



Department of Neighborhood Services

Jezamil Arroyo-Vega
Commissioner

Michael Mazmanian
Deputy Commissioner

September 21, 2026

RE: ADVISORY DETERMINATION OF THE PERMISSABILITY OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE SERVICE EQUIPMENT AS AN ACCESSORY USE TO PARKING LOTS IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS, BY RIGHT

Issue

The City of Milwaukee wishes to encourage the use of electric vehicles and confirms that electrical vehicle electric vehicle supply equipment (e.g. chargers) are allowed in all zoning districts when conforming to certain requirements.

Analysis

The City of Milwaukee controls the use and placement of buildings and structures on land through the establishment of zoning districts, as described in Chapter 295 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (milwaukee.gov/ordinances).

Determination

On October 12, 2021, the City of Milwaukee enacted an ordinance that updated the Zoning Code to explicitly permit electric vehicle supply equipment (Common Council File #210486). This ordinance updated the zoning code to permit ("by-right") electric vehicle supply equipment (EV chargers) in any legally established parking space:

Chapter 295-403 (General Provisions, Motor Vehicle Parking, Standards of Design):

3-f-1: electric vehicle supply equipment is permitted in any legally established parking space.

This means that electric vehicle supply equipment is permitted as an accessory use to parking lots in all zoning districts, by right.

This advisory determination clarifies that

1. Parking spaces that are equipped with electric vehicle supply equipment that meet all other design and placement standards within zoning code count towards any code required motor vehicle parking minimums.

Authority

Pursuant to chapter 295-301, the administration of this chapter shall be vested in the commissioner of city development and commissioner of neighborhood services, with the commissioner of neighborhood services charged with the duty and authority to issue certificates of occupancy and construction permits. In issuing permits, all city departments, officers and employees shall check all proposed work, activities, construction and uses for compliance with the provisions of the zoning code.

Signed:

Jezamil Arroyo-Vega
Commissioner of Neighborhood Services

