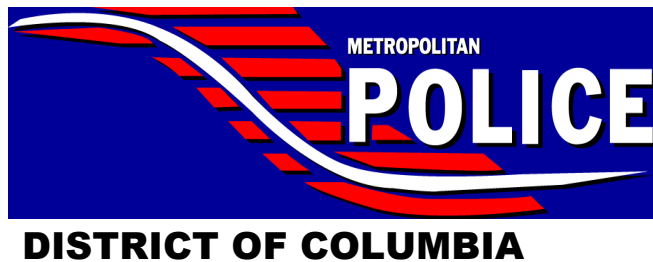


CIRCULAR



Title	Removal and Disposition of Abandoned and Other Unlawfully Parked Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2022
Number	CIR-22-10
Effective Date	August 30, 2022
Related to	GO-OPS-303.03 (Vehicle Towing and Impoundment)

The purpose of this circular is to provide guidance pursuant to the *Removal and Disposition of Abandoned and Other Unlawfully Parked Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2022*, which clarifies the definitions of abandoned vehicle and dangerous vehicle, and decriminalizes offenses related to abandoned vehicles.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) enforces the District’s laws governing abandoned and dangerous vehicles located on public space or on private property. For enforcement, members shall contact DPW through 311 or through an Office of Unified Communications dispatcher.

New and amended content included in the new Act is **underlined and in bold**. Code text that has been removed by the new Act is in strikethrough (e.g., ~~strikethrough~~).

§ 50–2421.02. Definitions.

<p>Abandoned Vehicle</p>	<p>(1) “Abandoned vehicle” means any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is left, parked, or stored on public space for more than 48 hours or on private property for more than 30 days, and to which at least 2 <u>one</u> of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) The vehicle is extensively damaged, including fire damage; (B) The vehicle is apparently inoperable, including a vehicle missing its transmission, motor, or one or more tires, and which is not undergoing emergency repair; (C) The vehicle serves as harborage for rats, vermin, and other pests; or (D) The vehicle does not display valid tags or a valid registration sticker; <u>except, that a vehicle shall not be deemed an abandoned vehicle under this subparagraph solely because the vehicle displays expired tags or registration sticker, unless the tags or registration sticker expired at least one year before any enforcement action is taken under this act, which shall be measured concurrently with the period of time required to establish that the vehicle is abandoned, as described in the lead-in language of this paragraph</u>
<p>Dangerous Vehicle</p>	<p>(2) “Dangerous vehicle” means any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that, as a result of the presence of rats, vermin, or other pests, exposed glass or metal shards, or other dangerous condition poses an imminent hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is in a wrecked, dismantled, or irreparable condition, or destroyed by fire, is per se a dangerous vehicle <u>due to at least one of the following conditions existing for at least 24 hours, poses an imminent hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare:</u></p>

	<p>(A) <u>The vehicle is extensively damaged, including damaged by fire or exposed broken glass or metal shards are present; or</u></p> <p>(B) <u>Another dangerous condition that poses an imminent hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare is present.</u></p>
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Decriminalization of abandoned vehicle offenses.

Need to know	<p>The following have now been decriminalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawfully removing or tampering with a vehicle owned by another person; tampering with any vehicle on public space to which a District government warning notice relating to removal has been affixed; or removing or mutilating the warning notice (§ 50-2421.04) • Repeat offense for parking, storing, or leaving a vehicle on public space (§50-2421.09) • Purchasing a vehicle that has been sold for salvage and thereafter leaving, storing, parking the vehicles on public space or private property (§ 50-2421.10)
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.C. Official Code § 50-2421.02 • D.C. Official Code § 50-2421.04 • D.C. Official Code § 50-2421.09 • D.C. Official Code § 50-2421.10

Changes made to District law as described in this circular are permanent and remain so until such time as the law as amended.



Robert J. Contee III
Chief of Police

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