

(d) Whoever commits a crime of hit-and-run driving shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than one hundred eighty (180) days, or both.

Sec. 8. Persons propelling pushcarts, riding animals, etc., subject to chapter.

Every person propelling any pushcart or riding 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.

Sec. 9. Emergency vehicles.

(a) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions stated in this section.

(b) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

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

(c) The exceptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of audible or visual signals sufficient to warn motorists of their approach, except that a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(d) The provisions contained in this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.

Sec. 10. General Penalty for Traffic and Vehicle Code Violations

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, it is unlawful for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by this Traffic and Vehicle Code. Unless another penalty is expressly provided, the violation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, imprisonment for not more than sixty days, or both.

A fee schedule for penalties not exceeding the general penalty set forth herein may be established by resolution. Any penalty not specified therein is left to the discretion of the Judge or Magistrate (including the Mayor's court magistrate) provided it does not exceed the maximum penalty set forth herein.

PART II. ENFORCEMENT AND OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Sec. 11. Authority of police and fire department officials

(a) It shall be the duty of the officers of the police department or such officers as are assigned by the chief of police to enforce all street traffic laws of this Town and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to street traffic in this Town.

(b) Officers of the police department or such officers as are assigned by chief of police are hereby authorized to direct all traffic by voice, hand or signal 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 department may direct traffic as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of the traffic laws.

(c) Officers of the fire department, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic thereat or in the immediate vicinity.

Sec. 12. Refusal to Follow Lawful Order

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

Sec. 13. Barricades, Signs and Signals; Prohibition Against Tampering With and Violating Instructions

(a) No one shall in any way tamper with, move, damage or destroy any barricade, sign or signal placed upon any street by the department of public works or by any contractor or subcontractor doing street construction or repair work under or by authority of the department, or by any railroad company; nor shall any person disobey the instructions, signals, warnings or marking or any warning signs, signals or barricades so placed upon any highway under construction or being repaired; nor shall any person drive around or through any barricade or fence placed upon any closed street by the department or any contractor or subcontractor doing street construction or repair work under or by authority of the department, unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) Provisions of this section shall not apply to employees of the department of public works or any contractor or subcontractor or other person whose proper and lawful duties require them to go on any portion of the street which is under construction or in the process of being repaired and is, therefore, barricaded or closed as above said.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle in any place where signs or barricades have been officially placed as provided in subsection (a) to prohibit such operations.

Sec. 14. Barricades, Signs and Signals Placed By Law Enforcement Officers; Prohibition Against Tampering With And Violating Instructions.

(a) No one shall in any way tamper with, move, damage or destroy any barricade, sign or signal placed upon any street by any law enforcement officer; nor shall any person disobey the instructions, signals,

warnings or marking of any warning signs, signals or barricades so placed upon any street; nor shall any person drive around or through any barricade or fence placed upon any street by a law enforcement officer; nor shall any person operate any vehicle in any place where signs or barricades have been officially placed as provided in this section.

(b) Provisions of this section shall not apply police officers, firefighters, or other persons whose proper and lawful duties require them to go on any portion of any street which has been barricaded.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle in any place where signs or barricades have been officially placed as provided in subsection (a) to prohibit such operations.

PART III. – LICENSES, INSURANCE, AND EQUIPMENT

Sec. 15. Driver's License

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in the Town, without a driver's license as required by the laws of the state

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in the Town with an expired or suspended driver's license.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in the Town, without a duly issued driver's license on the driver's person.

Sec. 16. Licensees must give notice of change of address.

(a) Whenever any person after applying for or receiving a license shall move permanently from the address or place of residence named in the application, he shall, within ten (10) days thereafter, notify the driver's license division, in writing, of such change and of his new address.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any licensed driver of a motor vehicle to refuse to present his driver's license upon the request of a law enforcement officer.

Sec. 17. No Proof of Insurance

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the Town limits without proof of insurance, as required by the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes present in the motor vehicle at the time of operation.

(b) It shall be an extenuating factor to any prosecution for violation of the foregoing that insurance coverage as required by title 32 did in fact exist at the time of the operation.

Sec. 18. Inspection Sticker Required.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle upon the streets of this Town or permit or allow any vehicle owned or under his control to be driven on the streets without an inspection tag showing it to have been inspected and approved as required by the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes if such vehicle is required to be so inspected.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle upon the streets of this Town or permit or allow any vehicle owned or under his control to be driven on the streets with an expired inspection sticker.

Sec. 19. False or Altered Certificates

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to make, issue or knowingly use any imitation or counterfeit of an official certificate of inspection.

(b) It shall be unlawful to display or cause or permit to be displayed upon any vehicle any certificate of inspection and approval knowing the same to be fictitious or issued for another vehicle or issued without an inspection having been made.

(c) It shall be unlawful to alter an inspection sticker to change the date or any other information on same.

Sec. 20. Vehicle License Plate Required

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, or permit to be operated, any motor vehicle upon the streets of this Town unless it has a current and properly displayed license plate in accordance with the laws of this state.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle upon the streets of this Town, or permit or allow any vehicle owned or under his control to be driven on the streets with an expired vehicle license plate.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly drive a vehicle upon the streets of this Town, or knowingly permit or allow any vehicle owned or under his control to be driven on the streets of this Town with a fictitious or altered vehicle license plate.

Sec. 21. Vehicle Registration Required

(a) To operate, or for the owner thereof knowingly to permit the operation of any motor or other vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, which is not registered or which does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon, in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes the number plates assigned to it for the current year.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle upon the streets of this Town or permit or allow any vehicle owned or under his control to be driven on the streets with an expired registration.

Sec. 22. Vehicles to Comply With State Equipment and Construction Requirements.

It shall be unlawful to operate in the Town any vehicle which does not fully comply with all requirements of the state pertaining to lights, brakes, lights, other equipment, safety devices, construction, maintenance, adequate headlights, backup lights, stop lights, braking equipment, taillamps, reflectors, electric turn signals, horns, windshield wipers, mirrors, safety glass, tires, fuel tank caps, fenders, mud guards, and all other equipment required by state law at the time and in the manner provided for by such statutes, in addition to requirements now imposed by this code.

Sec. 23. Mufflers Required.

(a) Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise.

(b) No person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device upon a motor vehicle.

(c) The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

Sec. 24. Child Passenger Restraint System.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section, every driver in this Town who transports a child or children under the age of thirteen (13) years in a motor vehicle which is equipped with safety belts shall have the child properly secured as follows:

(1) A child younger than six (6) years of age or weighing sixty (60) pounds or less shall be restrained in a child restraint system as provided for in this subsection that complies with standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is secured in the vehicle in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the child restraint system and the passenger seating position is equipped with a safety belt system that allows sufficient space for installation. The child restraint system required for a child younger than six (6) years of age or weighing sixty (60) pounds or less is, in descending order of protectiveness, as follows:

a. A child who is younger than one (1) year of age or weighs less than twenty (20) pounds shall be restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat.

b. A child who is at least one (1) year of age but younger than four (4) years of age or who weighs at least twenty (20) pounds but less than forty (40) pounds shall be restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat.

c. A child who is at least four (4) years of age but younger than six (6) years of age or who weighs at least forty (40) pounds but not more than sixty (60) pounds shall be restrained in a child booster seat. The requirements of this subparagraph shall not apply in any seating position where there is only a lap belt available and the child weighs more than forty (40) pounds.

(2) A child who is at least six (6) years of age or weighs more than sixty (60) pounds shall be restrained with the motor vehicle's safety belt adjusted and fastened around the child's body or in an appropriately fitting child booster seat in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the safety belt or child booster seat.

(3) A child who because of age or weight can be placed in more than one (1) category shall be placed in the more protective category.

(b) (1) The term "motor vehicle" as used in this section shall not mean the following: bicycle; farm tractor; motorcycle or motor-driven cycle; truck or manufacturer's rating carrying capacity of over two thousand (2,000) pounds; ambulance or other emergency vehicle; school bus; church bus, private bus or recreational vehicle which has a passenger capacity of over ten (10) persons; or commercial truck, van or taxi.

(2) The term "child restraint system" as used in this section shall mean a lap belt, a shoulder harness, or an age- or size-appropriate child safety seat as required by this section.

(3) The term "child booster seat" as used in this section means a child passenger restraint system that meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. 571.213 and is designed to elevate a child to properly sit in a federally approved safety belt system.

(c) When the vehicle is equipped with a passenger side air bag supplemental restraint system, and the air bag system is activated, the driver of a vehicle transporting a child who is younger than six (6) years of age or weighs less than sixty (60) pounds shall transport the child in the rear seat positions in the vehicle if rear seats are available.

(d) When the number of children under the age of thirteen (13) in the motor vehicle exceeds the number of age- or size-appropriate passenger restraint systems and seat belts available in the motor vehicle, the unrestrained children shall be seated in a rear seat, if rear seats are available.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply when one of the following conditions exists:

(1) The motor vehicle is being used as an ambulance or other emergency vehicle;

(2) An emergency exists which threatens the life of any person operating a motor vehicle to whom this section otherwise would apply or the life of any child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section;

(3) Any child who would otherwise be required to be restrained under this section who is physically unable because of medical reasons to use a child passenger safety system or safety belt.

(f) In no event shall failure to wear a child passenger safety seat system be considered as comparative negligence, nor shall such failure be admissible as evidence in the trial of any civil action with regard to negligence, nor shall such failure be considered a moving violation.

(g) Any operator of a motor vehicle stopped for a violation of this section and against whom enforcement

action has been taken shall not be guilty of a subsequent violation of this section until after twenty-four (24) hours have elapsed from the date and time of the violation as indicated on the traffic ticket.

(h) A violation of this section involving failure to secure a child in any type of child restraint system shall be a primary offense. However, failure to secure a child in the age- or size-appropriate restraint, as specified by subsection (a) of this section, shall be a secondary offense and a driver may be cited only if stopped for a moving violation.

(i) (1) Except as provided by paragraph (2) of this subsection, any person who violates this section shall upon conviction be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a first offense, seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for a second offense, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a third or subsequent offense.

(2) Any person who violates this section but whose violation is limited to failure to utilize an age- or size-appropriate child restraint system to secure an otherwise restrained child shall not be fined more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) including fees and court costs.

Sec. 25. Safety Belt Required

(a) Safety belt required for driver. Each driver of a passenger car in this Town and parish shall have a safety belt properly fastened about his or her body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion.

(b) Safety belt for front seat occupant. Except as otherwise provided by law, each front seat occupant of a passenger car in this Town and parish shall have a safety belt properly fastened about his or her body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion, if a belt for his seating space has been provided by the manufacturer.

(c) Exception for rural postal carriers. This section shall not apply to a motor vehicle operated by a rural letter carrier of the United States Postal Service while performing his or her duties as a rural letter carrier.

(d) Exception for disabled persons. This section shall not apply to an occupant of a passenger car or operator with a physically or mentally disabling condition whose physical or mental disability would prevent appropriate restraint in the safety belt; however, the condition shall be duly certified by a physician who shall state the nature of the handicap, as the reason such restraint is inappropriate.

(e) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to the following penalties:

a. Upon conviction of a first offense, the fine shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) which shall include court costs as required by La. R.S. 32:295.1.

b. Upon conviction of a second offense, the fine shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) which shall include court costs as required by La. R.S. 32:295.1.

c. Upon conviction of a third offense and any subsequent offense, the fine shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) plus court costs.

PART IV. OPERATION OF VEHICLES

Sec. 26. Driver Exercise Due Care

Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

Sec. 27. General Speed Limit.

In the absence of signs, signals, or markings indicating a different speed it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle upon the streets and alleys of the Town at a rate of speed in excess of 25 miles per hour.

Sec. 28. Special Speed Limits.

The Town may from time to time designate particular streets, parts of streets or areas of the Town in which the maximum speed limit shall be greater or lesser than 25 miles per hour. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to exceed the maximum speed so posted.

Sec. 29. Speed in School Zones and Construction Zones

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle through a school zone at a rate of speed in excess of 15 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle through a construction zone at a rate of speed higher than the posted speed for said construction zone.
- (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have the fine portion of the established penalty for the rate of speed increased by \$50.00.

Sec. 30. Speed in Residential Neighborhoods.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle through a residential neighborhood in excess of the speed limit posted on the street on which the vehicle is being operated.
- (b) Where there are no signs posted indicating speed limits in residential neighborhoods, the speed limit applicable to that street or roadway shall be 25 miles per hour and no driver shall drive in excess thereof.
- (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have the fine portion of the established penalty for the rate of speed increased by \$50.00.

Sec. 31. Traffic Control Devices.

(a) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic-control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with this chapter and other traffic ordinances of the Town, parish, or state unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted to the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle and the failure to do so shall be unlawful.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person without lawful authority to attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down or remove any traffic-control device, or any railroad sign or signal, or any inscription, shield or insignia thereon, or any other part thereof

Sec. 32. One-Way Streets.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in an opposite direction from any posted one way designated sign.

Sec. 33-. Changing Lanes or Courses.

No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

Sec. 34. Driving Through Property to Avoid Intersection.

(a) An operator may not cross a sidewalk or drive through a driveway, parking lot, or business or residential entrance without stopping the vehicle.

(b) An operator may not cross or drive in or on a sidewalk, driveway, parking lot, or business or residential entrance at an intersection to turn right or left from one highway to another highway.

Sec. 35. Headlamps; When Low Beam Required

Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a street of this Town between sunset and sunrise, or at such times as atmospheric conditions require the use of headlamps on the vehicle, the operator of such vehicle must dim the lights to the lowermost distribution of light when approaching an oncoming vehicle within five hundred (500) feet, or when following another vehicle within two hundred (200) feet to the rear.

**PART V. DRIVING ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY;
OVERTAKING AND PASSING; USE OF ROADWAY**

Sec. 36. Driving on Right Side of Roadway; Exceptions

A. Upon all roadways of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing such movement, including passing lanes;

(2) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair;

(3) Upon a roadway designated and signposted for one-way traffic.

B. (1)(a) Upon all multilane highways, no vehicle shall be driven in the left hand lane except when directed otherwise, preparing for a left turn at an intersection or private road or driveway, overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when right-hand lanes are congested; however, no vehicle being driven in the left lane except when directed otherwise or preparing for a left turn at an intersection, private road, or driveway shall impede any other vehicle that is traveling in the same lane and behind that vehicle.

(b) Upon all multilane highways, no vehicle traveling in the left-hand lane shall be driven at a speed slower than any vehicle traveling to its right on the same roadway.

(c) Upon all multilane highways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the circumstances then existing, shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic except when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway, or passing or overtaking a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, if passing on the left side of it. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize driving any vehicle in the left lane so as to prohibit, impede, or block passage of an overtaking vehicle in such lane and in such event the vehicle in the left lane prohibiting, impeding, or blocking passage of an overtaking vehicle shall expeditiously merge into the right lane of traffic.

(d) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply during a declared state of emergency when contraflow has been activated.

(e) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.

(f) Upon any roadway having four (4) or more lanes for moving traffic and providing for two (2) way movement of traffic, no vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway, except when authorized by official traffic-control devices designating certain lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for use by traffic not otherwise permitted to use such lanes, or except as permitted under subsection (a)(2) hereof. However, this subsection shall not be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

(2) In addition to the requirement of paragraph (1) hereof, any vehicle proceeding on a multilane highway at a speed slower than ten (10) miles per hour less than the posted maximum speed limit shall be driven in the right hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of

the roadway, except when overtaking and passing a vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway. Persons in violation of this Paragraph shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

Sec. 37. Passing Vehicles Proceeding in Opposite Directions

Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and upon roadways having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the main-traveled portion of the roadway as nearly as possible.

Sec. 38. Overtaking A Vehicle on The Left

The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those limitations, exceptions and special rules hereinafter stated:

(1) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

- When overtaking on the right is permitted

(a) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

(1) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;

(2) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles of sufficient width for two (2) or more lanes of moving vehicles in each direction;

(3) Upon a one-way street, or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for two (2) or more lines of moving vehicles.

(b) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right side only under the conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event shall such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

Sec. 39. Limitations on Overtaking on The Left

No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another