



Rise in abandoned car complaints is a mirage

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

5



CHRISTINA PAZZANESE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/FILE

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of abandoned vehicles in any given year fluctuated between about 250 and 450.

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF MAY 02, 2017

Boston residents in recent years have bombarded City Hall with an increasing number of complaints about a host of quality-of-life issues, including coveted curbside parking spots being wasted by vehicles that they believe to be “abandoned.”

But the vast majority of such complaints turn out to be, well, fake news.

In reality, the number of cars actually left abandoned on city streets has been flat, if not down a bit, in recent years — and the numbers are far lower than they were in previous decades.

City officials said the rise in complaints about abandoned vehicles, like many other issues, is at least partly due technological improvements that allow constituents to file gripes more quickly and conveniently than ever before, whether via phone call, social media, or an app on their smartphone.

Officials also noted that with parking being such a premium, residents are quick to contact the city to report potentially abandoned vehicles.



Get Fast Forward in your inbox:

Forget yesterday's news. Get what you need today in this early-morning email.

Sign Up

But, city officials are used to responding to abandoned vehicle complaints that don't pan out.

How the abandoned vehicle process works in Boston

Vehicles left unmoved on city streets for more

than 72 hours can be considered abandoned.

A look at the cars abandoned at Logan Airport in Boston

This model of car is left abandoned most often in Boston

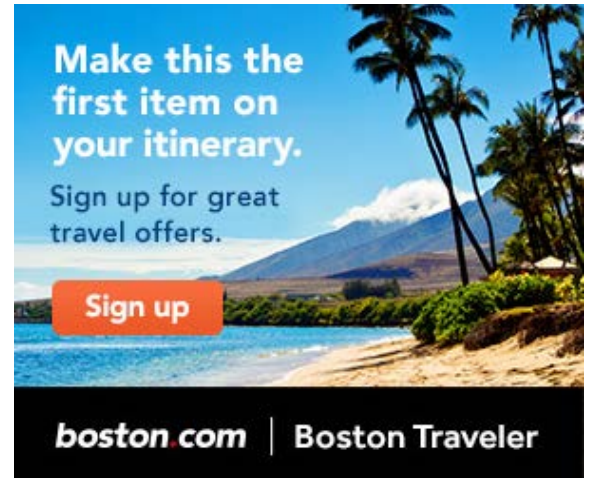
“We have always received more complaints on vehicles being abandoned as opposed to the number that are actually abandoned,” said transportation department spokeswoman Tracey Ganiatsos.

In many cases, by the time municipal workers respond to such complaint, the “abandoned” vehicle has already been moved. Perhaps its owner had not moved it for a while because they were on vacation, the vehicle needed repairs, or they just forgot.

In 2016, City Hall received more than 3,900 complaints about abandoned vehicles, up from about 2,600 the year before and about 1,050 in 2011, the earliest year for which data was available.

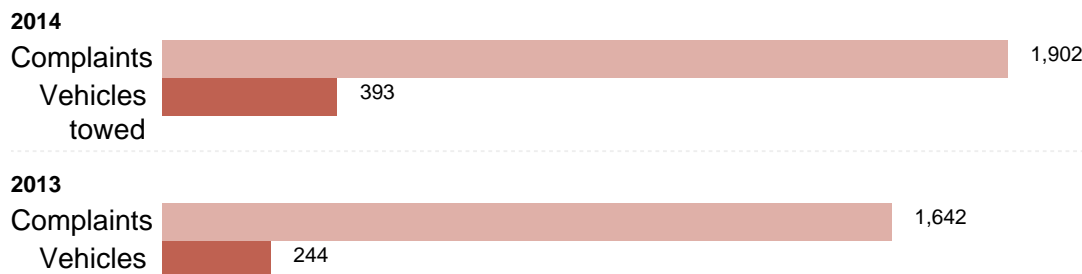
But in recent years, a much smaller number of vehicles were actually deemed abandoned by city workers.

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of abandoned vehicles in any given year fluctuated between about 250 and 450.

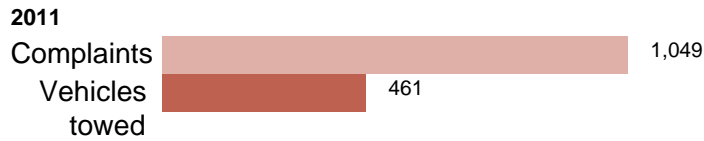


Abandoned vehicle complaints vs. vehicles towed

Data for 2011 through 2014 because those are the most recent years for which a full year's worth of data is available for both complaints and vehicles towed.



towed



Related

- **A look at the cars abandoned at Logan Airport in Boston**

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

SHOW 5 COMMENTS

Stay updated, right in your news feed.

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

Nick Cafardo: Which players may be available in trade after ...

Trump administration advances religious researchers' birth ...

What's it like be an NFL quarterback at 40? We asked Warr...

Storms could bring hail and severe winds Saturday

Trump forsakes scenic traditions to vacation in the land of s...

Dick Albert, former Channel 5 weatherman, dies
My Account

There's one month left of summer. Here's what you can't mi...
[Manage my Account](#)

Why increasing isolation and disillusionment grows withi...
[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)
Darryl Appicola never considered retiring or playing for a t...

[Contact](#)
Jaylen Brown's trip for the NBA Africa Game continues his ...

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Social](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

[More](#)

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)
