

CHAPTER SIX: VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC CODE

Subchapter 6.04: Towing and Removal of Vehicles

6.04.010 Findings.

In addition to and in accordance with the determination made and the authority granted by the State of California under Section 22660 of the Vehicle Code to remove abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof as public nuisances, the City Council of the Town of Colma hereby makes the following findings and declarations:

The accumulation and storage of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof on private or public property, not including highways, is hereby 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. Therefore, the presence of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle or parts thereof, on private or public property, not including highways, except as expressly hereinafter permitted, is hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance which may be abated as such in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

[*History:* formerly § 6.401; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.020 Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

- (a) The term *vehicle* means a device by which any person or property may be propelled, moved, or drawn upon a highway, except a device moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
- (b) The term *highway* means a way or place of whatever nature publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. Highway includes street.
- (c) The term *public property* does not include "highway".
- (d) The term *owner of the land* means the owner of the land on which the vehicle, or parts thereof, is located, as shown on the last equalized assessment roll.
- (e) The term *owner of the vehicle* means the last registered owner and legal owner of record.

[*History:* formerly § 6.402; Ord 249, 5/14/80; Ord. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.030 Exceptions.

This subchapter shall not apply to:

(a) A vehicle, or parts thereof, which is completely enclosed within a building in a lawful manner where it is not visible from the street or other public or private property;

(b) A vehicle, or parts thereof, which is stored or parked in a lawful manner on private property in connection with the business of a licensed dismantler, licensed vehicle dealer, a junk dealer, or when such storage or parking is necessary to the operation of a lawfully conducted business or commercial enterprise;

(c) A vehicle, or parts thereof, which are located behind a solid fence six (6) feet in height, in a lawful manner where it is not visible from the street or other public or private property.

Nothing in this section shall authorize the maintenance of a public or private nuisance as defined under provisions of law other than Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 22650) of Division 11 of the Vehicle Code and this subchapter.

[History: formerly § 6.403; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.040 Non-Exclusion Regulation.

This subchapter is not the exclusive regulation of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicles within the Town of Colma. It shall supplement and be in addition to the other regulatory codes, statutes, and ordinances heretofore or hereafter enacted by the Town of Colma, the State, or any other legal entity or agency having jurisdiction.

[History: formerly § 6.404; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.050 Enforcement.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the provisions of this subchapter shall be administered and enforced by the Chief of Police of the Town of Colma. In the enforcement of this subchapter such officer and his deputies may enter upon private or public property to examine a vehicle or parts thereof, or obtain information as to the identity of a vehicle and to remove or cause the removal of a vehicle or parts thereof declared to be a nuisance pursuant to this subchapter.

[History: formerly § 6.405; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.060 Vehicle Removal.

When the City Council of the Town of Colma has contracted with or granted a franchise to any person or persons, such person or persons shall be authorized to enter upon private property or public property to remove or cause the removal of a vehicle or parts thereof declared to be a nuisance pursuant to this ordinance.

[History: formerly § 6.406; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.070 Administrative Cost Assessment.

The City Council of the Town of Colma shall determine and fix an amount to be assessed as administrative costs (excluding the actual cost removal of any vehicle or parts thereof) under

this subchapter, which shall be established from time to time by the City Council of the Town of Colma by resolution.

[*History:* formerly § 6.407, ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 524, 1/14/98; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.080 Vehicle Removal.

Upon discovering the existence of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicle, or parts thereof, on private property or public property within the Town of Colma, the Chief of Police shall have the authority to cause the abatement and removal thereof in accordance with the procedure prescribed herein.

[*History:* formerly § 6.408; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.090 Notice of Vehicle Removal.

A ten (10) day notice of intention to abate and remove the vehicle, or parts thereof, as a public nuisance shall be mailed by registered or certified mail to the owner of the land and to the owner of the vehicle, unless the vehicle is in such condition that identification numbers are not available to determine ownership. The notice of intention shall be in substantially the following forms:

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ABATE AND REMOVE AN
ABANDONED, WRECKED, DISMANTLED, OR INOPERATIVE VEHICLE
OR PARTS THEREOF AS A PUBLIC NUISANCE**

(Name and address of owner of the land)

As owner shown on the last equalized assessment roll of the land located at (address), you are hereby notified that the undersigned, pursuant to Section 6.409 of the Colma Municipal Code, has determined that there exists upon said land an (or parts of an) abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle registered to _____, license number _____, which constitutes a public nuisance pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 249.

You are hereby notified to abate said nuisance by the removal of said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) within ten (10) days from the day of mailing of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the same will be abated and removed by the City and the costs thereof, together with administrative costs, assessed to you as owner of the land on which said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) is located.

As owner of the land on which said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) is located, you are hereby notified that you may, within ten (10) days after the mailing of this notice of intention, request a public hearing, and if such a request is not received by the City Council of the Town of Colma within such ten (10) day period, the Chief of Police shall have the authority to abate and remove said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) as a public nuisance and assess the costs as aforesaid without a public hearing. You may submit a sworn written statement within such ten (10) day period denying responsibility for the presence of said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) on said land, with your reasons for denial, and such statement shall be construed as a request for hearing at which your presence is not required. You may appear in person at any hearing requested by you or the owner of the vehicle or, in lieu thereof, may present a sworn written statement as aforesaid in time for consideration at such hearing.

Notice mailed _____.
(date)

City Clerk

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ABATE AND REMOVE AN
ABANDONED, WRECKED, DISMANTLED OR INOPERATIVE VEHICLE
OR PARTS THEREOF AS A PUBLIC NUISANCE**

(Name and address of last registered and/or
Legal owner of record of vehicle
Notice should be given to both if different)

As last registered (and/or legal) owner of record of (description of vehicle, make, model, license, etc.), you are hereby notified that the undersigned, pursuant to Section 6.409 of the Colma Municipal Code, has determined that said vehicle (or parts of a vehicle) exists as an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle at (describe location on public or private property) and constitutes a public nuisance pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 249.

You are hereby notified to abate said nuisance by the removal of said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) within ten (10) days from the date of mailing of this notice.

As registered (and/or legal) owner of record of said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle), you are hereby notified that you may, within ten (10) days after the mailing of this notice of intention, request a public hearing, and if such request is not received by the City Council of the Town of Colma within such ten (10) day period, the Chief of Police shall have the authority to abate and remove said vehicle (or said parts of a vehicle) without a hearing.

Notice mailed _____
(date)

City Clerk

[*History:* formerly § 6.409; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.100 Public Hearing - Vehicle Removal.

Upon request by the owner of the vehicle or owner of the land, received by the Chief of Police within ten (10) days after the mailing of the notices of intention to abate and remove, a public hearing shall be held by the City Council on the question of abatement and removal of the vehicle or parts thereof as an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle, and the assessment of the administrative costs and the cost of removal of the vehicle or parts thereof against the property on which it is located.

If the owner of the land submits a sworn statement denying responsibility for the presence of the vehicle on his land within such ten (10) day period, said statement shall be construed as a request for a hearing which does not require his presence. Notice of the hearing shall be mailed, by registered or certified mail, at least ten (10) days before the hearing to the owner of the land and to the owner of the vehicle, unless the vehicle is in such condition that identification numbers are not available to determine ownership. If such a request for hearing is not received within said ten (10) days after mailing of the notice of intention to abate and

remove, the Town of Colma shall have the authority to abate and remove the vehicle or parts thereof as a public nuisance without holding a public hearing.

[*History:* formerly § 6.410; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.110 Public Hearing Procedure.

All hearings under this subchapter shall be held before the City Council which shall hear all facts and testimony it deems pertinent. Said facts and testimony may include testimony on the condition of the vehicle or parts thereof and the circumstances concerning its location on the said private property or public property. The City Council shall not be limited by the technical rules of evidence. the owner of the land may appear in person at the hearing or present a sworn written statement in time for consideration at the hearing, and deny responsibility for the presence of the vehicle on the land, with his reason for such denial.

The City Council may impose such conditions and take such other action as it deems appropriate under the circumstances to carry out the purpose of this subchapter. It may delay the time for removal of the vehicle or parts thereof if, in its opinion, the circumstances justify it. At the conclusion of the public hearing the City Council may find that a vehicle or parts thereof has been abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or is inoperative on private or public property and order the same removed from the property as a public nuisance and disposed of as hereinafter provided and determine the administrative costs and the cost of removal to be charged against the owner of the land. The order requiring removal shall include a description of the vehicle or parts thereof and the correct identification number and license number of the vehicle available at the site.

If it is determined at the hearing that the vehicle was placed on the land without the consent of the owner of the land and that he has not subsequently acquiesced in its presence, the City Council shall not assess the costs of administration or removal of the vehicle against the property upon which the vehicle is located or otherwise attempt to collect such costs from such owner of the land.

If the owner of the land submits a sworn written statement denying responsibility for the presence of the vehicles on his land but does not appear, or if an interested party makes a written presentation to the City Council but does not appear, he shall be notified in writing of the decision.

[*History:* formerly § 6.411; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.120 Disposal of Vehicles.

Five (5) days after adoption of the order declaring the vehicle or parts thereof to be a public nuisance, or five (5) days from the date of mailing of notice of the decision, if such notice is required by Section 6.04.110, the vehicle or parts thereof may be disposed of by removal to a scrap yard or automobile dismantler's yard. After a vehicle has been removed it shall not thereafter be reconstructed or made operable.

[*History:* formerly § 6.412; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.130 Department of Motor Vehicle Notification.

Within five (5) days after the date of removal of the vehicle or parts thereof, notice shall be given to the Department of Motor Vehicles identifying the vehicle or parts thereof removed. At the same time, there shall be transmitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles any evidence of registration available, including registration certificates, certificates of title and license plates.

[History: formerly § 6.413; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

6.04.140 Payment of Administrative Costs.

If the administrative costs and the cost of removal which are charged against the owner of a parcel of land pursuant to Section 10 are not paid within thirty (30) days of the date of the order, such costs shall be assessed against the parcel of land pursuant to Section 38773.5 of the Government Code and shall be transmitted to the tax collector for collection. Said assessment shall have the same priority as other city taxes or assessments.

[History: formerly § 6.414; ORD 249, 5/14/80; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]