

# Addressing Vehicle Issues in Your Community

To begin with, all vehicles in operable condition are required to have a DMV registration, a license plate, and a Fairfax County Decal. If you spot a car that does not have a current inspection sticker in the window or an expired license plate, please call the non-emergency police number at 703-691-2131 or the Franconia District Police Station at 703-922-0889. You may also report vehicles that do not have current county decals in the window to the Department of Tax Administration for tax evasion at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta) .

## **Inoperable Vehicles Parked on Private Property:**

Inoperable vehicles are those that have no license plate and/or state inspection or are obviously incapable of moving under their own power. If there are 5 vehicles or less that are visible from the property line and are not "screened or shielded from view," there is a special inoperable vehicle unit of the police department to call to report a complaint. That number is 703-280-0587. You will be asked to provide as much information regarding the vehicle and its location as possible. If there are more than 5 inoperable vehicles, the Zoning Enforcement folks will address the issue for possible violations of the Zoning Ordinance that restricts the storage of vehicles on private property.

The Zoning Enforcement number to call with complaints of more than 5 vehicles is 703-324-1300.

## **Abandoned/Inoperable Vehicles Parked on the Street:**

A vehicle that appears to be inoperable and that has been parked for more than 10 days on a public street without being moved will be tagged by the police department as abandoned. The vehicle owner has 10 days to move it and render it operable. If it is not moved, the police will tow the vehicle. To report an abandoned vehicle, call the non-emergency police number at 703-691-2131 or the Franconia District Police Station at 703-922-0889.

## **Operable Vehicles in Residential Areas Parked on Private Property:**

Parking of personal vehicles in operable condition is permitted on private property and may occur within a garage or carport or may be located on a driveway in the front, side or rear of any lot. In most residential areas, there are no location limitations for parking personal vehicles and/or creating driveways,/parking pads within the front and side yards of a lot. However, there are restrictions in certain residential districts on lots 36,000 square feet or less that require all vehicle and trailer parking to be located on a surfaced area (driveway/pad) in the front yard and there is a limit on the amount of front yard that may be surfaced. In addition, driveways/parking pads that are located in a rear yard can not cover more than 30% of the minimum required rear yard setback. For more information on these restrictions or to report a specific complaint regarding operable vehicles on private property, call Zoning Enforcement at 703-324-1300.

## **Vehicles Parked on the Front Lawn for more than 48 hours:**

There is a section of the Zoning Ordinance that restricts parking on the front lawn for more than 48 straight hours. The catch is that the vehicle has to be there for 48 **straight** hours, which is often not the case and is difficult to prove. If there are vehicles parked for extensive periods of time on front lawns in your community, call Zoning Enforcement at 703-324-1300.

## **Commercial Vehicles Parked on the Street in Residential Areas:**

Commercial vehicles of 12,000 lbs. or more (a big, big dump truck or semi) are not permitted to be parked on the street in residential areas. Vehicles that are less than 12,000 pounds (panel vans or pick-up trucks with lettering) are permitted on the street. However, when it comes to taxi cabs and limos, only one taxi or limo is permitted per address parked on the street within a residential area. If there are big, big trucks or numerous taxis parked on the street at a specific residential address, call the non-emergency police number at 703-691-2131 or the Franconia District Police Station at 703-922-0889.

## **Commercial Vehicles Parked on Private Property in Residential Areas :**

The Zoning Ordinance restricts the parking of commercial vehicles less than 12,000 lbs on private

property to one per dwelling unit. The one commercial vehicle per unit must be owned and/or operated by the occupant. Large commercial vehicles weighing 12,000 lbs. or more are not permitted to be parked on private property in residential areas at all.

There are numerous vehicle issues that could occur in a neighborhood and, as a result, cause numerous county agencies to be involved in enforcement efforts depending on the situation. I hope the above list is helpful in sorting out who to call and what restrictions apply to differing circumstances.

Please use any of the numbers above to help your community address vehicle concerns. Please also feel free to call our office with any community concern that you may have. We are always happy to help in any way that we can.

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