



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 30, 2022  
**TO:** Tracy City Council via Sekou Millington, Chief of Police  
**FROM:** Ana Contreras, Community Preservation Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Illegal Dumping and Proactive Vehicle Abatement

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During the City Council Meeting of September 20, 2021, Council Member Davis requested information on Tracy Police Department's response to vehicle abatement and illegal dumping. The following information is provided in response to the request.

### ILLEGAL DUMPING

Incidents of illegal dumping are addressed on a reactive basis by the City's Public Works Department as a part of their Solid Waste Removal program. Complaints are accepted via telephone, GORquests, and referrals from City departments. Once received, Public Works documents the nuisance in their database, clean-up crews are dispatched, and the area is cleared within a few hours of being reported. This level of response prevents illegal dump sites from becoming illegal disposal sites.

### VEHICLE ABATEMENT

In May 2021, the Vehicle Abatement section of the Tracy Police Department was transferred from the Traffic Unit to the Code Enforcement Unit as part of a consolidation of responsibilities within the Department. After the transition, parking enforcement procedures and case priority processes were streamlined to improve customer service, service delivery and case documentation.

The Vehicle Abatement team consists of two (2) part-time Parking Interns who work 20 hours per week with a maximum of 980 hours per year. During their normal tour of duty, Parking Interns respond to reports of nuisance vehicles which include abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, unregistered (in excess of 6 months), and vehicles parked in one location, unmoved, for more than 72 hours. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, and inoperative vehicles can create conditions that promote blight, attract crime, and create hazardous conditions to the public.

Vehicles considered both a safety concern and contribute to extreme blight include:

- Vehicles on jacks or blocks
- Are missing or have shattered windows
- Are vandalized/graffiti (non-commercial vehicle)
- Have significantly flat tires
- Display multiple aged or weathered citations
- Have deployed airbags
- Unattached trailers
- Attracting illegal dumping activities.

A vehicle is considered inoperable if it is missing the engine, windshield, steering wheel, driver's

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seat, or tires/wheels.

Violations are reported to Code Enforcement by any one of the following methods:

- Code Enforcement General Delivery Email
- Vehicle Abatement Hotline
- Government Outreach (GOApp) Mobile Platform
- Walk-In Customers
- Calls referred by Tracy’s Dispatch Center
- Flag downs by neighborhood residents.

The procedure for addressing vehicle complaints involves the following:

- The complaint is received and assigned a case number and a Parking Intern.
- The complaint is investigated within 48 to 72 hours of receipt; however, this time frame may be less depending on caseload.
- If the report is unsubstantiated, the case is closed.
- If the report is substantiated, the vehicle is posted with a Notice of Intention to Abate and Remove Vehicle with a ten (10) day compliance period to either (a) remove the vehicle or (b) relocate the vehicle a minimum of 200 feet from existing location. *(Note: a vehicle parked on the street with expired registration (in excess of 6 months) or in a hazardous condition, will be towed immediately and without notice to the registered vehicle owner).*
- Upon re-inspection, if the vehicle has been moved, the case is deemed closed. If the vehicle remains unmoved, it will be towed at the owner’s expense. For cases involving 72-hour parking violations, the vehicle is tagged, and a courtesy letter is sent to the registered owner along with a ten (10) day compliance period.
- Upon reinspection, if the vehicle remains non-compliant, it is then towed.
- Under due process law, the registered owner is entitled to appeal the tow by submitting an Administrative Appeal to the Tracy Police Department within ten (10) days of the date appearing on the Notice mailed to the registered owner, legal owner of record, or their agent. The appeal must be heard within 48 business hours of the request.

When investigating a reported violation, Parking Interns will proactively address any other inoperative or hazardous vehicle located within the same area.

The following chart depicts actual statistics of cases opened, investigated, and closed between January 1, 2022, to September 27, 2022, and during the same timeframe in 2021:

	1/1/2021 through 9/27/2021	1/1/2022 through 9/27/2022
Cases Opened	861	1,090
Cases Closed	958	1,077
Appeals	5	0

In addition to performing vehicle abatements, Parking Interns provide traffic control during emergency situations and planned community events when needed.

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# TRACY POLICE DEPARTMENT

In light of the limited resources within the Parking Enforcement section, staff is pursuing options to keep up with the demands associated with vehicle abatement, and to proactively address vehicle nuisances that are unreported. These options include:

- Utilizing the Police Department's VIPs to assist with vehicle abatement on a proactive basis.
- Messaging on social media platforms to educate and prevent vehicles owners from violating state and local laws.
- Engage Patrol Officers to address nuisance vehicles observed within their respective beats.

As always, I am available to provide additional information if needed.

*Ana Contreras*

Ana Contreras  
Community Preservation Manager

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