

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
WITH RESPECT TO **BOOTING/IMMOBILIZATION OF VEHICLES IN PRIVATE  
PARKING LOTS** AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3-3-67 entitled “*Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots*” of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, subsection (b) entitled “*Definitions*,” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following definitions:

“Sec. 3-3-67. – Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots.

(b) *Definitions*. For the purposes of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this subsection:

*Parking Area (general)* means any area where cars or vehicles are parked.

*Privately owned On-Street Parking* means parking spaces that are adjacent to publicly or privately owned streets or roads but are owned and controlled by private property owners.

*Structured Parking Area* means a structure built specifically or partially to house vehicles. These areas may be stand alone “parking decks” or serve multiple tenants. Structured parking areas may share infrastructure with and be connected to a variety of land uses, including retailers, residences, offices and other uses.

*Surface Parking Lot* means a paved area generally used for vehicle parking.”

SECTION 2. Section 3-3-67, entitled “*Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots*” of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, subsection (f), entitled “*Requirements for posting signs*,” is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following new subsection is inserted in lieu thereof:

“ Sec. 3-3-67. – Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots.

(f) Requirements for posting signs.

(1) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

*Entrance Signs* are signs primarily used at each vehicular entry to a surface parking lot or a structured parking area;

*Supplemental signs* are signs used in surface parking lots or structured parking areas to remind the public that they are in a private parking lot and immobilization may be used by the owner or manager of the lot; and

*On street signs* are signs used only in privately owned on-street parking with no designated entrance, and are designed to minimize clutter on streetscapes.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to immobilize or cause the immobilization of a vehicle on private property without signs being posted and maintained on the private property in accordance with this section at the time of immobilization. Such signs must have been continuously maintained on the property for not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the immobilization of any vehicles.

(3) Where there is a designated entrance to a parking area (including surface parking lots or structured parking areas) where parking prohibitions are to be effective the following standards apply:

a. Entrance signs must be placed at each vehicular entry to the parking area.

b. Entrance signs shall be a minimum of twenty-four inches by thirty-six inches in size.

c. The vertical mid-point of entrance signs located at a designated entrance to a parking lot shall be at least four feet above the site grade.

d. The text on entrance signs shall be visible at ingress and egress from the parking area.

e. Entrance signs shall state in all-capital, bold letters at least two inches high “PRIVATE PARKING – UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES MAY BE BOOTED.” Such signs shall also include the following language in letters at least three quarters of an inch high:

- Boot Removal or Disputes – Call 000-000-0000
- Cost to remove boot - \$50.00
- Fee payable by cash, check, and credit/debit card
- Vehicle may not be impounded if owner/operator returns before boot is attached.
- Private booting regulated by the Code of Athens-Clarke County ([www.accgov.com/booting](http://www.accgov.com/booting))
- Complaints (Non-Emergency): ACC Police 706-546-5900

f. In surface parking lots, a two-sided supplemental sign clearly visible to drivers and pedestrians shall be placed at the entrance to each row of parking. If a parking lot has fewer than 15 spaces and one primary pedestrian ingress and egress point, a two-sided supplemental sign clearly mounted at this point is acceptable. Supplemental signs shall be at least 18 inches wide by 12 inches tall, and shall include the following language on both sides when mounted in a surface lot:

- Private Parking – Unauthorized Vehicles May Be Booted
- More Information: [www.accgov.com/booting](http://www.accgov.com/booting)

g. In structured parking areas where immobilization is being used, a one-sided supplemental sign shall be posted at each point of pedestrian egress via stairwells, pedestrian passages and elevators. Supplemental signs shall be at least 18 inches wide by 12 inches tall, and shall include the following language:

- Private Parking – Unauthorized Vehicles May Be Booted
- More Information: [www.accgov.com/booting](http://www.accgov.com/booting)

(4) Where there is no designated entry to the parking area (including privately-owned on street parking), on street signs will be used. The following standards apply:

- a. On street signs must be placed a minimum of every seven spaces.
- b. Such signs shall be a minimum of twelve inches by sixteen inches.
- c. Signs must be free of any natural or man-made interference and clearly visible, even if adjacent spaces are occupied.
- d. Such signs shall state in all-capital, bold letters at least one and one-half inches high “PRIVATE PARKING.” Such signs shall also include the following language in letters at least one-half inch high:

- Unauthorized vehicles may be booted at owner’s expense
- Boot Removal and Disputes: 000-000-0000
- \$50.00 to remove boot
- Private booting regulated by the Code of Athens-Clarke County
- Complaints (Non-Emergency): ACC Police 706-546-5900
- More Information: [www.accgov.com/booting](http://www.accgov.com/booting)

(5) Details explaining time limits, parking payment methods and other policies of private parking areas may be included on entrance, supplemental or small signs as well. Such information cannot contradict, obscure, or confuse the language otherwise required by this section.

SECTION 3. Section 3-3-67, entitled “*Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots*” of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, subsection (k), entitled “*Vehicle immobilization generally*,” paragraph (4), is hereby amended by deleting the words “three hundred sixty five (365) days per year” and adding the words “every day of the year,” so that the new paragraph is:

“Sec. 3-6-7. – Booting/immobilization of vehicles in private parking lots.

(k) Vehicle immobilization generally.

(4) A vehicle immobilization service must maintain a twenty-four (24) hour a day phone number that is staffed every day of the year by a live operator to

communicate immediately with a driver of any vehicle that has been immobilized by the vehicle immobilization service.”

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.