

American University Good Neighbor Policy

- The District of Columbia Zoning Commission conditioned its approval of the university's 2000-2010 Campus Plan (and in subsequent orders) on the university's adoption of a policy to "prohibit, to the extent permitted by law, students, faculty, staff, and vendors from parking on streets adjacent to and surrounding the campus." Specifically, the Commission required the university to implement "a system of administrative actions, contract penalties, and fines...." A violation of the Zoning Order Condition is "grounds for denial or revocation of a building permit or certificate of occupancy applied for by, or issued to, the University." This provision of the order was included at the request of the respective Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and neighbors.
- To achieve and maintain compliance with the Zoning Order Condition, the university developed the Good Neighbor Policy. The American University Good Neighbor Policy applies to on-street parking around our main campus at 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, the Washington College of Law at 4300 Nebraska Avenue, NW, the Spring Valley Building at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, and the soccer field in the 4500 block of Massachusetts Avenue, NW.
- The policy states that all members of the university community – including students, faculty, staff, vendors and guests – are required to do one of the following while attending class, working, or visiting AU owned property: park on campus and obtain a parking permit; purchase hourly/daily parking using the Pay-As-You-Go machines; or use public transportation.
- This policy has been in effect for more than a decade. Compliance with the Good Neighbor Policy is a condition of enrollment and/or employment at American University. Failure to abide by the provisions of the Good Neighbor Policy results in administrative fines and actions. The university randomly patrols the adjacent streets and cites vehicles believed to be parking in violation of the policy. The policy and citations do not apply to individuals not affiliated with American University.
- Unfortunately, it is inevitable that citations will be placed occasionally on vehicles whose owners have no affiliation with the university. We regret any inconvenience or consternation this may cause. While those individuals can certainly disregard the citation, we request that they contact the Office of Parking and Traffic to have the citation withdrawn officially and removed from our records. When a neighbor contacts us to have citation voided, we also recommend that they place their vehicles on the "Do Not Ticket" list. This list was created at the request of our neighbors so the university could better discern which vehicles likely belong to university affiliates parking in violation of the Good Neighbor Policy.
- AU makes understands that we have an obligation to comply with the direction of the Zoning Commission regarding restricting university affiliates from parking in the surrounding neighborhoods and we make good faith efforts to abide by the spirit and intent of those provisions.