CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES

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12-1-1: DEFINITIONS: (4889)

1. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

FARE: compensation paid for a light rail, bus boarding or other transit vehicle ticket from a vending machine or other source. (4889)

FARE INSPECTOR: a person authorized to enforce this section. (4889)

GUIDEWAY: an area where light rail vehicles will operate and includes the light rail track, overhead catenary system and the entire area extending seven (7) feet out from the track centerline, or within the prolonged curb lines adjoining the light rail tracks. (4889)

IDENTIFICATION: any government issued document that contains a photograph, date of birth and physical description, including but not limited to, height, weight, eye color, sex, origin and hair color of the person presenting the identification. (4889)

METRO: the light rail transit system operated by Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (4889)

PAID ZONE: the inside of a transit vehicle, light rail station platform or other areas as designated by appropriate signage or markings. (4889)

PASSENGER: any person occupying, riding or using any transit vehicle, boarding or alighting from such a vehicle, or waiting within a designated paid zone waiting area at a light rail station. (4889)

PROOF OF FARE PAYMENT: a valid METRO pass or transit fare media valid for the time and day of use. (4889)

TRANSIT COMPLAINT: a complaint whereby the passenger is charged with violating this Chapter. (4889)

TRANSIT ENFORCEMENT AIDE: an employee of the police department or an employee of a private entity which has entered into a contract with either the city, police department or a transit provider on behalf of the City. (4889)

TRANSIT VEHICLE: a light rail train, public bus, trolley or shuttle or Valley Metro vehicle used to transport passengers. (4889)
VALEY METRO: motor buses and facilities operated by Phoenix Public Transit Department, City of Tempe, City of Mesa or other local jurisdictions that operate bus transit service as part of Valley Metro, private contractors, and the Regional Public Transportation Authority. (4889)

12-1-2: POWERS AND DUTIES OF ENFORCEMENT AGENTS: (4889)

(A) A police officer or a transit enforcement aide is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Chapter. (4889)

(B) The presentment of any citation to the violator shall be considered sufficient and appropriate service. (4889)

(C) Nothing in this Chapter is intended to limit the authority of the City or its police officers from enforcing concurrently, or in the alternative, other remedies applicable at law, including those related to the crimes of theft of services and/or trespass. (4889)

(D) A person who refuses to provide proof of fare payment when required, or otherwise violates any lawful regulation of this Chapter, may be removed from the transit vehicle by a fare inspector at any transit facility or usual stopping place. (4889)

12-1-3: SPECIFIED UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES: (4889)

(A) Fare violations

1. It is unlawful for any person to:

   (a) Occupy or ride in any transit vehicle that requires a fare without payment of the applicable fare;

   (b) Fail to exhibit proof of fare payment upon request of a fare inspector when occupying or disembarking from a transit vehicle;

   (c) Refuse to disembark a transit vehicle or transit facility upon demand of a fare inspector;

   (d) Fail to provide his or her true name and address or identification to a fare inspector when being served with a transit complaint, or;

   (e) Fail to exhibit proof of fare payment upon request of a fare inspector while waiting in a designated paid zone waiting area. (4889)

(B) Conduct violations

1. It is unlawful for any person to:

   (a) Transport any item that blocks the aisle or the areas of the transit vehicle reserved for passengers in wheelchairs or who use mobility aids;

   (b) Possess an open container of or consume an alcoholic beverage in a transit vehicle or on transit property;

   (c) Carry onto or aboard a transit vehicle or transit property any flammable or explosive substance or hazardous materials;

   (d) Hang onto or attach his or her body in any manner to any exterior part of a transit vehicle or touch a moving transit vehicle;
(e) Walk between coupled light-rail vehicles;

(f) Enter upon, occupy or remain upon the guideway except as necessary to board or alight a transit vehicle unless authorized by a valid permit;

(g) Throw an object at or from any transit vehicle or at any person or thing on or in any transit vehicle, or on transit property;

(h) Travel in any mode, including but not limited to, motor vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, roller skate, rollerblade, upon or across any guideway, or light rail station platform, except within a marked crosswalk at a signalized intersection;

(i) Place any object on any portion of the guideway;

(j) Interfere with the operation of a transit vehicle, transit facility or ticket vending machine;

(k) Interfere with the ingress or egress of any passenger on transit vehicle or transit property;

(l) Use tobacco products, or carry any lighted or smoldering substance, in any form, aboard a transit vehicle or within any space where posted signage prohibits smoking;

(m) Operate a sound-emitting device, unless the only sound produced by such item is emitted by a personal-listening attachment (earphone or headphone) audible only to the person carrying the device producing the sound, except a peace officer, firefighter, transit employee, or emergency response professional, in the course of employment;

(n) Light a flashlight, scope light, laser light or object that projects a flashing light or beams of light while inside a transit vehicle or towards a transit vehicle, except in an emergency;

(o) Place feet on or lie down on the seat of a transit vehicle or place any article on the seat which would leave grease, oil, paint, dirt or any other substance on the seat;

(p) Expectorate, defecate, urinate or litter in or upon a transit vehicle, transit property or transit facility;

(q) Light or detonate sparklers, firecrackers or other types of pyrotechnic devices in or upon a transit vehicle, transit property or transit facility;

(r) Injure, mutilate, deface, alter, change, displace, remove or destroy any sign, notice or advertisement on or in any transit vehicle or transit property;

(s) Disobey the instructions of any traffic signal, security notice, sign or marker unless otherwise directed by a fare inspector, peace officer or authorized transit representative;

(t) Recklessly damage, deface, mutilate or tamper with transit property so as to impair its function or value;

(u) Post signs, notices or drawings or inscribe a message, slogan, sign, mark or symbol on transit property without written permission from the transit company, or;

(v) Remain at a transit station or stop for more than one hour. (4889)

(C) Transport of animals
1. No person shall transport animals in a transit vehicle unless:

   (a) The animal is a guide or service animal, including a service animal in training, that has been specially trained to assist persons with disabilities and is on a leash, or;

   (b) The animal is in a completely enclosed and secured cage or carrying case that is small enough to fit on the passenger’s lap, and the animal does not otherwise endanger or disturb the comfort or health of other passengers. (4889)

(D) Parking and boarding

1. A driver shall not park a vehicle in the area designated for vehicle parking unless the person complies with posted parking regulations. (4889)

2. If intending to pick up or drop off a transit passenger, a driver shall park in the area designated for vehicle parking or briefly stop his or her vehicle in areas designated for passenger loading or unloading, while remaining with the vehicle, and then remove the vehicle from the station without delay after the transit passenger is dropped off or picked up. (4889)

3. No person shall stop or park a vehicle at a transit parking facility in such manner that the vehicle blocks access to a marked pedestrian walkway, designated traffic lane, parking space, fire lane, boarding zone or guideway. (4889)

(E) Use restriction violation

1. A person shall not ride a transit vehicle in violation of a court order or finding that the person is prohibited from riding a transit vehicle. (4889)

12-1-4: USE RESTRICTIONS: (4889)

(A) Any person adjudicated responsible of violating any provision of this Chapter resulting in a fine is prohibited from riding a Metro transit vehicle until the sanction is fully paid. (4889)

(B) Any person adjudicated responsible for violating any provision of this Chapter more than two (2) times within a 24 month period is prohibited from riding a Metro transit vehicle for ninety (90) calendar days. (4889)

(C) Any person who poses a serious continuing risk to the public or transit property may be immediately removed from a Metro transit vehicle and the person will be prohibited from using Metro transit vehicles for a period not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days. (4889)

(D) Any person guilty of assaulting a fare inspector or employee acting in the scope of his employment will be prohibited from using a Metro transit vehicle for a minimum of one year. (4889)

12-1-5: CIVIL VIOLATIONS/PROCEDURE: (4889)

(A) Violation of this Chapter shall be a civil offense and shall be adjudicated pursuant to the Civil Traffic Violations. (4889)

12-1-6: PENALTIES: (4889)

(A) Violations of this Chapter shall be a civil offense. Upon a finding or admission of responsibility, a violator is subject to a sanction of not less than $50 but not more than $500, plus surcharges, costs and fees as set by law. (4889)

(B) In addition to any fines imposed by this Chapter, a City Magistrate or a Civil Hearing Officer may issue an order prohibiting a person from riding a transit vehicle for a specified period of time. (4889)