

ORDINANCE NO. **BG2026 - 3**  
**As Amended**  
ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15  
(BUSINESS AND GENERAL REGULATIONS) OF  
THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN CODE OF  
ORDINANCES RELATED TO TOWING OR  
IMMOBILIZATION SIGNAGE AND FEE LIMITS IN  
PRIVATE PARKING LOTS

WHEREAS, the City of Bowling Green desires to amend Chapter 15 (Business and General Regulations) of the City of Bowling Green Code of Ordinances to amend towing or immobilization signage and fee limits in private parking lots; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to approve these amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Bowling Green, Kentucky as follows:

1. Chapter 15 (Business and General Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

...

15-6 TOWING OR IMMOBILIZATION OF VEHICLES FROM AND IN PRIVATE PARKING LOTS.

...

15-6.02 Signage.

a. No private immobilization company, impound tow truck service or operator shall boot, tow or remove from private parking lots nor shall owners or operators of private parking lots have booted, towed or cause to be booted, towed or removed from any private parking lots in the City of Bowling Green any vehicle unless the owner or operator has conspicuously posted and maintained notice signs meeting the specifications set forth below.

b. Notice signs shall be placed near each entrance of the private parking lot, in clear view free from interference from natural or manmade objects and easily visible to a motorist seated in a motor

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vehicle and permanently affixed to a structure or post to prevent the unauthorized removal of the sign. The signs shall be at least [~~twelve (12)~~] eighteen (18) inches by [~~eighteen (18)~~] twenty-four (24) inches with bold lettering and shall be illuminated or placed near a light source so that they are clearly visible at night. The signs shall indicate:

1. That the parking lot is privately owned;

2. [~~That unauthorized vehicles are subject to booting and/or towing~~] Tow/boot zone shall be displayed in all capitalization and contain three (3) inch bold lettering, and the hours of authorized booting or towing with specific language indicating that a vehicle is subject to booting or towing twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week if applicable; and,

3. The name and telephone number of the private immobilization company, impound tow truck service or operator if parking in the parking lot is enforced by a private immobilization company, impound tow truck service or operator; or a telephone number for the owner or manager of the parking lot if parking in the parking lot is not enforced by a private immobilization company, impound tow truck service or operator.

...

15-6.05 Fee Limits and Payment.

a. The maximum charge which may be collected by a private impound tow truck service or operator or storage yard for towing or removing a vehicle from a private parking lot meeting the requirements of this Subchapter is [~~one hundred seventy-five (\$175)~~] [seventy-five (\$75)] one-hundred twenty-five (\$125) dollars, which shall include the first twenty-four (24) hours of storage. If the owner of the vehicle arrives while the private impound tow truck service or operator has initiated the tow by attaching any towing related device to the vehicle, the tow truck operator shall release the vehicle upon payment of [~~one hundred (\$100)~~] [fifty (\$50)] seventy-five (\$75) dollars and the tow truck operator must be able to settle the tow charges at that time, including the acceptance of bank credit or debit cards.

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b. The maximum storage charges which may be collected by a private impound tow truck service or operator or storage yard is an amount not to exceed thirty-five (\$35) dollars per day after the first twenty-four (24) hours.

c. A towing and/or immobilization company shall either apply a boot or tow a vehicle. Once a vehicle has been booted it may not be towed unless it fits the definition of abandoned vehicle.

~~[e. An after-hours gate fee of twenty-five (\$25) dollars may be collected for any vehicle being released before or after normal business hours of 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday.]~~

d. The maximum charge which may be collected by a private immobilization company for booting a vehicle in a private parking lot meeting the requirements of this Subchapter is ~~[one hundred]~~ fifty (\$50) dollars ~~[\$100]~~. An immobilization device or boot cannot be affixed to a vehicle and a fee cannot be charged if the driver of the vehicle returns before the installation of the immobilization device or boot is complete.

e. When an owner or operator of a private parking lot, his agent or an immobilization company, private impound tow truck service or operator causes a vehicle to be booted, towed or removed in violation of this Subchapter, there shall be no charge to the owner or other person in charge of the vehicle for the cost of the immobilization, tow or storage. Any owner, his agent or a boot or tow operator who violates this Subchapter shall, in addition to the penalties set forth below, be liable to the owner of the vehicle for any amounts actually paid for the immobilization, tow and storage of the vehicle, as well as any damage to the vehicle resulting from the immobilization, tow or storage.

f. The immobilization company, towing company or storage yard shall release a booted or towed vehicle to the owner, the lessee or a person designated in writing by one of the above persons upon presentation of a valid driver's license and upon receipt of the appropriate payment to cover the costs of immobilization, towing and storage authorized by this Subchapter. The immobilization company, towing company or storage yard may accept checks for payment[.] but shall accept other

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commercially reasonable methods of payment including, without limitation, cash or bank credit or debit cards. The immobilization company, towing company or storage yard may charge a reasonable service fee for the use of bank credit or debit cards not to exceed [~~ten (\$10)~~] five (\$5) dollars. All immobilization companies, towing companies or storage yards must utilize secure and encrypted processing systems for debit card and credit card payments such that said payments may be made and immediately processed in the driver's presence without need to photograph or manually record credit card or debit card information for processing.

g. It shall be unlawful for a private immobilization company or operator to fail to provide a receipt for payment of the booting fee to the owner, driver or person responsible for a vehicle. The receipt shall have the following information: the name, address and phone number of the private immobilization company, and the name and signature of the person who applied/removed the boot or vehicle immobilization device. Such receipts may be provided to the owner or operator of the vehicle electronically.

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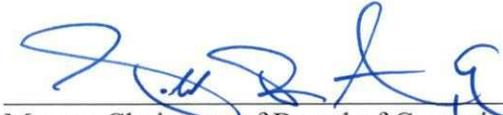
2. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, phrase or provision shall for any reason be declared invalid, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

3. All prior Municipal Orders or Ordinances or parts of any Municipal Order or Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

4. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to KRS 83A.060 in that it was introduced on February 17, 2026, and given final reading on March 3, 2026, and said Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon signature, recordation and publication in summary pursuant to KRS Chapter 424.

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ADOPTED: March 3, 2026

APPROVED:   
Mayor, Chairman of Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
City Clerk

SPONSORED BY: Board of Commissioners  
Ordinance No. BG2026-3 was amended on the floor at the February 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting.