

As specified by City Ordinance, the City of Chester will immobilize vehicles with outstanding parking ticket fines and fees.

The City of Chester will implement a long-standing practice intended to encourage motorists to pay outstanding tickets. Specifically, Section 503.09 (h) (5) of the Chester City Ordinance, authorizes the City to immobilize or impound scofflaw vehicles, defined as those with three or more outstanding parking tickets and/or that owe more than \$500 in fines and late fees. While the ordinance allows the City to impound scofflaw vehicles, immobilization is the preferred approach because it is less punitive as motorists won't have to retrieve their vehicle from an impound lot and pay additional tow and storage fees.

Under the new system, Parking Enforcement Officers will scan license plates with electronic readers as they patrol City streets and parking lots to identify scofflaw vehicles. ***It is important to note that ample warning is provided prior to being boot eligible. At least three notices are mailed to the vehicle owner encouraging them to pay these fines and fees and warning them that immobilization or impoundment is a possible sanction if these outstanding debts are not satisfied.***

Vehicles will be immobilized by placing a metal clamp, or boot, on a vehicle's wheel to keep it from moving until the outstanding tickets are paid. Violators who find a boot locked onto their wheel will also find a windshield sticker advising them not to move the vehicle or remove the boot along with instructions for getting the boot removed. For removal of the boot during the business hours of 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, motorists should pay in person using a credit card, certified check, or money order at the Chester Authority Office in City Hall, located at 1 E 4th Street, Chester, PA (484.480.4423). Once the payment is processed, an officer will be dispatched to remove the device. For "after-hours" removal of the boot, ticket and boot fee payments can be made by accessing <https://www.chesterparking.com>. Once the payment has been processed, the motorist can contact Delaware County Towing at 800.837.1349 so a tow truck can be dispatched to remove the device.



The City hopes that people will recognize that it is serious about collecting the outstanding tickets and that they will step forward and voluntarily pay for their fines and penalties before being booted or towed. "Most people don't get parking tickets, and among those who do, most pay," said Duane Lee, the Acting Director of the Chester Parking Authority. "The goal is not to boot," he said. "It's to get people to pay what they owe. This is for that fraction of people who get parking tickets and don't pay them, ignoring all the

delinquency notices we send them. We're trying to change behavior. It's not fair to the people who pay to not have ramifications for the people who don't. Additionally, the boot serves as a visible reminder that we want people to adhere to the City's parking regulations."

Motorists with outstanding parking violations are encouraged to pay outstanding tickets:

- In person at the Chester Parking Authority Office, 1 E 4th Street, Chester, PA
- Via the web, by going to <https://www.chesterparking.com>
- Over the phone, by calling 866.225.0424