

**Gregory T. Holding**



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**Office of Eleventh District Alderman**

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August 5, 2014

Alderman James Kaplan and City of Racine Traffic Commissioners  
City of Racine  
730 Washington Avenue  
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Chairman Kaplan and Commissioners:

Let me begin with an apology for not addressing you in person. I recently began work with a new firm, and I am not able to take time away from the office to attend a 4PM meeting.

I am asking this Commission to recommend an amendment to Sec. 94-128 of Municipal Code, which would add an exemption allowing campers and recreational vehicles to be parked on city streets for up to 48 hours before or after using the camper or recreational vehicle for camping or traveling.

Why am I asking for a change? The answer comes from a recent incident involving members of my extended family, who also happen to be constituents. They returned from a camping trip late in the afternoon one day, and parked their camper along the curb next to their home. The camper was going to be there until the next morning, so they could unpack and clean the camper before they took it back to storage. A passing motorist, who I have since come to find out makes many nuisance calls to the police, called the police about the camper. The officer who responded wanted to use his discretion and allow the camper to stay out for the night, but the motorist complained to the shift lieutenant, and the ordinance was enforced. When I inquired about this, I was told that the police have no choice but to enforce the ordinance when they receive a complaint.

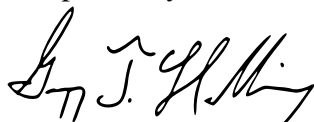
Our current ordinance applies to "large vehicles," which includes vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs or having a length greater than 30 feet. Large vehicles may not be parked on city streets for more than 30 minutes, unless they are actively engaged directly in construction work or loading and unloading.

This definition encompasses a lot of campers and RVs. Many Racine families camp, and do not have room to store their campers in their driveways, so they keep them elsewhere until they are ready to go on a trip. Under the current law, a family preparing for a camping trip could not leave their camper parked on the street in front of their house the night before they leave for vacation, as many people do, so they can get an early start in the morning. A family wanting to get an early start would have to retrieve the camper from the storage lot, park it near their home, and be actively engaged in loading it until they leave, with no more than a 30 minute break, or they would be in violation of the current ordinance. Similarly, a family just returned from the camping trip could not wait until morning to clean the camper and take it back to storage.

I am seeking a change in the ordinance to allow Racine's citizens to enjoy their campers without having to stressfully rush through the beginning or ending of their vacations. I don't expect our police to track when and where people go with their campers, or to proactively chalk the tires of those vehicles to monitor the proposed 48-hour window. My hope is that this exception injects some common sense into the ordinance enforcement. Under the new ordinance, an officer receiving a complaint could inform the camper's owner of the complaint and let him or her know about the 48 hours. If the camper wasn't moved by then, a ticket could be issued. This would allow our citizens to enjoy their campers, but still prevent people from camping on the streets or taking up multiple parking spaces for days on end.

I thank you all for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. T. Holding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Gregory T. Holding  
Alderman of the 11<sup>th</sup> District