



PRIVATE PROPERTY VEHICLE ABATEMENT

This information is being shared with you in order to inform you of the City's plan to more aggressively enforce the "**Private Property Vehicle Abatement Program**"; a program which has been in place for several years. This program was previously administered through the City's Fire Department and recently transferred to the Housing & Economic Development Department.

The City's intent with this program is to focus on **Neighborhood Preservation**; improving the quality and appearance of our neighborhoods. We are counting on you to assist us in this effort by maintaining your vehicles and fulfilling both state and local laws as they relate to the parking and storage of vehicles.

Over the coming weeks and months, the City's Vehicle Abatement Officer will be surveying each neighborhood throughout town to ensure that no illegal vehicles are parked or stored on private properties. For those properties found to be illegal or out of compliance, owners will receive a Courtesy Letter. This letter will allow owners a total of ten (10 calendar days) to abate the violation. After the ten days expires, and if the violation remains, the property owner, if different from the vehicle owner, will receive a 10 Day Notice and Order to abate the abandoned vehicle. During that 10 day period the vehicle owner will have an opportunity to request a hearing to determine the validity of the violation placed on the vehicle. Once the 10 days expires, and if the vehicle(s) continue to be in violation of the Municipal Code(s) the Vehicle Abatement Officer will have such vehicles towed from the property with no surrender to the vehicle owner. All vehicles towed will be destroyed.

If you have received a letter from Visalia Neighborhood Preservation Division about an abandoned vehicle(s) at your residence or property you may have questions as to what your options are regarding your vehicle and what plans the City of Visalia has in order to remove any violations therein. According to the Visalia Municipal Code(s):

10.32.010 Parking and storing prohibited.

It is unlawful and a misdemeanor for any person to abandon, park, store, or leave or permit the abandonment, parking, storing or leaving of any licensed or unlicensed vehicle or part thereof which is in an inoperative, abandoned, wrecked, or dismantled condition upon any private property.

10.32.020 Public Nuisance.

A. The accumulation and storage of inoperative, abandoned, wrecked or dismantled vehicles or parts thereof on private or public property including highways is found to create a condition tending to reduce the value of private property, to promote blight and deterioration, to invite plundering, to create fire hazards, to constitute an attractive nuisance creating a hazard to the health and safety of minors, to create a harborage for rodents and insects and to be injurious to the health, safety and general welfare. To abate, or remove the violation yourself, you may:

- Move the vehicle(s) into a garage
- Place the vehicle(s) into the back yard behind a solid fence no less than 6 ft. tall
- Make the vehicle(s) street legal by paying necessary fees to DMV and insurance
- And make vehicle operable by any legal means

We are hopeful that we can count on your support to improve the quality and appearance of our neighborhoods and make us all proud to live in them. If you should have any questions about the administration of this program please call either

Tommy Contreras, Vehicle Abatement Officer, Ph. 713-4194

Tracy Robertshaw, Code Enforcement Officer, Ph. 713-4187