

AN ORDINANCE OF WOODWARD TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY RELATING TO
STORAGE OF VEHICLES AND JUNKED VEHICLES, BOATS AND CERTAIN OTHER
PERSONAL PROPERTY

Section 1. Purpose:

The outdoor storage of junked or discarded vehicles, boats, and other personal property, upon private property within Woodward Township is detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the community, aesthetically unattractive and detracting from the enjoyment of the environment and natural beauty of the environment by the residents of the Township, tending to depreciate neighborhood property values. The same also constitutes a potential nuisance to the children of the Township and may imperil their safety. The control of the outdoor storage of junked or discarded vehicles, boats and certain other personal property, is therefore regulated for the preservation of the health, safety and general welfare of the Township.

Section 2. Definitions:

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Boat

A craft intended for use for transportation of goods, fishing, racing, recreational cruising on or in the water, propelled by oars or outdoor motor or inboard motor, or by wind.

Discarded Vehicle

Any vehicle which the owner thereof, as established by the surrounding circumstances, relinquishes ownership and possession of, and any vehicle the owner of which cannot be found after due and reasonable inquiry.

Enforcement Officer

The Code Enforcement Officer, the Zoning Officer, any Township Police Officer, or any other Township employee assigned to enforcing Township ordinances.

Junked Vehicle

Any vehicle which has no valid registration or certificate of inspection and is parked or permitted to stand on private for a continuous period in excess of 48 hours.

Occupant

Any person living in a dwelling or having possession of a space within a building.

Owner

Any person, agent, operator, firm, corporation or similar legal entity having a legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian off the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

Person

Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, institution, cooperative enterprise, or any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.

Premises

A lot, plot or parcel of land, whether improved or unimproved, including portions occupied by a street or alley and portions of land between sidewalks and streets.

Vehicle

Any vehicle, including trucks, tractor trucks, automobiles, motorcycles, pedalcycles, campers, motor homes, trailers, fifth-wheel units, and any other device included in the definition of "vehicles" in the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S. §101 *et seq.*

Section 3. Storage of Vehicle Nuisances / Boat Nuisances Restricted.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or similar legal entity, either as a private owner, vehicle owner, occupant, lessee, agent, tenant or otherwise, to openly store or deposit or cause or permit to be openly stored or deposited a discarded or junked vehicle, discarded or junked boat, or parts or pieces thereof on any private property within Woodward Township, except as permitted in junkyards or by this chapter, for a period in excess of 48 hours.

Section 4. Exceptions.

It shall be permissible for a person to park, store, keep and maintain a junked vehicle or junked boat on private property if one of the following conditions is met:

- A. The junked vehicle or junked boat is completely enclosed within a building where neither the vehicle/boat nor any of it is visible from the street or from any other abutting property. This exception shall not exempt the owner or person in possession of the property from any zoning, building, housing, property maintenance and other regulations governing the building in which such vehicle/boat is enclosed.
- B. The junked vehicle or junked boat is parked or stored on property lawfully zoned for businesses engaged in wrecking, junking or repairing vehicles. This exception shall not exempt the owner or operator of any such business from any other zoning, building, fencing, property maintenance and other regulations governing businesses engaged in wrecking, junking or repairing vehicles/boats.

Section 5. Vehicle/Boat Nuisances.

Under no circumstances shall any vehicle/boat stored on any private property within the Township constitute a vehicle/boat nuisance. A vehicle/boat nuisance shall include any vehicle or boat which has any one or more of the following physical defects:

- (1) Broken windshield, mirrors or other glass with sharp edges;
- (2) One or more flat or open tires or tubes which could permit vermin harborage;
- (3) Missing doors, windows, hood, truck or other body parts which could permit animal harborage;
- (4) Any body parts with sharp edges, including holes resulting from rust;
- (5) Missing tires resulting in unsafe suspension of the motor vehicle;
- (6) Upholstery which is torn or open which could permit animal and/or vermin harborage;

- (7) Broken headlamps or tail lamps with sharp edges;
- (8) Disassembled chassis parts apart from the motor vehicle stored in a disorderly fashion or loose in or on the vehicle;
- (9) Protruding sharp objects from the chassis;
- (10) Broken sharp objects from the chassis;
- (11) Leaking fluids;
- (12) Exposed battery containing acid;
- (13) Inoperable locking mechanism for doors and/or trunk;
- (14) Open or damaged floorboards, including trunk and fire wall;
- (15) Damaged bumpers pulled away from the perimeter of the vehicle;
- (16) Broken grill with protruding edges;
- (17) Loose or damaged metal trim and clips;
- (18) Broken communications equipment antennas;
- (19) Suspended or unstable supports;
- (20) Such other defects which could threaten the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township.

Section 6. Vehicle Restoration Permit.

A vehicle restoration permit will be issued by the enforcement officer for the Township on the following terms and conditions:

- A. A restoration permit will be issued to the private property owner only.
- B. The vehicle/boat being restored shall be titled to the property owner being issued the permit.
- C. Only one vehicle/boat restoration permit at a time will be issued to a property owner.
- D. The vehicle/boat restoration permit shall be valid for a maximum of one vehicle or one boat and shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- E. The vehicle/boat shall be stored on the property owner's premises on an adequately maintained surface in the side or rear yard.
- F. At all times that the vehicle/boat is not being worked on for restoration, said vehicle/boat shall be covered with a car/boat cover, and the area shall be free of debris, litter, discarded parts or equipment utilized for the restoration. A car/boat cover must cover the

entire vehicle/boat and be securely fastened to the vehicle/boat. A car/boat cover shall be made of material which is designed to resist wind, rain and other weather-related circumstances. The use of bricks, stones, blocks or other material as a fastener shall not be permitted.

- G. The area where the vehicle/boat is being stored, placed or left shall be subject to periodic and random inspections by the Township enforcement officer. Should it be determined that the subject vehicle/boat is not being restored or the area surrounding the vehicle being restored is not properly maintained and free of debris, litter, unused parts or equipment, then, in that event, the restoration permit will be rescinded and the property owner shall be subject other provision of this chapter.

Section 7. Inspections; Notice of Violation.

- A. The enforcement officer is hereby empowered to inspect private property on which vehicle(s)/boat(s) are stored to determine if there is compliance with the provisions of this chapter. If noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter constitutes a nuisance, or if any condition, structure, improvement, material or toxin poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public, then upon the discovery of an initial violation on a premises, the Enforcement Officer shall give written notice of warning to the owner and/or occupant of such violation by United States Mail, certified, return receipt requested, to the owner and/or occupant's last known address or by personal service. Following receipt of notice, the owner and/or occupant shall have 48 hours to abate such violation. This section shall not apply to subsequent violations after the initial violation by the same owner and/or occupant of a property during the same year.
- B. After a period of no less than 48 hours following the receipt of the notice of warning, the Enforcement Officer may inspect the premises for compliance with this chapter.
- C. If the owner and/or occupant does not abate the violation within 48 hours of receipt of the notice or warning, or in the event of a subsequent violation within the same year, then an ordinance violation shall be issued to the owner and/or occupant by posting the property and providing notice either by United States Mail, certified, return receipt requested, to the owner and/or occupant's last known address or by personal service. Each 24 hour period shall constitute a separate violation and an ordinance violation may be issued every 24 hours without further notice.
- D. The notice of violation set forth in Section C shall direct and require such occupant or owner, or both of them, to remove the violation so as to conform to the requirements of

this chapter, within 48 hours after posting of such notice. If any owner or occupant shall neglect to comply with such notice within the period of time stated therein, the Township authorities may remove the violation so as to comply with the provisions of this chapter, and the reasonable cost thereof, including court costs and attorney's fees, together with any additional penalty authorized by law, may be collected by the Township from such owner or occupant as a penalty under the provisions of this chapter, or in any other manner provided by law.

- E. In addition to, and notwithstanding the Township's exercise or non-exercise of the above procedures, following the issuance of a notice of warning (in the event of an initial violation) or without such issuance (in the event of a subsequent violation during the same year), the Enforcement Officer may issue a citation to the owner/occupant and commence proceedings regarding same in the office of the applicable Magisterial District Judge.

Section 8. Authority to Remedy Noncompliance.

If the owner of the premises on which the vehicle(s)/boat(s) are stored does not comply with the notice to abate the nuisance within the time limit prescribed, the Township shall have the authority to take measures to correct the conditions so as to comply with the provisions of this chapter, and the reasonable cost thereof, together with any additional penalty authorized by law, may be collected by the Township from such owner or occupant as penalty under the provisions of this chapter, or in any other manner provided by law. This right, as herein vested in the Township, shall be in addition to the penalties prescribed by the provisions of this chapter for failure of the owner or occupant, as aforesaid, to comply with the terms of this chapter. The Township, in such event and pursuant to its statutory or otherwise authorized police powers, shall have the right and power to enter upon the offending premises to accomplish the foregoing.

Section 9. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall fail to comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$300 nor more than \$1,000, plus costs. Each junked or discarded vehicle and/or junked or disabled boat stored in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate violation. Each day that such separate violation shall continue or be carried on shall constitute an additional separate violation for which the court may impose an additional fine and continuing fine until the vehicle/boat is removed or enclosed. Notice to the offender shall not be necessary in order to constitute a separate violation, nor shall notice to the offender be necessary in order to constitute an offense. In default of payment of the penalty stated herein, such offender may be committed to the County Jail for a period not exceeding 30 days.

Section 10. Repealer.

All provisions of any previous Ordinances of the Township, or parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent to this Ordinance are expressly repealed. Specifically, the Township hereby repeals Ordinance No. 6-09-2009 A, which was executed and ordained by the Township on June 9, 2009.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with law.

DULY ENACTED AND ORDAINED, this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the Board of Supervisors of Woodward Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

WOODWARD TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Secretary

BY: _____
Supervisor

BY: _____
Supervisor

BY: _____
Supervisor