

Why We Issue Traffic and Parking Citations!

Parking and traffic enforcement's goal is to insure safety for persons and businesses using motorized and non-motorized vehicles on our City's streets and highways.

Did you know the top 5 reasons why vehicles are involved in traffic collisions in Westminster?

- #1 Vehicles driving at unsafe speeds
- #2 Vehicles not yielding the right of way
- #3 Vehicles not obeying signs or signals
- #4 Vehicles making improper turning movements, and
- #5 Vehicles being driven by impaired drivers (DUI)

The Westminster Police Department focuses on these facts and responds with enforcement action intending to protect life and property by reducing traffic collisions. Westminster officers 5 most issued moving violations are as follows and in descending order:

- #1 Vehicle driving at unsafe speeds
- #2 Vehicles failing to obey traffic signs
- #3 Vehicles failing to stop at red lights
- #4 Vehicles turning over or driving on the wrong side of a divided highway, and
- #5 Vehicles failing to stop at stop signs

The Westminster Police Department issues parking citations for similar reasons. We issue parking citations to keep the city streets free of traffic hazards for both motor vehicles and pedestrians. Please drive and park your vehicles safely, and always be mindful of others when sharing the road!

The top 5 parking violations issued by Westminster officers are as follows and in descending order:

#1 Street sweeping

Sweeping the streets not only keeps the streets clean and looking good, but is also keeps the gutters free from harmful debris like broken glass, gravel, and stray screws or nails. These items can be hazardous to vehicle tires, bicycle and motorcycle riders, and even pedestrians. Sweeping also helps law enforcement identify those vehicles which are abandoned or even stolen when they are not moved on sweeping days.

#2 Expired vehicle registrations

The second most issued parking violation is for expired registration. Vehicles are required by law to maintain current registration. Currently registered vehicles must pass smog inspections to help keep our environment clean. Currently registered vehicles help the government know how many vehicles are registered in given areas, so they can properly direct funding for roads, road maintenance and law enforcement. Currently registered vehicles also allow law enforcement to immediately locate owners when vehicles have been stolen, impounded or involved in accidents.

#3 Parking too close to a fire hydrant

The third most issued parking violation is for vehicles parking too close to a fire hydrant, which is within 15 feet of either side of a fire hydrant. These citations are issued when vehicles block visual and/or physical fire fighter access to fire hydrants. In the event of an emergency where lives and property be at stake, fire fighters must be able to quickly find, access and use fire hydrants.

#4 Parked hazardously or on the wrong side of the road

The fourth most issued parking citation is for parking 18 or more inches from the curb or from the wrong side of the road. If both a vehicle's right side wheels are not within 18" from the right curb, it is too far out into the lane of traffic and constitutes a potential hazard for personal, commercial and emergency vehicles. If a vehicle parks on the wrong side of the road, it must travel, even if momentarily on the wrong side of the road when it approaches its spot or when it leaves from its spot. Both maneuvers can jeopardize bicycle and vehicle safety.

#5 Blocking driveways

The fifth most issued parking violation is for blocking a driveway. Driveways are designed for ingress and egress. Blocking a driveway prevents emergency vehicles from potentially critical areas of access during an emergency. Blocking driveways prevents vehicles from accessing businesses and people's own property.

If you have any traffic related enforcement questions please feel free to contact the Westminster Police Department Traffic Division at 1 (714) 548-3220.

If you wish to contest a parking citation you received please go to www.paymycite.com/westminster and fill out the form on line and then e-mail it back. You may also printout the form, fill it out and then mail it back.

Or, you may call 1 (800) 781-7241 and request a hearing.

Thank you, and drive safely!