

Memorandum

Date: April 11, 2019

To: Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager

Subject: Junk/Abandoned Vehicle Program



A joint initiative of the Elgin Police Department and City Code Enforcement will soon begin to give attention to areas within the City that have a concentration of junk/abandoned vehicles; sidewalk obstructions; vehicles parked facing the wrong direction; and blocking fire hydrants. Other examples that fall within the area of enforcement are trailers, recreational vehicles, and boats that are in violation and within public view. Some of you may not know that there are many non-profit organizations will gladly accept your donations if you need them removed from your property.

The presence of junk vehicles threatens the character and safety of neighborhoods. They cause deterioration of neighborhoods partly due to visual blight, which affects property values. Junked vehicles can create attractive nuisances for children, and provide harborages for rodents, insects and other pests. As with most municipalities, the City has adopted a junk vehicle nuisance ordinance, which prohibits the storage of junk vehicles in open areas of private property.

When a violation of the Abandoned Vehicle law is determined, a red sticker will be placed on the vehicle giving the owner 48 hours to fix the problem or remove the vehicle from the street. After 48 hours, the vehicle is checked again, and if still in violation the vehicle will be impounded. If a green sticker is placed on a Junked Vehicle/trailer/RV, or boat, the owner has ten days to fix the problem or remove the vehicle from public view. If after ten days the owner has not remedied the situation, impoundment action will be taken.

Specific local and State laws EPD will be enforcing through this effort:

- Parking on or Obstructing Sidewalks
- Parking a Vehicle Facing the Wrong Direction on the Street
- Parking More Than 18 Inches away From the Curb
- Parking Long Vehicles and Trailers on Streets
- Abandoned Motor Vehicles
- Junk Vehicles/Boats/Trailers/Recreational Vehicles or Visible to Public
- Parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection”

Prior to its initiation, EPD will make a concentrated effort to distribute notice of this program through local media and all social media outlets, in hopes that property owners address violations on their own without requiring enforcement action by the EPD.

Assistant Chief Phillip Taylor
Elgin Police Department

cc: Patrick South Chief of Police