

ORDINANCE NO. 443

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA QUINTA,
CALIFORNIA, ADDING SUBSECTION 12.69 TO CHAPTER
12 OF THE LA QUINTA MUNICIPAL CODE, PERTAINING
TO REGULATIONS FOR GOLF CARTS ON CERTAIN
STREETS**

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code prohibits the use of golf carts on public streets except as permitted in California Vehicle Code 21115, 21115.1 and 21716; and

WHEREAS, the City established a Golf Cart Transportation Plan as part of its General Plan Update process, adopted on March 20, 2002; and

WHEREAS, in order to operate a golf cart on public streets in the City, the City Council finds that specific standards, and requirements are necessary to preserve the public health and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of La Quinta does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 12 of the La Quinta Municipal Code is hereby amended to add Subsection 12.69, to read as follows:

12.69.010 Purpose and intent.

The California Streets and Highways Code, Sections 1950 through 1961, authorize local jurisdictions to establish Golf Cart Transportation Plans within their boundaries, under certain conditions and with certain requirements. The City has established the Golf Cart Transportation Plan in its General Plan, and intends, by the addition of this Subsection of the Municipal Code, to establish standards, requirements and procedures for the implementation of the Golf Cart Transportation Plan.

12.69.020 Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning:

"City" means the City of La Quinta.

"Golf Cart" means a four wheeled electric powered motor vehicle with an unladen weight of less than one thousand three hundred pounds, which is designed to be, and is operated at not more than twenty miles per hour, and is designed to carry golf equipment and no more than four persons, including the driver.

"Golf cart lanes" or "Golf cart routes" means all City owned travel ways that allow golf cart travel, including roadways.

There shall be three categories of golf cart facility:

1. Class I golf cart paths provide an area separate from the roadway used by automobile traffic for shared one-way or two-way golf carts, bicycles and pedestrians.
2. Class II golf cart lanes provide a striped eight-foot lane for one-way golf cart and bicycle travel on a street or highway.
3. Class III golf cart routes provide for shared use with automobile and bicycle traffic. Class III facilities are established by placing golf cart route signs along roadways with speed limits of twenty-five miles per hour or less in order to link them to Class I or Class II facilities.

"Golf cart route plan" means the adopted map depicting routes and crossing that will be constructed, posted and designated for use by permitted golf carts.

12.69.030 Minimum design criteria for golf carts.

All golf carts traveling on any golf cart facility in the City must meet the following minimum design criteria:

1. The golf cart must be electrically powered.
2. The golf cart must be equipped and safely operated with all of the following equipment:
 - a. Red reflectors;
 - b. Parking brake;
 - c. Horn;
 - d. Headlights, brake lights and rear lights;
 - e. Front and rear turn signal indicator lights;
 - f. Windshield;
 - g. Seat belts;

- h. Covered passenger compartment;
- i. Mirror combination (left and right side mirrors, left and rear mirrors, or multi-directional cross bar mirror) and unobstructed view to the rear.

12.69.040 Minimum safety criteria for operation of golf cart.

All golf cart operators operating golf carts on any golf cart facility in the City must conform to the following operator requirements and safety criteria:

1. Golf cart operators must be licensed drivers in the State of California with valid California driver's license, or a driver's license issued by another state.
2. Golf cart operators must comply with the financial responsibility requirements established pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 16000) of Division 7 of the California Vehicle Code.
3. Golf cart operators must maintain golf cart in a safe condition.
4. Golf carts are limited to daytime operation and are not permitted before one hour prior to sunrise or after one hour after sunset.
5. Golf cart operators must yield the right-of-way to automobiles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
6. Golf cart operators may only travel on designated golf cart facilities, and only in those golf carts that meet the minimum design criteria required by Section 12.69.030 and that are also properly permitted by the City.

12.69.050 Golf cart permit process.

The following golf cart permitting process is established:

1. No golf cart shall be operated within the City without a current golf cart permit decal visibly displayed on the right rear fender of the golf cart.
2. The golf cart permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.
3. A golf cart permit fee shall be established by City Council Resolution.

12.69.060 Enforcement of Golf Cart Transportation Plan.

Any person operating a golf cart in the City in violation of this Subsection is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Section 2. The Mayor shall sign this Ordinance and the City Clerk shall attest thereof and shall within fifteen (15) days of its passage cause the same or a summary of it to be published once in the Desert Sun, and thereafter the Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced according to law.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of La Quinta at a regular meeting thereof held on the 17th day of July, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

DON ADOLPH, Mayor
City of La Quinta California

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. MONTECINO, CMC, City Clerk
City of La Quinta, California
(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

M. KATHERINE JENSON, City Attorney
City of La Quinta, California