

Toledo Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Incident: Scheduled Enforcement of Toledo Municipal Code 10.24

Summary:

The Toledo Police Department has begun the City Council's 2008 Goal Implementation Plan regarding the removal of discarded vehicles from Toledo. This spring, the Police Department will be actively working with citizens to remove junk vehicles from properties in an effort to achieve the City Council's goal to improve the city's appearance, protect property values and the quality of life in Toledo.

Accumulation and storage of discarded vehicles reduces property values, is unsightly, promotes neighborhood deterioration, invites crime, creates fire hazards, is an attractive nuisance causing a hazard to minors health and safety, creates a harborage for rodents and insects, and is injurious to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. Toledo Municipal Code defines this as a public nuisance, which may be abated in accordance with chapter 10.24.

Toledo Municipal Code 10.24.010 defines a "vehicle" as including, but not limited to a motor vehicle, motor home, utility trailer, house or vacation trailer, implement of husbandry, article of machinery, boat, camper, or canopy.

Conditions of a vehicle that are defined as "discarded" include vehicles with expired registrations or which are inoperative, wrecked, partially or fully dismantled, abandoned, or junked. The definition also includes major parts such as bodies, engines, transmissions, and rear ends. A vehicle is not considered "discarded" if it meets any of these definitions, but repairs to the vehicle are made within thirty(30) days.

Toledo Municipal Code requires that "discarded" vehicles remain out of public view by being stored in a completely enclosed building, behind a site obscuring fence, hedge or wall.

An initial survey of the city has preliminarily identified eighty-nine (89) properties holding one hundred and twenty-one (121) vehicles considered to meet the definition of "discarded". Initially, courtesy notifications will be made to property owners, occupants, and vehicle owners advising them of the Code violation. Owners and occupants will be encouraged to contact the Police Department for information as to how they can comply with the Municipal Code, or have the vehicle removed. Vehicles that remain in violation will result in official notice sent by certified mail, personal delivery or posting, advising that the violation must be rectified within 10 days, the available remedies, and the consequences for non-compliance. If violations continue, property owners, occupants, and/or vehicle owners could be fined up to \$500.00 and vehicle removed by the city.

Citizens who have unwanted vehicles on their property, or who feel they may be in violation of the Municipal Code are encouraged to contact the Toledo Police Department for information on vehicle removal or compliance. The Police Department can arrange to have cars and trucks removed at no expense. The Police Department is also working with the city and tow companies to enable citizens to have other vehicles such as unused campers, RVs and boats removed at a reduced cost. Titles to the vehicles are helpful, but not required.

Although Toledo Municipal Code generally includes "project" or unused vehicles that are in public view, this spring's efforts are primarily focused on vehicles that violate the intent of the law by creating an attractive nuisance. Toledo residents can avoid coming to the attention of the enforcement efforts by keeping "project" or unused vehicle registrations current and the vehicle clean, free of undergrowth or debris, parked in an orderly manner on the property, and otherwise maintaining their property without additional rubbish that would add to the attractive nuisance.

The Toledo Police Department hopes that citizens will eagerly join this effort and work with the Police Department to improve the appearance of their neighborhoods. Many of the vehicles observed during the survey period are in violation of the Municipal Code and State law due to title and registration issues. As a convenience to the public, the Police Department has obtained DMV title and registration forms, which are available at the Police Department during normal business hours, as well as nights and weekends. The public is encouraged to contact the Toledo Police Department if they have questions, or they may come to the department and obtain a copy of Toledo Municipal Code 10.24.