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Safety on city sidewalks For Immediate Release: September 26, 2017



One of the biggest concerns of a city is the safety of citizens. Having a clear sidewalk is an important component of safety in the community.

In the City of Norfolk, City Code Section 24-153 (b) states that “no person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle: so that all or any part of any vehicle is on or over any portion of a sidewalk or terrace.” Simply put, all sidewalks must be clear for pedestrians to safely cross through, which includes the bumper of a vehicle, as well as boat and trailer hitches.

The terrace that the ordinance refers to is the right of way between the property line and the curb line. This is best marked as the area between the sidewalk and the curb. The fine for blocking a sidewalk in Norfolk is \$25.00.

This isn't just an important ordinance for Norfolk, but for the state of Nebraska as well. State Statute 60-6, 166 of the Nebraska parking law provides general laws for prohibited parking in the entire state. One of the general prohibitions under this section is “on a sidewalk.” Under this statute, local jurisdictions may modify the parking law to provide for additional safety.

How is this a safety concern? Often times when a sidewalk is blocked, a pedestrian may resort to going to the street to pass the parked vehicle blocking the sidewalk. This imposes a danger upon the pedestrian as drivers in the street may not be expecting them to enter. Not only does this impose danger to pedestrians, it also creates an obstacle for those who have a physical impairment and are wheel-chair bound.

Next time you stop to park in a driveway remember to keep the sidewalk clear.