

Code Enforcement

Mission:

To provide fair, sensitive, and timely responses to the concerns of the residents of Hawaiian Gardens in order to maintain and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

The Code Enforcement Division responds to complaints from citizens and other agencies regarding the enforcement of all Municipal Code regulations and Ordinances within the City of Hawaiian Gardens.

To help facilitate compliance with the City's standards, the City Council has initiated a program to help provide residents with an understanding of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code as it relates to some of the more common code enforcement issues.

Other brochures in the series discuss the following issues:

- Bulky Items, Illegal Dumping
- Canopies/Small Tents and Tarps
- Graffiti
- Trash and Debris
- Vendors and Peddlers

Pride and Responsibility

It is the City's goal to achieve voluntary compliance. We encourage tenants and property owners to take pride and responsibility in maintaining their properties.

If you have any questions regarding this issue or would like to report an abandoned vehicle or if you have another code enforcement issue in your neighborhood, please call the City of Hawaiian Gardens Code Enforcement Division at (562) 420-2641 Ext. 221/224/277.



Example of an inoperable vehicle stored within public view.

Abandoned, Inoperative, Dismantled, And Wrecked Vehicles

Understanding Code Enforcement General Guidelines



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Community Development Department
Code Enforcement Division
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The Problem

The collection and storage of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or vehicle parts on private property negatively affects neighborhoods in Hawaiian Gardens by:

- Reducing property values,
- Promoting blight and deterioration,
- Inviting plundering,
- Creating fire hazards,
- Creating health and safety hazards for minors,
- Providing a shelter for rodents and insects,
- And, it all adds up to a public nuisance.

Because this situation constitutes a public nuisance, the City Council has given the Community Development Director the authority to administer and enforce the Municipal Code as it pertains to abandoned and inoperative vehicles (HGMC Chapter 10.24).

Enforcement

When Code Enforcement Officers make a determination that a vehicle (or parts of a vehicle) is abandoned, dismantled, inoperative, or wrecked, they can begin the Administrative Citation Process to initiate the removal of the nuisance. This process includes, but is not limited to, issuing warning notices and citations to the property owner and/or registered owner of the vehicle. If the owner does not remove the vehicle, additional citations can be issued with increased fees for each violation. Refer to the brochure titled "Code Enforcement" in this series for a full description of the role of Code Enforcement and the Administrative Citation Process.

Final Notice & Removal

Once Code Enforcement Officers have exhausted all options available under the Administrative Citation Process, a **Notice of Intention to Abate or Remove the Vehicle as a Public Nuisance** shall be mailed to both the property owner where the vehicle is located and to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Title 10: Vehicles and Traffic Chapter 10.24: Abandoned or Inoperative Vehicles

DEFINITIONS

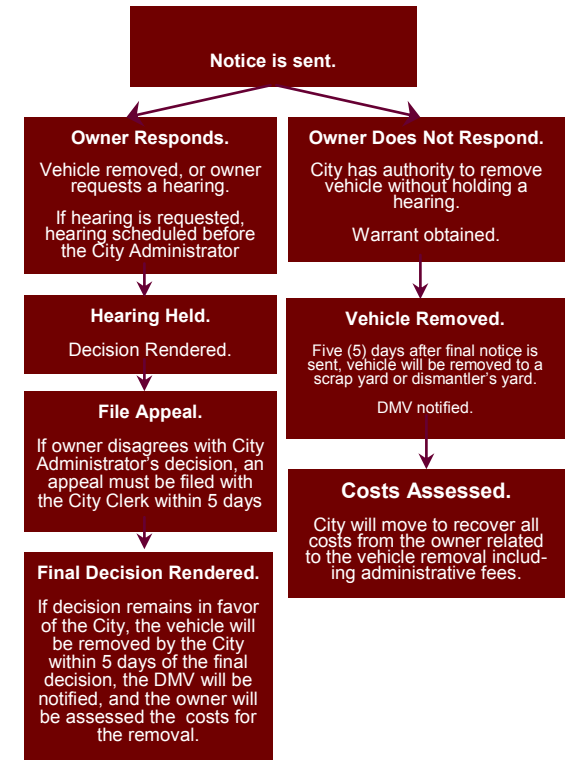
Abandoned Vehicle: A vehicle that the most recent registered owner has given up or abandoned, with the intent of never again claiming ownership; and/or a vehicle in which the most recent registered owner has ceased to maintain, repair or keep up; and/or any vehicle left unattended on private property without the consent of the owner or lessee of such property or his/her legally authorized agent.

Dismantled Vehicle: A vehicle that the most recent registered owner is removing critical parts for sale or use on another vehicle. A critical part is any part that is needed to safely operate the vehicle, which includes but not limited to, a wheel or tire, windshield, door, side quarter panel, trunk, hood, roof, steering wheel or transmission.

Inoperative Vehicle: A vehicle from which is missing major essential parts, damage to or inoperative condition of any component part of lack of such a part, which includes but is not limited to an engine, transmission, battery, wheels, windshield, axles, lights or other parts, current registration tag and/or license plate, a flat tire, or driver side mirrors, that are necessary for it to be legally operated on city streets; and/or there is a build-up of trash, debris, moss or weeds on, in under or around the vehicle that obstructs its use.

Wrecked Vehicle: A vehicle or the remnants or remains of a vehicle that has been involved in a crash or wreck, vandalism or other cause, and has been rendered un-drivable or unmovable in its current condition, and which is inoperative and cannot be made mechanically operative without the addition of vital parts or mechanism, which include but is not limited to, a wheel or tire, windshield, door, side quarter panel, trunk, hood, roof, steering wheel or transmission.

The flowchart below illustrates this notification process. Refer to Chapter 10.24 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code for a full description of the process for the notification and removal of a public nuisance vehicle. The removal of any vehicle shall require the issuance of an abatement warrant from the Superior Court.



Exemptions

There are two exemptions listed in the Municipal Code that would allow a dismantled, inoperative, or wrecked vehicle to remain on private property so long as it does not constitute a public or private nuisance:

- The vehicle must be completely enclosed within a building in a lawful manner; or,
- The vehicle is parked on private property in connection with a business that is licensed as a dismantler, vehicle dealer, junk dealer, or another type of licensed business where the storage or parking of inoperative, wrecked, or dismantled vehicles is necessary for the operation of the business.