

TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT - GENERAL ORDERS



TITLE: ABANDONED, WRECKED, INOPERATIVE VEHICLES		NUMBER: 703
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 20, 2008		REVIEW DATE: August 20, 2022
New Amends Rescinds	General Order 703, dated April 23, 2002	
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01 Purpose: To provide guidelines for the enforcement of violations of Sections 13.24.040 F and 13.24.50 of the City Code (Snow emergencies - Impounding of vehicles; Towing and impounding illegally parked vehicles); and Sections 25-201 thru 25-210 of the Transportation Article, Maryland Code.

02 Policy: It is the policy of the Department to vigorously enforce the applicable provisions of the City Code and Maryland Code, and ensure that all violations are handled effectively and promptly.

03 Definitions:

A. Abandoned Auto: Any vehicle which is wrecked, dismantled or partly dismantled, disabled or inoperative, abandoned or in disrepair, or unregistered, and is visible from the street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way or from any other person’s private property for more than 48 hours, whether or not the property on which the vehicle(s) is located is owned, leased or used, with or without the consent of the owner or tenant.

B. Motor Vehicle: Any vehicle defined in Section 11-135 of the Transportation Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, including but not limited to, any automobile, truck, van, recreational vehicle (RV), motorcycle, tractor or other motorized farm implement, and any other device in, on, or by which any individual property is or might be transported or towed on a highway, including but not limited to, flatbed trailers, semi-trailers and boat trailers.

04 Enforcement Procedures: Enforcement shall be performed in accordance with Sections 13.24.050 of the City Code, and Sections 25-201 thru 25-210 of the Transportation Article, Maryland Code.

A. Beat Officers will be held accountable for abandoned vehicle enforcement. Beat Officers should coordinate with the Parking Enforcement Officer to ensure that all abandon autos are followed-up on.

B. At least semi-annually, the Sector Supervisors will conduct an inspection and submit a report of findings to the Operations Commander.

C. Private Property Enforcement:

1. Residential private property, Apartment complexes, and shopping centers will be handled by Code Enforcement. Officers will assist members of Code Enforcement as necessary.

D. Highway/Roadway:

1. Officers will run the VIN through the computer to see if the vehicle is stolen. If it is stolen, Officers should impound it according to General Order 705 Vehicle Impounds. If it is not stolen, Officers shall issue a City warning/fir, TPPD# 700-09.

2. Place the notice sticker and the violator's copy of the warning on the vehicle's windshield.

3. After 72 hours follow up for compliance. If there is no compliance, the Officer may issue a parking citation for a 72-hour violation.

4. If there is no compliance after 10 days from the issuance of the warning notice, the Officer may impound the vehicle. The parking citation will be attached to the impound paperwork. Parking citations must be paid prior to vehicle release.

E. CS-78 Procedure

1. When a vehicle on a public roadway is unregistered, AND has no engine or otherwise is totally inoperable, and is over eight years old (Section 25-210 of the Transportation Article), an officer shall request the Watch Commander to inspect the vehicle to ensure it falls under the TR 25-210 definition. Additionally, the officer will:

a. Complete a Vehicle Impound and Inventory Record, filling in all of the blanks and making careful note of the missing parts.

b. Ensure that the joint inspection with the Watch Commander is completed within 72 hours of marking the vehicle.

c. Take a photograph of the vehicle and attach it to the Vehicle Impound and Inventory Record.

d. Notify Administrative Services as soon as possible so that documentation may be processed. Who will prepare a CS-78 form so the vehicle can be destroyed, not impounded. Note that no vehicle without an engine, and fitting the definition of a vehicle to be scrapped, will be impounded pursuant to the Transportation Article.

05 Administrative Services Responsibility:

A. Administrative Services will ensure that an accurate record is maintained of every notification and/or enforcement action taken.

B. Administrative Services will ensure that all notification requirements in the Transportation Article and Department General Order 705 are followed.

C. Administrative Services will ensure that disposal of impounded abandoned vehicles is accomplished in accord with the Transportation Article and General Order 705.