

## **Albany Parking Authority Motorcycle Parking Policy**

Downtown parking garages accommodate nearly all vehicles expected to be present in an urban setting. Garages are by necessity of design and construction costs generally limited to parking personal automobiles and small trucks.

Examples of excluded vehicles are motorcycles, bicycles, vehicles with trailers, oversize trucks with double axles, exceptionally tall vehicles such as custom vans. Trucks with high cabs or oversize bodies are also not allowed in garages because of 6' 8" low clearance, which is posted at entry overhead bars. Each of the vehicles not permitted in garages is excluded for a variety of different reasons, some physical, some to limit exposure to liability. This is not discriminatory practice. It is merely a decision to accept the vast majority of parkers and to exclude those vehicles which do not fit the general model for which the garage was designed and equipped.

The Albany Parking Authority excludes motorcycles from its facilities for liability risk reasons, includes the following:

- Motorcycles are more vulnerable to vandalism than a locked car or small truck, which increases the perceived risk.
- Garages with asphalt first floors, as opposed to a hard concrete floor, make a parked motorcycle susceptible to falling over if summer heat softens asphalt under kick stands.
- Vibrations from traffic within and without the garage can cause motorcycles parked on sloping floors to tip over and cause damage to adjacent vehicles.
- Even though owner liability limitations are made known on monthly contract applications and on tickets issued to daily parkers, lawsuits will inevitably be filed and unnecessarily involve the garage owner in costly litigation.
- If an automatic gate malfunctions and closes unexpectedly on a car, damage is limited to the vehicle; however, the same event could cause personal injury to the driver of a motorcycle.
- Personal injury to a pedestrian such as tripping or twisting an ankle could result from a depression left in a softened asphalt floor by a kick stand that held a heavy motorcycle.

Signs posted on equipment cabinets in entry lanes state: "Automotive Traffic Only, No Motorcycles, No Bicycles, No Pedestrians".

*Approved at Board of Directors meeting June 22, 1999*