

CITY OF YAKIMA

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT

200 South Third Street, 2nd Fl. | Yakima, WA 98901

P: 509.575.6030 | F: 509.575.6160

MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2019

TO: Cliff Moore, City Manager; City Council

FROM: Brooke Goosman, Senior Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT: Vehicle Impound Ordinance, Chapter 9.47 of the Yakima Municipal Code

Below is a proposed amendment to the “Definitions” section of the Vehicle Impound Ordinance in Yakima Municipal Code 9.47.010. The City could amend our definition of Junk Vehicles to have a more specific definition than what is contained in the YMC and the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 46.55, Towing and Impoundment.

Our current definition of Junk Vehicle:

“Junk vehicle” means a motor vehicle certified by the chief of police or his designee as meeting at least three of the following requirements:

- (1) Is three years or older;
- (2) Is extensively damaged, such damage including, but not limited to, any of the following: a broken window or windshield, or missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;
- (3) Is apparently inoperable;
- (4) Has a fair market value equal only to the value of the scrap in it.

Addition of the definition of “inoperable.” This definition could be helpful to Code Enforcement to have a definition of “inoperable” which would allow for more vehicles to be regulated. Adding this definition could allow Code Enforcement to compel property owners or residents to remove any unlicensed vehicle, when the vehicle is unlicensed plus meets two or more of the requirements listed in the “Junk Vehicle” definition.

The proposed definition:

“Inoperable vehicle” means a motor vehicle substantially meeting the following requirements:

1. Not having valid vehicle license and tabs; or
2. Damaged to such extent as to render it illegal for operation on any public highway, including but not limited to any of the following: broken head or taillights, broken or missing mirrors, cracked or missing window or windshield, deflated tires, missing seats or steering wheel, or other general conditions that would render a vehicle incapable of being driven on a public highway.