

http://www.normantranscript.com/news/norman-gives-scooter-company-operating-without-permit-until-p-m/article_9d59556e-b5f0-11e8-aa85-4702a7d83b48.html

TOPICAL

ALERT

FEATURED

Norman gives scooter company operating without permit until 10 p.m. Wednesday to remove scooters

By Caleb Slinkard | Transcript Editor 18 hrs ago



Bird scooters sit at a “nest” in front of The Norman Transcript parking lot at the corner of Comanche Street and Peters Avenue. The California-based company deposited dozens of the scooters around Norman early Friday morning.

Caleb Slinkard / Transcript Editor



The City of Norman has given Bird Rides, Inc. — the company that placed dozens of electronic scooters throughout Norman about a month ago — until 10 p.m. Wednesday to remove their scooters from the city's rights-of-way.

In a letter to Bird, Norman City Manager Steve Lewis pointed out that the city asked Bird to voluntarily remove the scooters last week and file the necessary permit to begin the process of operating legally in Norman.

"However, on the day the removal was to be accomplished, Sept. 6, Bird first indicated its resistance to entering into these agreements as well as removing the scooters by the time previously requested, which was 10 p.m. that evening," Lewis wrote. "I understand your assertion that Bird wishes to work with the city, and may suggest revisions to our revocable license agreement. The city appreciates discussion of these matters and intends to respond promptly in this regard; however, at this time, Bird scooters are not legally within the public rights-of-way."

Norman Development Coordinator Terry Floyd said that Bird will need to remove its scooters by 10 p.m., or they will be subject to impoundment. Once Bird files the revocable permit, the city council will consider approving the permit. If approved, Floyd added, the city would then consider more comprehensive operational requirements for Bird. Floyd said a competitor to Bird has inquired about the city's permitting process regarding the dockless scooters.

"The city is concerned with Bird's continued operation without permission, particularly as those activities implicate public safety and traffic regulatory concerns, despite good faith requests to cease operations," Lewis wrote. "The city has received multiple complaints regarding Bird's operation in the public rights-of-way, including particular concern that the devices are impediments to access for persons with disabilities."

Bird released a statement, confirming it intends to work with the city to keep their scooters in Norman.

"Bird is a great option for any city looking to reduce its traffic congestion and help its residents get around town affordably and reliably," the statement read. "We are encouraged to see the people of Norman quickly embrace Bird's transportation option as a way of getting around town without having to get in the car, and we hope to work closely with city officials to ensure our service can continue to be available."

The California-based company's scooters have become popular in cities across the United States but also have sparked controversies, since Bird and other e-scooter companies don't always follow city ordinances or receive permits before placing scooters. Cities like Nashville, Cleveland and

Milwaukee have sent the company cease and desist letters or filed lawsuits to have Bird remove its scooters.

0 comments

Sign in

18 people listening

	+ Follow	Post comment as...

Newest | Oldest

Norman Transcript Events



Tue, Sep 18

Thu, Sep 13



Dinner with the Doctor

Hollie's Flatiron Grill



WED
12

THU
13

FRI
14

SAT
15

SUN
16

MON
17

Meditation Class

St. Stephens United Methodist...

Caleb Slinkard

Caleb Slinkard was hired as the editor of the Norman Transcript in August of 2015. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce and previously was in charge of several newspapers in northeast Texas.