



# City of Windcrest Police Department

## Interoffice Memorandum



The Mission of the Windcrest Police Department is to provide the community with a safe and fear free environment in which to live, work and play and to do so with an emphasis on *PRIDE* - Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence.

To: Rafael Castillo, City Manager  
From: Darrell Volz, Chief of Police   
Subject: Windcrest Golf Cart City Ordinance  
Date: September 24, 2019  
CC: Claudia Carrera, Court Clerk  
Rachel Dominguez, City Secretary  
Daniel Hernandez, Lieutenant  
Mark Williams, Lieutenant  
File

In July of this year Council passed an ordinance dealing with the use of golf carts within the city limits of Windcrest. Following is a portion of the ordinance dealing with the "Regulations", which can be found in Chapter 32, Article IV, Section 32-207 of the Code of Ordinances.

### Sec. 32-207 Regulations.

- (a) The City of Windcrest has determined that the unregulated operation of a golf cart or NEVs on a public street or highway has inherent dangers and safety concerns. Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code §§ 551.403, 551.4031, and 551.404, the operation of a golf cart or NEV on any public street or highway is prohibited except as permitted under the Texas Transportation Code and this article.
- (b) So long as the operator of a golf cart or NEV complies with the rules and regulations for licensing, operation, and registration needed to operate a golf cart or NEV on public streets and highways under Chapter 551 of the Texas Transportation Code, the operator may operate a golf cart or NEV on any public street or highway within the corporate limits of the City with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- (c) A violation of any rules or regulations for licensing, operation, and registration found under the Texas Transportation Code required for operating a golf cart or NEV on any public street or highway within the corporate limits of the City shall also be a violation of this ordinance, to the extent allowed by law.
- (d) No person may operate a golf cart upon any public street or highway within the corporate boundaries of the City of Windcrest unless said golf cart displays a license plate issued by the State of Texas pursuant to Texas Transportation Code § 551.402.



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- (e) No person may operate a golf cart or NEV without a valid Texas- or other state-issued operator's permit and/or driver's license.
- (f) Golf carts and NEVs must move to the right and yield the right-of-way to faster moving vehicles while on any public street or highway.
- (g) Golf carts and NEVs may not be operated upon any public sidewalk, pedestrian walkway, playground, public park, school ground, or other public recreational areas, not designated for motor vehicle traffic.
- (h) All golf carts and NEVs must be equipped with operational headlamps, tail lamps, reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, seatbelts and a slow-moving vehicle emblem as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Transportation Code when operated on any public street or highway.
- (i) The driver and every occupant of a golf cart or NEV must remain seated in a seat designed to hold passengers, while the golf cart or NEV is in motion on any public street or highway.
- (j) No person may ride in the lap of the driver or any other occupant of a golf cart or NEV while operated on any public street or highway.
- (k) These regulations and licenses are valid only within the corporate limits of the City of Windcrest and do not address operation outside of the City's jurisdiction.

The State of Texas was not prepared to issue license plates as of September 1, even though that was the effective date of the state law. The Texas Department of Transportation has indicated plates may not be available until next year. The Windcrest Police Department will enforce all provisions, excluding the requirement of a license plate, effective October 1, 2019. When license plates become available, the Windcrest Police Department will begin to enforce that provision of the ordinance.