

O-26-47
02/18/26

THIS ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BAYONNE, CHAPTER 19, FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, SECTION 19-3, DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 19-7

WHEREAS, this Municipal Council has consulted with the Bayonne Fire Department concerning establishing safety standards and guidelines for electric vehicle parking in parking garages, both attached and unattached to other structures; and

WHEREAS, this Municipal Council, due to the lack of objective rules and regulations, find that for the safety of both the public and first responders, that rules and regulations be implemented; now, and therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Municipal Council of the City of Bayonne, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Revised General Ordinances of the City of Bayonne, Chapter 19, Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 19-3, Definitions and Section 19-7 be and is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (additions ****between asterisks and/or in bold****, deletions {within brackets and/or ~~struck through~~):

§ 19-3 DEFINITIONS.

****EV/BEV: Electric vehicle/battery electric vehicle: Any vehicle that uses electric motors, either in full or in part, as propulsion.**

HEV: Hybrid electric vehicle: A car that integrates a small battery and an electric motor to enhance the efficiency of the engine. The engine maintains the batteries charge. The batteries are not charged by plugging into an electrical supply.

PHEV: Plug-In hybrid vehicle: A vehicle configured like a traditional hybrid, but with a larger battery pack that can be charged by plugging into an electrical supply.

Battery Cell: The smallest unit of the battery packs. These individual components resemble AA batteries in most cases and hold the electrical charge. If the battery pack housing is damaged these cells can become dislodged or even ejected in a severe collision.

Battery Pack: All the components of energy storage for a vehicle. The pack contains all the modules used to store electrical energy. The battery

pack is also used as a structural member of the vehicle's body. On most EV's the battery pack is located on the bottom of the vehicle and will run the length of the car between the axles. On HEV's and PHEV's, the battery pack location varies but could be found towards the vehicles rear -under or behind the back seat or in the trunk.

Charging Station: A fixed electrical station specifically designed to provide fast charging to PHEV's, HEV's and BEV's. These charging stations convert AC voltage to DC voltage and consist of a switchgear and converters, some of these charging stations may also have a lithium-ion battery pack.

High-Voltage System: System and wiring (almost always orange in color) which sends high voltage current (60volts DC or Greater} to the vehicle components. The components include the battery pack and battery management system, electric motor(s) and motor control unit, on-board charger, power distribution unit, DC to DC converter and the air conditioning and heating system.

Lithium-Ion Battery: The current standard in electric vehicle batteries and offers the energy density, power, and fast charging capabilities needed to operate HEV and PHEV vehicles.

Low-Voltage system wiring: System and wiring which provides low-voltage power to components including vehicle electronics, latches, locks, window control and safety components.

Power Distribution Unit (PDU): A distribution box that contains relays and fuses and is used to distribute high voltage throughout the vehicle.

Thermal Runaway: A process that is accelerated by increased temperature, in turn releasing additional uncontrollable energy that further increases the temperature.**

****§19-7 LITHIUM-ION BATTERY AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING****

****§19.7B ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING.**

- 1. Any electric vehicle to be parked in any parking garage, within or attached to a structure or as a stand-alone structure, shall be parked at ground level closest to the entrance/exit door.**
- 2. The parking spaces for an electric vehicle shall be marked with green lines. Non-electric vehicles shall not park in the designated parking areas for electric vehicles.**

3. **Electric vehicles shall not be parked near the entrance of any attached structure, except for those parking spots designated for disabled parking.**
4. **Electric vehicle parking shall not be near any exposed utility pipes or chases. This includes natural gas, electricity, and water.**

§19.7B ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.

1. **All electric vehicle chargers in any parking garage shall be located at ground level and near the garage entrance/exit door(s) of the parking garage. The electric vehicle chargers shall be around the designated electric vehicle parking spaces. The installation of any charging station shall be subject to the permit and approval process of the Building Department/ Uniform Construction Code.**
2. **Battery charging stations shall not impede any exit.**
3. **Cords shall be retractable or shall have a place to hang and store any charging cord. No charging cord shall impede or cross any driving area in any parking garage.**
4. **Signs shall be posted designating the presence of an electric vehicle charging station.**
5. **An emergency shut-off switch or button for the electric vehicle charger(s) shall be located near the garage entrance/exit door of the parking garage or area. An additional emergency shut-off switch or button shall be located near the main fire alarm panel or in the Fire Control Room.**

§19.7C TECHNICAL OPINION.

The fire code official is authorized to require the owner or agent to provide a technical opinion or report that is prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization, acceptable to the fire code official and shall analyze the fire safety properties of design, operation or use of the building/ premises, to recommend necessary changes. The fire official is authorized to require documentation to be prepared by and bear the stamp of a registered design professional.

§19.7D MODIFICATIONS.

Any changes, modifications, and or alterations to the above language, must be approved in writing by the fire official and the construction code official.

§19.7E VIOLATIONS.

- 1. Any violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine. Each violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate violation independent of any other section or any order issued pursuant to this ordinance.**
- 2. Each day failure to comply with this ordinance shall constitute a separate violation.**
- 3. The first violation constitutes a \$1,000.00 penalty. Multiple violations found may not exceed \$5,000.00 for the first occurrence but may increase to \$10,000 for multiple violations that are not immediately abated.****