets and on streets that do not have a school, pre-school, day care facility or park;

WHEREAS, the restriction on vehicle dwelling regulates the conduct of dwelling in a vehicle on a public street and is not a parking restriction;

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the regulations will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource;

WHEREAS, the City intends to provide public outreach regarding the provisions of this ordinance, including engaging the assistance of homeless service providers such as the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and making publicly available on the City's website maps identifying streets where vehicle dwelling is allowed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative Officer will coordinate the collection and analysis of data and information by City departments and third party organizations with relevant expertise for purposes of determining the impacts to public health, safety and the physical environment due to the implementation of these vehicle dwelling regulations and will compile the resulting data and analysis into a report with recommendations for action to the City Council and Mayor within eighteen months of the effective date of this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE,

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 85.02 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is repealed in its entirety and replaced as follows:

SEC. 85.02. REGULATING THE USE OF VEHICLES FOR DWELLING.

A. Use of Vehicles for Dwelling Restricted on City Streets. No person shall use a Vehicle for Dwelling as follows:

1. Between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. on any Residential Street; or
2. At any time within a one Block radius of any edge of a lot containing a park or a licensed school, pre-school or daycare facility.

Nothing herein precludes the enforcement of any other laws such as parking restrictions, including, but not limited to, prohibitions on overnight parking.

B. Definitions: As used in this section:

1. **Block** is defined as 500 feet.
2. **Dwelling** means more than one of the following activities and when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that a person is using a vehicle as a place of residence or accommodation:

Possessing inside or on a vehicle items that are not associated with ordinary vehicle use, such as a sleeping bag, bedroll, blanket, sheet, pillow, kitchen utensils, cookware, cooking equipment, bodily fluids. Obscuring some or all of the vehicle's windows. Preparing or cooking meals inside or on a vehicle. Sleeping inside a vehicle.

3. **Residential Street** means any street which adjoins one or more single family or multi-family residentially zoned parcel.
4. **Vehicle** means any motor vehicle, trailer, house car or trailer coach as defined by the California Vehicle Code.

C. Penalty. A first violation of this section shall be punishable as an infraction not to exceed \$25. A second violation of this section shall be punishable as an infraction not to exceed \$50 and all subsequent violations of this section shall be punishable as an infraction not to exceed \$75. Violators may be eligible for referral to a prosecutorial-led diversion program such as the Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART).

D. Sunset Provisions. The provisions of this section shall expire and be deemed to have been repealed on July 1, 2018, unless extended by ordinance.

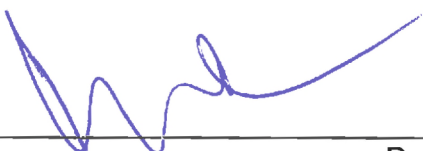
E. Severability. If any portion, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this section is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such

a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this section. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each portion or subsection, sentence, clause and phrase herein, irrespective of the fact that any one or more portions, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.


Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was introduced at the meeting of the Council of the City of Los Angeles NOV - 9 2016, and was passed at its meeting of NOV 22 2016.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk


By  Deputy

Approved 11 / 23 / 16

 Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By  DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney

Date November 8 2016

File No. CF 14-1057-S1

DECLARATION OF POSTING ORDINANCE

I, JUAN VERANO, state as follows: I am, and was at all times hereinafter mentioned, a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and a Deputy City Clerk of the City of Los Angeles, California.

Ordinance No. 184590 – Amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 85.02 to establish regulations governing the use of vehicles for dwelling on City public streets and to provide a sunset of the regulations in 18 months – a copy of which is hereto attached, was finally adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on **November 22, 2016**, and under the direction of said City Council and the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 251 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles and Ordinance No. 172959, on **November 28, 2016** I posted a true copy of said ordinance at each of the three public places located in the City of Los Angeles, California, as follows: 1) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; 2) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; 3) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Copies of said ordinance were posted conspicuously beginning on **November 28, 2016** and will be continuously posted for ten or more days.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this **28th** day of **November 2016** at Los Angeles, California.



Juan Verano, Deputy City Clerk

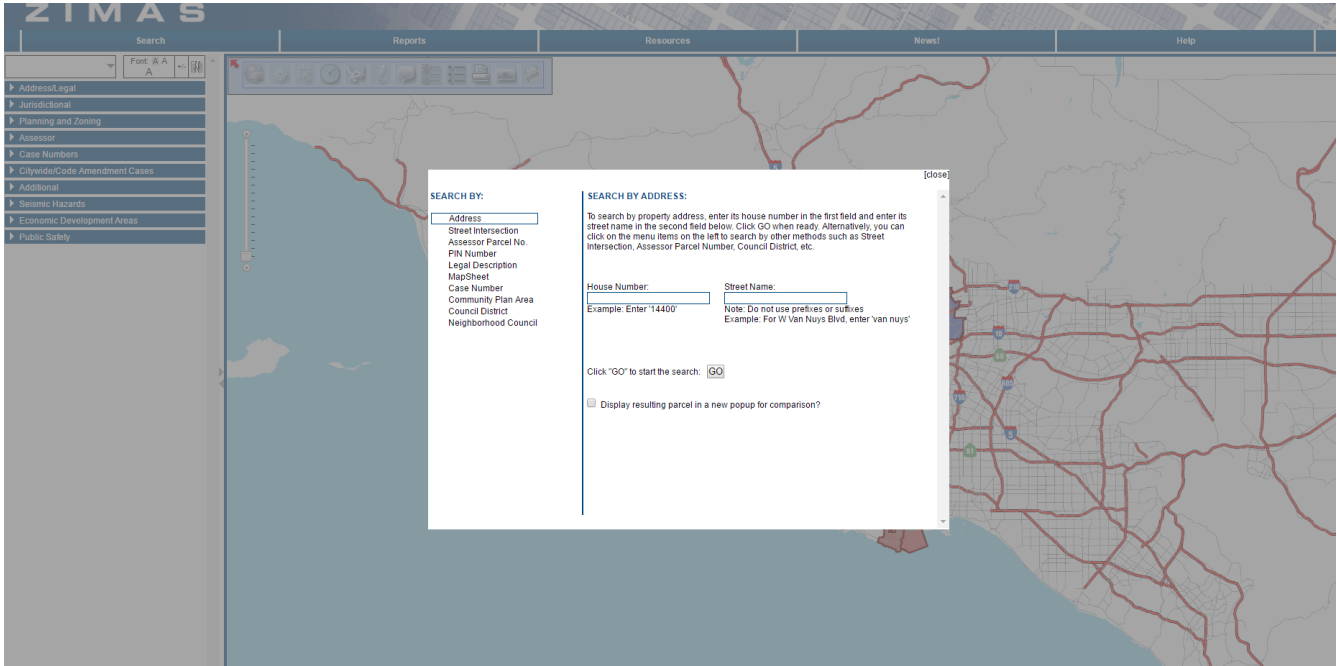
Ordinance Effective Date: **January 7, 2017**

Council File No. **14-1057-S1**

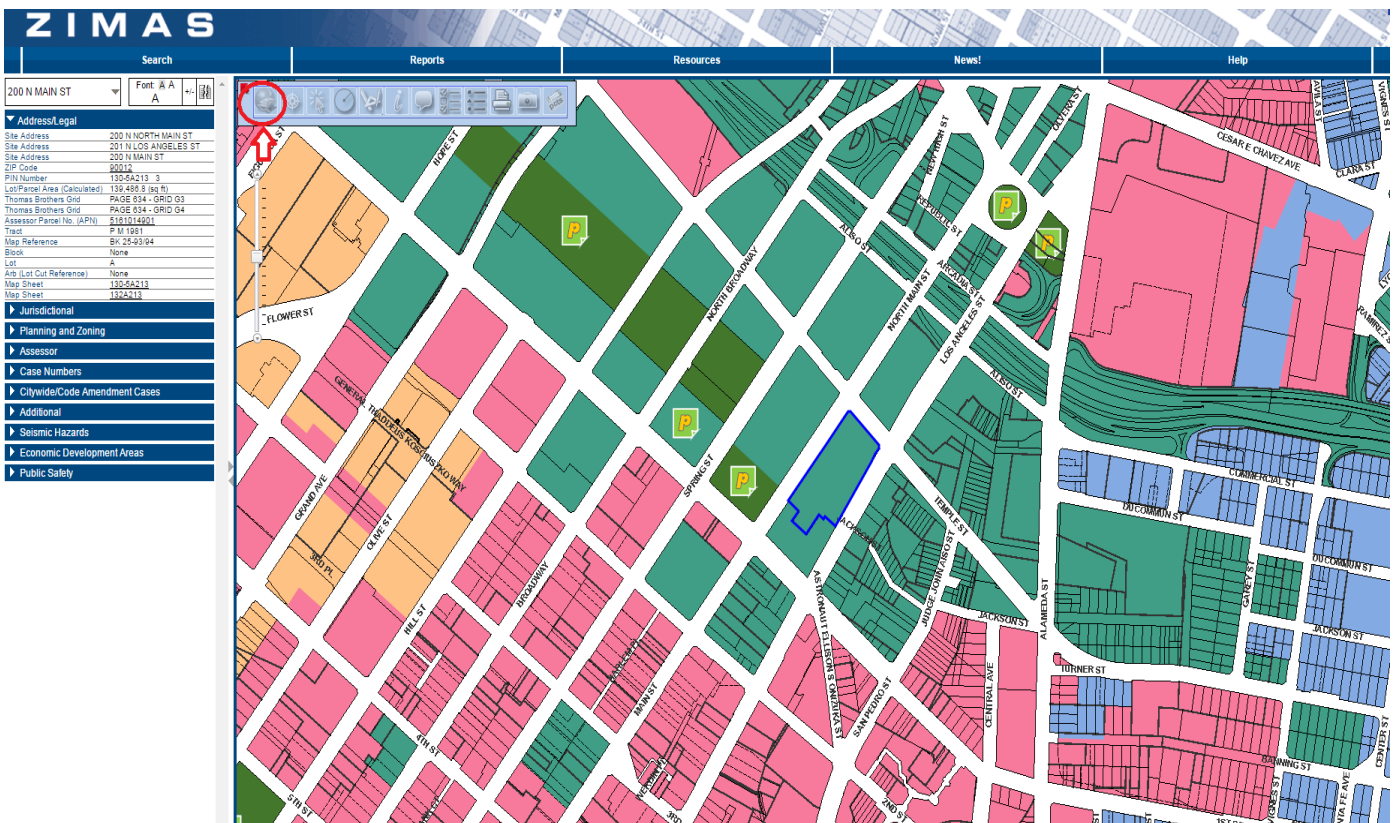
How to Verify Vehicular Dwelling Restrictions Using ZIMAS

Step 1: Go to (zimas.lacity.org)

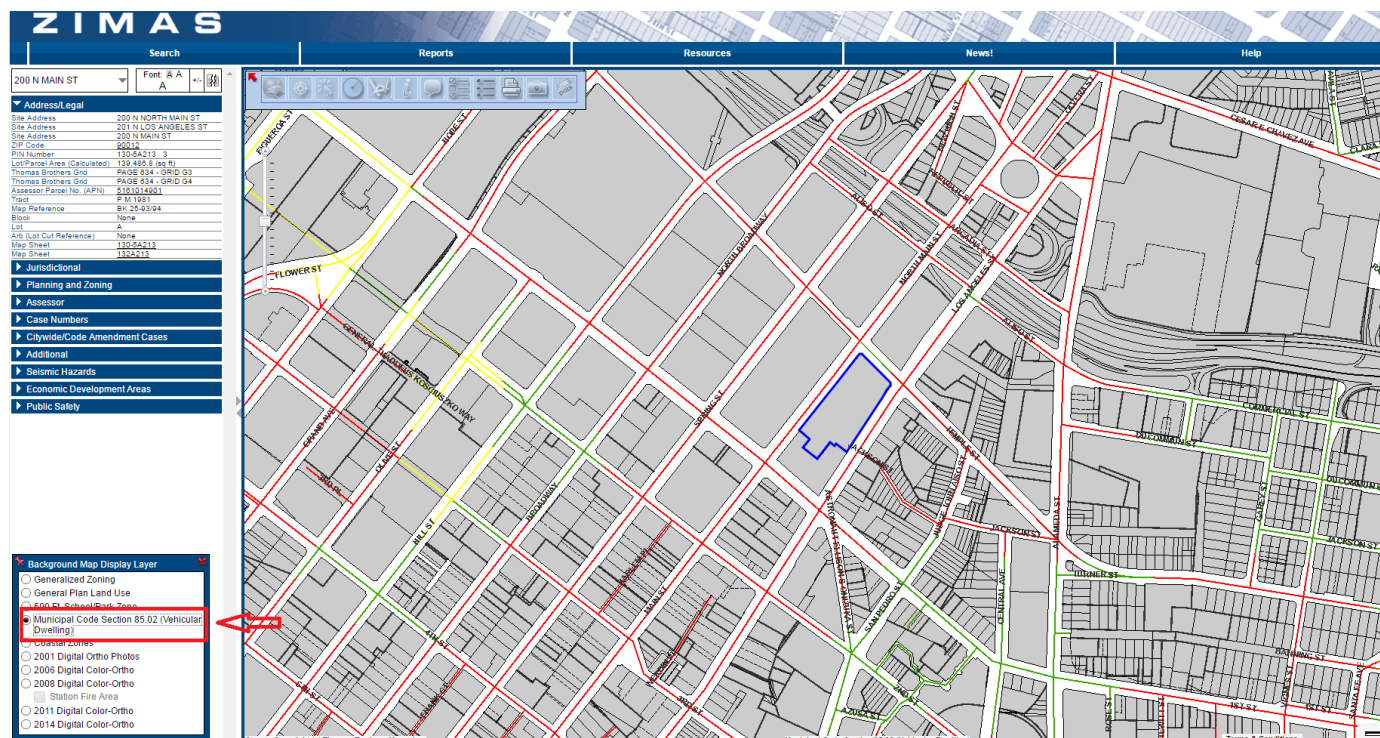
Step 2: When the window appears, input the Address or Street Intersection of interest to search Citywide.



Step 3: Once searched, refer to the top-left corner of the map, and click on the icon entitled as “Change background display layer”.



Step 4: Refer to the popup window on the bottom left corner entitled “Background Map Display Layer” and click on the option entitled “Municipal Code Section 85.02 (Vehicular Dwelling)”.



Step 5: The map will now identify street segments around the areas of interest which identify street segments for allowing for vehicular dwelling. The user may Zoom In or Out within the map to search for other streets. Please refer to the following legend to identify streets for vehicular dwelling.

MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 85.02 (VEHICLE DWELLING)

- No vehicle dwelling anytime
- No vehicle dwelling overnight between 9:00 PM - 6:00 AM. Must comply with all posted parking restrictions
- Vehicle dwelling allowed. Must comply with all posted parking restrictions