

Chapter 14

TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES*

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*State law references—Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways, local authority, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-30; general rules regarding maximum speed limits, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-1520; alteration of speed limits by local authorities, signs and approval by state, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-1540; powers of local authorities concerning traffic laws, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-710.

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 14-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Alley means any driveway designed or intended to be used only for the benefit of the abutting property owners.

Authorized emergency vehicle means any vehicle of the fire department, police vehicle and such ambulance and emergency vehicle of municipal departments or public service corporations as is designated or authorized by the town council.

Business district means the territory contiguous to and including a street where 50 percent or more of the frontage thereon for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business.

Crosswalk means that portion of a roadway ordinarily included within the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at intersections, i.e., any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Driver means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

Intersection means the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curblines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two streets which join one another at or approximately at right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different streets joining at any other angle may come in conflict.

Motor vehicle means every vehicle which is self-propelled, except mopeds and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

Official time standard means whenever certain hours are named herein they shall mean standard time or daylight saving time as may be in current use in this town.

Official traffic control devices means all signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this section placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

Official traffic signals means any device, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

Park means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading.

Pedestrian means any person afoot.

Police officer means every officer of the municipal police department or any officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

Private road or driveway means every way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

Railroad means a carrier of persons or property upon cars, other than streetcars, operated upon stationary rails.

Railroad train means a steam engine, electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated upon rails, except streetcars.

Residence district means the territory contiguous to and including a street not comprising a business district when the property on such street for a distance of 300 feet or more is in the main improved with a dwelling or dwellings.

Right-of-way means the privilege of the immediate use of the roadway.

Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder or berm.

Safety zone means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which is protected or is so marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.

Sidewalk means that portion of a street between the curblines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.

Standing means any stopping of a vehicle, whether occupied or not.

Stop means, when required, a complete cessation of movement.

Stop or stopping means, when prohibited, any stopping of a vehicle except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or traffic control sign or signal.

Street or highway means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature, except alleys, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for purposes of vehicular traffic.

Traffic means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, and other conveyances, either singly or together while using any street for purposes of travel.

Vehicle means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a street or highway except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(Code 1991, § 14-1)

State law reference—Similar definitions, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-110 et seq.

Sec. 14-2. Adoption of state laws.

Unless otherwise specifically covered by this chapter, all of the provisions and requirements of the general law of the state regulating traffic on highways registration and licensing, and

driver's licenses, as contained in title 56, chapters 1, 3 and 5 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, as now in force or as hereafter amended and insofar as such provisions can have application within the town, are hereby adopted and made a part of this chapter as fully as though set out herein. All persons within the town shall strictly comply with all of the regulations imposed hereby, when so applicable.

(Code 1991, § 14-2)

Sec. 14-3. Obedience to traffic officer.

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of a police officer.

(Code 1991, § 14-3)

Sec. 14-4. Public employees to obey traffic regulations.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to the driver of any vehicle owned by or used in the service of the United States government, this state, county or town, and it shall be unlawful for any driver to violate any of the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise permitted in this chapter or by state statute.

(Code 1991, § 14-4)

Sec. 14-5. Exemptions to authorized emergency vehicles.

(a) The provisions of this chapter regulating the operation, parking and standing of vehicles shall apply to authorized emergency vehicles, as defined in this chapter, except as follows. A driver when operating any such vehicle, in an emergency, except when otherwise directed by a police officer, may:

- (1) Park or stand notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter;
- (2) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (3) Exceed the prima facie speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property;
- (4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not endanger life or property.

(b) The exemptions under subsection (a) of this section shall not, however, protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequences for his reckless disregard for the safety of others.

(Code 1991, § 14-5)

Sec. 14-6. Persons propelling pushcarts or riding bicycles or animals to obey traffic regulations.

Every person propelling any pushcart or riding a bicycle or an animal upon a roadway, and every person driving any animal-drawn vehicle, shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter applicable to the driver of any vehicle, except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application.

(Code 1991, § 14-6)

Sec. 14-7. Brakes, horns and lights.

(a) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked on a street during the time between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and there is sufficient light to reveal any person within a distance of 500 feet upon such streets no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.

(b) When during such times or any other time there is not sufficient light upon a street to reveal a person at a distance of 500 feet a parked vehicle shall be equipped with one or more lamps which shall exhibit a white light on the roadway side visible for a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. Any lighted headlamps upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

(c) Every four-wheeled motor vehicle while in use on a public street shall be provided with good and efficient brakes and also with suitable horn or other signal, and be so constructed as to exhibit during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise two white lights visible within a reasonable distance in the direction towards which the vehicle is proceeding, and with a red light on the rear of the vehicle visible for a reasonable distance to persons traveling behind such motor vehicle, and that a two-wheeled motor vehicle while in use on a public street shall be equipped as is hereinbefore set forth for a four-wheeled motor vehicle between the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise to exhibit one white light instead of two visible within a reasonable distance in the direction towards which the vehicle is proceeding. In case of heavy fog all such lights on all motor vehicles shall be displayed in the daytime before sunset and after sunrise.

(d) Every motor truck with a hauling capacity of two tons or more, every motorbus used in the transportation of passengers, and every motor truck with trailer attached while traveling any of the public streets of this town between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise shall have displayed on each of the foremost front corners thereof a green light and on each of the extreme rear corners thereof a red light. The lights provided for herein shall be of sufficient size to be plainly visible for a distance of 100 yards in the direction in which they are facing. The lights required herein are additional to those now required by law.

(Code 1991, § 14-7)

Sec. 14-8. Boarding or alighting from vehicles.

No person shall board or alight from any vehicle while such vehicle is in motion.

(Code 1991, § 14-8)

Sec. 14-9. Unlawful riding.

No person shall ride on any vehicle upon any portion thereof not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This provision shall not apply to an employee engaged in the necessary discharge of a duty, or to persons riding within truck bodies in space intended for merchandise.

(Code 1991, § 14-9)

Sec. 14-10. Hitchhiking.

No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

(Code 1991, § 14-10)

Sec. 14-11. Use of roller skates and other wheeled personal transportation devices.

(a) No person shall ride in or on roller skates, roller blades, inline skates, a skateboard or other similar wheeled device in a reckless manner within any public right-of-way nor shall any person use or ride on such device without exercising due care for the safety of other persons.

(b) No person shall operate, ride on, or use any roller skates, roller blades, inline skates, a skateboard or any similar wheeled device on or within any sidewalk, curbing, street or road right of way, or other public property within the area along U.S. Highway 29 from Callas Street to York Street, along Lime Street from Chester Street to York Street and along Church Street from Chester Street to York Street. Included in this prohibited area are all streets, roads and alleys which intersect within the dimensions of the aforementioned streets. This subsection shall not apply to the reasonable use of assistive transportation devices used by physically disabled persons.

(c) No monetary fine shall be imposed for the first violation of this section, but roller skates, roller blades, inline skates, skateboards or other wheeled devices used by the person in violation of this section will be retained until the court orders the property returned. For a second violation of this section, there shall be no monetary fine, but the device shall be forfeited to the town. Any person violating this section for a third time shall be subject to a maximum fine of \$50.00. Upon a fourth or subsequent violation of this section, the violator shall be subject to a penalty in accordance with section 1-12.

(d) In addition to the fines set forth in subsection (c) of this section, law enforcement officers may seize the itemized devices found in use by any person in violation of this section until the court orders return of the property to the owner.

(Ord. No. 05.02, 2-8-2005)

Secs. 14-12—14-30. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES***Sec. 14-31. Obedience to traffic control devices.**

The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with the traffic ordinances of this town, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an

*State law references—Traffic signs, signals and markings, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-910 et seq.; power of local authorities to require strict pedestrian compliance with traffic control signals, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-3120.

authorized emergency vehicle in this chapter. No provisions of this chapter for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official sign is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section does not state that signs are required, such section shall be effective without signs being erected to give notice thereof. (Code 1991, § 14-31)

Sec. 14-32. Obedience to turning movement signs and markers.

Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left or U-turn is permitted no driver of a vehicle shall disobey the directions of any such signs, and when authorized marks, buttons, or other indications are placed within an intersection indicating the course to be traveled by vehicles turning thereat, no driver of a vehicle shall disobey the directions of such indications.

(Code 1991, § 14-32)

Sec. 14-33. Traffic control signal legend.

(a) Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop" or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, the following colors only shall be used, and such terms and lights shall indicate as follows:

- (1) *Green alone or "go."*
 - a. Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. But vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection at the time such signal is exhibited.
 - b. Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- (2) *Yellow or "caution" when shown following the green or "go" signal or when shown with the green or "go" signal.*
 - a. Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection, but if such stop cannot be made in safety a vehicle may be driven cautiously through the intersection.
 - b. Pedestrians facing such signal are hereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross a roadway, and any pedestrian then starting to cross shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.
- (3) *Red alone or "stop."*
 - a. Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at such other point as may be indicated by a clearly visible line, and shall remain standing until green or "go" is shown alone.
 - b. No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway unless he can do so safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

(4) *Red with green arrow.*

- a. Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, but shall not interfere with other traffic.
- b. No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway unless he can do so safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.

(b) Whenever flashing red or yellow signals are used they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

- (1) *Flashing red (stop signal).* When a red lens is illuminated by rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
- (2) *Flashing yellow (caution signal).* When a yellow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such a signal only with caution.

(Code 1991, § 14-33)

State law reference—Similar provisions, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-970.

Sec. 14-34. Display of unauthorized signs, signals, or markings prohibited.

No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit upon any street, any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. This shall not be deemed to prohibit the erection upon private property adjacent to a street of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs. Such prohibited sign, signal, or marking is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, and the authority having jurisdiction over the street is hereby empowered to remove the same or cause it to be removed without notice.

(Code 1991, § 14-34)

State law reference—Similar provisions, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-1020.

Sec. 14-35. Interfering with traffic control devices or railroad signs or signals.

No person shall without lawful authority attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down, or remove any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, or any inscription, shield, or insignia thereon, or any other part thereof.

(Code 1991, § 14-35)

State law reference—Similar provisions, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-1030.

Secs. 14-36—14-51. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING***Sec. 14-52. Prohibited in specified places.**

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid a conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (1) On a sidewalk;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection;
- (4) Within ten feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) On a crosswalk;
- (6) Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (7) Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;
- (8) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by signs or markings;
- (9) Within 50 feet of the nearest rail or railroad crossing;
- (10) Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of such entrance when properly signposted;
- (11) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (12) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge of the curb of a street;
- (13) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street or within a street underpass;
- (14) At any place where official signs prohibit stopping;
- (15) When signs prohibiting parking are erected on streets no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place;
- (16) When signs are erected upon approach to hazardous or congested places no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in any such designated place;
- (17) When signs are erected indicating no parking upon that side of the street adjacent to any school property, no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place;

*State law references—Municipal authority to regulate stopping, standing and parking, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-710(1); stopping, standing and parking regulated, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-2510; municipalities with marked parking spaces must designate spaces for disabled persons, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-3-1965.

- (18) No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle upon a street, other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to interfere with the free movement of vehicular traffic, except that a driver may stop temporarily during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when necessary in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals or a police officer;
 - (19) When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets so designated;
 - (20) When signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle between the hours so designated on any day except Sunday and public holidays;
 - (21) When signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle for longer than the period and between the hours so designated except on Sundays and public holidays; and
 - (22) No person shall move a vehicle not owned by such person into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distances as is unlawful.
- (Code 1991, § 14-52)

Sec. 14-53. Prohibited for certain purposes.

No person shall stand or park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- (1) Displaying it for sale; or
 - (2) Washing, greasing or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessary by an emergency.
- (Code 1991, § 14-53)

Sec. 14-54. Standing for loading only.

No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers in any place marked as a passenger zone during hours when the regulations applicable to such passenger zone are effective, and then only for a period not to exceed three minutes. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for the expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of materials in any place marked as a loading zone during hours when the provisions applicable to loading zones are in effect. In no case shall the stop for loading and unloading of materials exceed 30 minutes.

(Code 1991, § 14-54)

Sec. 14-55. Bus (hackney) and taxicab stands.

The driver of a bus (hackney), or taxicab shall not stand or park upon any street in any business district at any place other than at a bus stop (hackney stand), or taxicab stand respectively, except that this provision shall not prevent the driver of any such vehicle from temporarily stopping in accordance with other stopping or parking regulations at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers. No person shall

stop, stand, or park a vehicle other than a bus in a bus stop, (or other than a hackney in a hackney stand), or other than a taxicab in a taxicab stand when any such stop or stand has been officially designated and appropriately signed, except that the driver of a passenger vehicle may temporarily stop therein for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers when such stopping does not interfere with any bus (hackney), or taxicab waiting to enter or about to enter such zone.

(Code 1991, § 14-55)

Sec. 14-56. Standing or parking too close to curb.

No person shall stand or park a vehicle in a roadway other than parallel with the edge of the roadway, heading in the directions of traffic, and with the curbside wheels of the vehicle within 12 inches of the edge of the roadway, except as provided in the following:

- (1) Upon those streets which have been marked or signed for angle parking, vehicles shall be parked at the angle to the curb indicated by such marks or signs.
- (2) In places where and at hours when stopping for the loading or unloading of merchandise or materials is permitted, vehicles used for the transportation of merchandise or materials may back into the curb to take on or discharge loads when the owner of such vehicle holds a permit granting him such privilege, and such permit shall be either in the possession of the driver or on the vehicle at the time such vehicle is backed against the curb to take on or discharge a load, and it shall be unlawful for any owner or driver to violate any of the special terms or conditions of any such special permit.

(Code 1991, § 14-56)

Sec. 14-57. Unlawful parking.

No person shall stand or park a vehicle upon that portion of a street between the curblines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines.

(Code 1991, § 14-57)

Sec. 14-58. Parking near fire hydrants, in front of fire station and double parking prohibited.

All persons parking motor vehicles in the town shall observe the rules and regulations of the town and it shall be illegal to park near fire hydrants, double parking and parking in front of fire station and all persons shall observe all the parking signs shown on the streets or sidewalks of the town in the form of notices, painted spaces on curb and other instructions.

(Code 1991, § 14-58)

Sec. 14-59. Loading and unloading.

All trucks loading or unloading in the town shall be required, when they can, to unload and load at the rear of places of business. When this is impracticable, then the trucks must park, load and unload at the places designated and observe all parking regulations as shown by notices on streets or sidewalks, or painted spaces on curbs.

(Code 1991, § 14-59)

Sec. 14-60. Starting parked vehicle.

No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing, or parked unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

(Code 1991, § 14-60)

Sec. 14-61. Registered vehicle owner responsible.

No person shall allow or permit any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in any street in this town in violation of any of this chapter regulating the standing or parking of vehicles.

(Code 1991, § 14-61)

Secs. 14-62—14-100. Reserved.**ARTICLE IV. ENFORCEMENT****Sec. 14-101. Failure to obey notice or summons.**

(a) Any person who violates his written promise to appear given to an officer upon an arrest for any traffic violation is guilty of a misdemeanor regardless of the disposition of the charge on which he was originally arrested.

(b) Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully neglects to answer to the charges set forth in a notice affixed to such motor vehicle by a police officer as provided by any ordinance of this town is guilty of the charge for which the notice was originally issued.

(Code 1991, § 14-101)

Sec. 14-102. Duty to appear and answer summons.

(a) Any person who has received any notice to appear in answer to a traffic charge under the ordinances of this town, except for failure to stop in event of accident, reckless driving, or speeding, may, within the time specified in the notice, answer at the police headquarters to the charges set forth in such notice by paying a prescribed fine and, in writing, pleading guilty to the charge, waiving a hearing in court and giving power of attorney to the person in charge of the police headquarters to make such a plea and pay such fine in court. Acceptance of the prescribed fine and the power of attorney by the police headquarters shall be deemed complete satisfaction for the violation and the violator shall be given a receipt which so states.

(b) Any person who has been guilty of three or more violations of the provisions of the traffic ordinances of this town within the preceding 12 months shall not be permitted to pay a fine at police headquarters, and he must deposit cash bail equivalent to double the prescribed fine for appearance in court at a time specified by the police headquarters.

(Code 1991, § 14-102)

Sec. 14-103. Duties of police.

(a) It shall be the duty of the police department to enforce the street traffic regulations of this town, to make arrests for traffic violations, to investigate accidents and to cooperate with other officers of the town in the administration of the traffic laws and in developing ways and means to improve conditions and to carry out these duties specifically imposed upon such division by this chapter.

(b) It shall be the duty of the police officers of this town to enforce all street traffic laws of this town and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to street traffic in this town. Officers are hereby authorized to direct all traffic in conformance with traffic laws, provided that, in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to safeguard pedestrians, officers of the police or fire department may direct traffic as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of the traffic laws.

(Code 1991, § 14-103)

Sec. 14-104. Police to maintain records.

(a) The police department shall keep a record of all violations of the traffic ordinances of this town or of the State Vehicle Act, of which any person has been charged, together with a record of the final disposition of all such alleged offenses. Such record shall be so maintained as to show all types of violations and the total of each. Such record shall accumulate until a five-year period is covered, and from that time on the record shall be maintained complete for the most recent five-year period.

(b) All forms for records of violations and notices of violations shall be serially numbered. For each month and year a written record shall be kept available to the public showing the disposal of all such forms.

(c) All such records and reports shall be available for use and study by the town officials.

(Code 1991, § 14-104)

Sec. 14-105. Procedure upon arrest.

(a) Any police officer, upon making an arrest for violation of the traffic ordinances of this town except for failure to stop in event of accident, reckless driving or speeding, shall take the violator's name, address, operator's license number, and the registration number of the motor vehicle involved, and issue to him in writing on a form provided by this town, a notice to answer to the charge against him within 24 hours during hours and at a place specified in the

notice. The officer shall thereupon and upon giving by the violator of his written promise to answer as specified in the notice, release him from custody. The arresting officer shall send one copy of such notice to the chief of police and one copy to the town clerk-treasurer.

(b) Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by ordinance of this town or by state law, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its registration number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a notice in writing, on a form provided by the town, for the driver to answer to the charge against him within 24 hours during the hours and at a place specified in the notice. The officer shall send one copy of such notice to the chief of the police and one copy to the violator.

(Code 1991, § 14-105)

Sec. 14-106. Accident reports and investigation of accidents.

(a) It shall be the duty of the police department to investigate traffic accidents and to arrest and obtain prosecution of those persons guilty of violations of law causing or contributing to such accidents.

(b) Such department shall maintain a suitable system of filing traffic accident reports. Accident reports or cards referring to them shall be filed alphabetically by location. Such reports shall be available for the use and information of the town officials.

(c) Whenever the accidents at any particular location become numerous, such division shall cooperate with town officials in conducting studies of such accidents and determining remedial measures.

(d) Such department shall receive and properly file all accident reports made to it under state law or under any ordinance of this town, but all such accident reports shall be for the confidential use of the police department, and no such report shall be admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding other than upon request of any person making such report or upon request of the court having jurisdiction to prove a compliance with the laws requiring the making of any such report.

(Code 1991, § 14-106)

State law reference—Municipality may by ordinance require drivers involved in accidents to file report with designated city department, S.C. Code 1976, § 56-5-1360.