

## **Ordinance 36-17**

### **Wheel Immobilization Devices - Prohibited**

#### **Staff Report**

The use of wheel immobilization devices (“wheel booting”) in the City of Annapolis is currently unregulated. The purpose of this legislation is to protect vehicle owners from persons and businesses that engage in unfair practices associated with wheel booting on private property, and in some cases, on public property. Wheel booting can result in costly fees to a vehicle owner to have the wheel boot removed, and lengthy wait times associated with wheel boot removal. According to research from other jurisdictions, the fee to have a wheel boot removed may exceed \$150.00, which is a fee that many vehicle owners would not be able to pay on site or at all, or who would have difficulty paying without such payment affecting the ability to attend to necessities. A lengthy wait time caused by the failure to be able to pay for wheel boot removal on site or by simply waiting for someone to appear to remove a wheel boot could impair the ability of vehicle owners and their passengers to reach destinations timely when necessary. This could present a risk to safety and welfare. Wheel booting does not resolve the issue of illegal parking.

R-23-17 establishes penalties in the FY2018 Fines Schedule for violation(s) of Section 12.20.160.

Prepared by Gary M. Elson, Assistant City Attorney, Office of Law.