

## **Boerne Police and Code Enforcement Work Together on Junked Vehicles and Parking Violations**

Have you ever wondered how long an old car or truck has been parked in front of someone's house, or in someone's front yard? Have you ever wondered why the resident hasn't removed the vehicle in front of their house?

In 2018, there were approximately 78 calls to the Boerne Police Department for abandoned or junk vehicles. The city's Code Enforcement office also receives similar complaints.

According to the city ordinance on abandoned and junked vehicles, a junked vehicle is considered a vehicle that displays an expired registration and has remained unmoved on private property more than thirty days or more than seventy-two hours if on public property. An abandoned vehicle is considered any vehicle more than five years old, inoperable, and/or left unattended on public property for more than forty-eight hours.

To help deal with this problem, Boerne Police Officer Thomas (Tom) Moberly is the primary abandoned/junked vehicle officer. Since 2011 he has worked with the Code Enforcement staff to reduce the number of abandoned/junked vehicles in the City of Boerne.

Abandoned/junked vehicles in a neighborhood can decrease property values and leave an impression with the criminal element that the neighborhood doesn't care.

When Moberly receives a call for service from a citizen wanting to report an abandoned vehicle, he will attempt to contact the registered owner of the vehicle and recommend they get their vehicle inspected and registered.

If the owner of the vehicle does not comply with the ordinance, Code Enforcement and/or the Police Department will mail a certified letter to the registered owner's address. If the owner does not take action within ten days of receipt, a citation may be issued by Code Enforcement or the Boerne Police Department.

Officer Moberly meets with Code Enforcement staff weekly to discuss abandoned/junked vehicle calls and complaints in the city limits. They work with citizens who are in violation to offer advice on how to get their vehicles registered in a timely manner.

Details on the abandoned/junked vehicle ordinance can be found in the City of Boerne Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 (Section on Nuisances). The ordinance also refers to the state regulations from the Texas Transportation Code which further defines abandoned vehicles, junked vehicles, notification to the vehicle owner, and the exceptions to the city ordinance and applicable laws. Code Enforcement receives calls in reference to travel trailers and RVs parked in neighborhoods. Travel trailers and RVs are not permitted to park in neighborhoods unless loading or unloading. Details on parking ordinances are located in Chapter 12 in the City of Boerne Code of Ordinances.

Citizens who want to get rid of their vehicles can contact Officer Moberly for information or check out any number of websites that offer removal of abandoned/junked vehicles service. The vehicle removal companies and organizations can even work with residents who don't have the vehicle bill of sale, vehicle title, or can't find the key to the vehicle.

Citizens can park their unregistered/uninspected vehicles in their garage or park the vehicle where it is out of public view behind a privacy fence. Business owners and apartment complex managers/owners can post signs on private property parking lots indicating that unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. The display of these signs eliminates the potential liability of the merchant or property owner when unauthorized vehicles are parked on private property. The signs can also expedite the process of removing an abandoned/junked vehicle.



**TOWING ENFORCED  
AT ALL TIMES**

**CUSTOMER PARKING ONLY**

**UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED  
AT OWNER'S OR OPERATOR'S EXPENSE**

**TO LOCATE A VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN TOWED,  
CALL 830-981-5120  
K.W. TOWING, LLC  
918 ADLER ST., BOERNE, TX**



For any questions about abandoned/junked vehicles, please contact Officer Moberly at the Boerne Police Department at (830)249-8645 or email him at [tmoberly@ci.boerne.tx.us](mailto:tmoberly@ci.boerne.tx.us). In addition, Code Enforcement Officer Betty Kwasneski can be reached at (830)248-1529 or by email at [bkwasneski@ci.boerne.tx.us](mailto:bkwasneski@ci.boerne.tx.us)