

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-____

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 120, JUNK AND JUNK DEALERS, OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY CODE BY AMENDING PART 1 RELATED TO JUNK VEHICLES; CHANGING THE NAME OF CHAPTER 120 TO “JUNK”; CLARIFYING AND UPDATING DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING REMOVAL OF JUNK VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION IN THE SEMINOLE COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 120, Seminole County Code of Ordinances, prohibits the abandonment or keeping of junk vehicles on both public and private property and provides removal procedures for such junk vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds that the adoption of this ordinance is necessary to enhance the County’s enforcement of certain codes and ordinances relating to junk vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds that the title of Chapter 120 should be amended to reflect matters which it addresses and that removing junk dealers from the Chapter title is therefore appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds this Ordinance in compliance with state law and in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Seminole County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The above recitals represent the legislative findings of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners supporting the need for this Ordinance.

Section 2. Revising Chapter 120, Junk and Junk Dealers. Chapter 120, Junk and Junk Dealers, of the Seminole County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 120 JUNK ~~AND JUNK DEALERS~~

PART 1. JUNK VEHICLES¹

Sec. 120.1 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this Part:

Abandoned vehicle: When used in connection with junk vehicle, any vehicle as defined in this Section, including, but not limited to, any parts of the vehicles which are unusable as a form of transportation due to mechanical or structural insufficiencies, unless such vehicle is located within a legally permitted, permanent, enclosed structure or shrouded with a vehicle cover in a legally permitted, permanent carport.

~~*Enforcement officer:* The officer designated by the Board of County Commissioners to enforce the provisions of this Part.~~

Code Enforcement Officer. A person designated by the County Manager who has a duty to enforce codes and ordinances in the County, or any law enforcement officer as defined in Section 943.10(1), Florida Statutes, or its successor provision.

Junk vehicle: A vehicle that is dismantled, wrecked, junked, nonoperating, or any combination of such conditions. Evidence that a vehicle is a junk vehicle may include, but is not limited to, factors such as the following:

(1) The motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel is wrecked, not operational as evidenced by vegetation underneath as high as the motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel body or frame, refuse or debris collected underneath or the motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel is used solely for storage purposes.

¹ State law reference(s)—Procedure for removal of abandoned or lost property located on private or public property, § 705.16103, F.S.; Ch. 63-1935, Laws of Fla., 7-10-63; Ch. 69-1615, Laws of Fla., 7-9-65.

(2) The motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel body frame is partially dismantled, visibly
50 having no engine, transmission, or other major parts; or has major parts that are visibly dismantled.

(3) The motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel has no valid license tag.

(4) The motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel is in any physical state rendering it not
52 operational, or physically or mechanically incapable of being moved under its own power as
54 designed by manufacturer, or legally not permitted to be operated on the public streets.

(5) The motor vehicle, vehicle, or vessel does not have affixed a current and valid
56 ~~automobile~~ license tag.

Keep: When used in connection with junk vehicles, the act of keeping property having no
58 value other than nominal salvage value, if any, which has been left unprotected from the elements
with intention by the owner to remain in possession of it.

Public property: Lands and improvements owned by the County including buildings,
60 grounds, parks, playgrounds, streets, sidewalks, parkways, rights-of-way, and other similar
62 property.

Vehicle: A machine used to transport, pull, push, or propel people, animals or other matter
64 along the ground, in the air, or on a body of water, including machines propelled by horses or
similarly capable animals, designed to travel along the ground or water for the purposes of
66 transporting persons or property or pulling machinery, including, but not limited to, automobiles,
trucks, boats, watercraft, trailers, aircraft, motorcycles, and tractors.

Vehicle cover. A weather-resistant cover manufactured for the intended purpose of
68 covering a vehicle exposed to outdoor elements. Vehicle covers shall be opaque and fit the vehicle
70 being covered. Vehicle covers shall be maintained in good condition with no fading, tearing, rips,

or holes. Vinyl or canvas tarpaulin, or other covers not designed for use as a vehicle cover, shall
be prohibited.

Sec. 120.2. Abandonment or keeping prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to abandon or keep any junk vehicle on any public property except that the provisions of this Section do not apply to any junk vehicle kept within an enclosed garage or ~~attached~~ shrouded with a vehicle cover in a legally permitted, permanent carport, or on the premises of a business enterprise when necessary to the functioning of such business operated in a lawful place and manner, or in an appropriate storage area or depository maintained in a lawful place and manner.

Sec. 120.3. Removal of junk vehicles on public property.

(a) Whenever the code enforcement officer ~~ascertains~~ determines that a junk vehicle is present on public property, he or she shall cause a notice to be placed upon the junk vehicle. In addition to this posting, he or she shall make a reasonable effort to ascertain the name and address of the owner of the vehicle, and upon such discovery he or she shall mail on the date of posting a copy of this notice to the owner of the vehicle.

(b) The notice required by Section 120.3(a) of this Code must be substantially in the following form:

NOTICE TO THE OWNER AND ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ATTACHED PROPERTY. This property, described as: (setting forth brief description) is unlawfully upon public property known as (setting forth brief description of location) and must be removed within ten days from date of this notice; otherwise, it will be presumed to be an abandoned junk vehicle and will be removed and destroyed by order of Seminole County.

Dated this: (setting forth the date of posting of notice). Signed: (setting forth name, title,
94 address, and telephone number of code enforcement officer).

Such notice must be not less than eight inches by ten inches and must be sufficiently weatherproof
96 to withstand normal exposure to the elements.

(c) It is unlawful for the owner of a junk vehicle to fail to remove the junk vehicle from
98 public property within ten days from the posting of the notice described above, or to fail to show
reasonable grounds for the failure to do so within this time limit.

(d) If at the end of ten days after posting such notice the owner or any person interested
100 in the junk vehicle described in such notice has not removed the junk vehicle from public property
102 or shown reasonable cause for failure to do so, the code enforcement officer may cause the junk
vehicle to be removed and destroyed. The salvage value, if any, of such junk vehicle will be
104 retained by the County and applied against the cost of removal and destruction of the junk vehicle.

Sec. 120.4. Removal of junk vehicles located on private property.

106 Whenever the code enforcement officer ~~ascertains~~ determines that a junk vehicle is present
on private property, the code enforcement officer shall follow the authorized procedures
108 established in Chapter 95, Part 1 (Nuisances), Seminole County Code, as amended.

~~Sec. 120.5. Power of Board of County Commissioners to contract for removal.~~

110 ~~The Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized and empowered to contract on~~
~~an exclusive or nonexclusive basis with any person as the Board deems advisable for the purpose~~
112 ~~of removing and destroying junk vehicles abandoned or kept on public property in violation of this~~
~~Part upon the direction of the enforcement officer.~~

114 **Sec. 120.6~~5~~. Costs of removal.**

All expenses incurred in the removal and destruction of junk vehicles ~~from public property~~
must be paid to the person designated by the Board of County Commissioners to remove and
destroy them by the owner of the junk vehicle ~~if the owner can be determined, or, if not, then by~~
~~the County.~~

~~Sec. 120.7. Reserved~~

~~Sees. 120.8—120.30. Reserved.~~

Sec. 120.6—120.30. Reserved.

Section 3. Codification. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that
the provisions of this Ordinance will become and be made a part of the Seminole County Code,
and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or other appropriate word
or phrase and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such
intention, except that Sections 1, 3, 4 and 5 of this Ordinance are not to be codified.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision or application of this Ordinance to any person
or circumstance is held invalid, then it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that
such invalidity will not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given
effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance
are declared severable.

Section 5. Effective date. This Ordinance will take effect upon filing a copy of this
Ordinance with the Department of State by the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

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BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, this

136 _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

GRANT MALOY
Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners of
Seminole County, Florida

JAY ZEMBOWER, Chairman

JBN/kw
10/20/25