

Abandoned vehicles

The City of Vancouver is authorized to ticket, tow, and impound vehicles abandoned on city streets and laneways under Impounding Bylaw 3519.

A vehicle is considered abandoned if it:

- Is unlicensed
- Is uninsured
- Does not display valid plates
- Is in poor condition - e.g. is damaged or in obvious disrepair - or inoperable
- Has been parked for more than 14 days on a street other than the street recorded as the address of the registered owner

Report an abandoned vehicle

To report an abandoned vehicle, contact 3-1-1. They will need the:

- Vehicle location
- License plate
- Date expired
- Make
- Colour

Due to the high demand for towing, it can take up to four days to impound a vehicle.

If your vehicle is reported abandoned

If we determine your vehicle has been abandoned, we will:

- Attach an orange informational sticker on your windshield
- Leave a violation notice or ticket
- Give you 48 hours to insure the vehicle, or move it off city property
- Tow your vehicle if it has not been insured or moved

Abandoned Autos

The task of the Abandoned Autos section is to respond to reports of vehicles being illegally stored on the public streets. When a vehicle is found in violation, a tow warning notice is placed on it, so that the vehicle owner has the opportunity to correct the violation. Our goal is to achieve voluntary compliance, but vehicles remaining in violation after being warned can be towed and impounded by City order.

Violations can be reported by giving us the location of the vehicle, its make, color and style, and the license number if any.

Abandoned Auto 24-hour reporting line

Phone: 503-823-7309 FAX: 503-823-6138

Abandoned Auto Office line

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Phone: 503-823-6814

An abandoned vehicle is defined by City Code (section 16.90.005 (<http://portlandoregon.gov/28597?a=16333>)) as one that is:

illegally stored, in excess of 24 hours, on the street,
and in addition, either:

does not display valid license plates, or
appears inoperative, disabled, wrecked, or dismantled.

It is unlawful to park an abandoned vehicle in the public right-of-way, public park, or city-owned or operated property, according to section 16.20.120 (<http://portlandoregon.gov/28591?a=16044>) of the City Code.

We also put tow warnings on trucks, buses, trailers and RVs, which are prohibited from parking on the street except for the purpose of loading or unloading for a limited time (16.20.120 (<http://portlandoregon.gov/28591?a=16044>)).

Due to the high volume of reports, our goal is to look at a vehicle within a week of receiving a report, depending on workload.

Donald R. and Janie M. Wilson

1936 SE 162nd Ave. #A Portland, OR 97233 (503)351-3511 dwilsonor@msn.com

June 6, 2013

Portland City Commissioners
1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd Floor Counsel Chambers
Portland, Oregon

Dear City Commissioners,

Please accept these copies of the Abandoned Vehicles laws in Portland and in Vancouver, Washington. We are requesting the Portland law be changed to include the portion of the Vancouver law highlighted in green that reads, "A vehicle is considered abandoned if it: Has been parked for more than 14 days on a street other than the street recorded as the address of the registered owner." The Portland law leaves abandoned cars on our streets that can not be removed until the tires go flat, or the car is visibly inoperable, or the license plate expires. Here is our story:

We own a triplex at the above address in Multnomah County and live in one unit and rent out the other two spaces. On or about May 6, 2013 a Juan Sandoval was arrested, for drug possession on his person, as he exited his car to pick up our tenant in Unit B. His white Mercury Cougar with a stick shift, Oregon license plate 981 ESK, was searched by a police dog for drugs but none were found. The arresting Sheriff, Joshua Zwick, left Juan's car parked legally on the street directly out front of our triplex, which is about 15 feet from our front door. Juan's car keys were left with our tenant in Unit B so she could remove the car for her friend, but when we spoke to her about its removal she told us she does not drive a stick shift.

Our tenant in Unit B told us she was moving out in a month, so we displayed our FOR RENT sign out front. The car became a concern when on May 11th it was still parked where it was left on May 6th, so I called and left a message for Sheriff Zwick to call me. We have three garages that our tenants use for storage and 4 parking spaces in our off street parking lot. With tenants owning at least 2 cars each, some of their cars are parked out front of our triplex in the street. A third of the street parking space in front of our triplex is taken up by a bank of post office boxes for our triplex and for all the homes on the short dead end around the corner on Harrison Street. There is no street parking allowed on Harrison.

We understand the street parking is not designated for our triplex but my question to Sheriff Zwick was how long will Juan be in jail and why was his car not impounded as part of a drug bust? His answer was that Juan was not convicted of a crime yet, and the car was legally parked, so the Sheriff's department has no obligation to impound his car.

Sheriff Zwick and I discussed my conversation with the supervisor of the City Parking Violations Department, Donald Hunter. Mr. Hunter, and his assistant Sherry Layman, told me even if they put a tag on Juan's car saying it needs to be moved there is nothing further they can do about it because the license plate doesn't expire until May, 2014, and the car is

not visibly inoperable (despite the fact it has no windshield wipers) nor does it have a flat tire. I was also told the parking department does not chalk tires and tow away cars after a certain period of non movement because they want to encourage people to ride the MAX train. Giving two weeks of non movement should suffice for any MAX train rider's car.

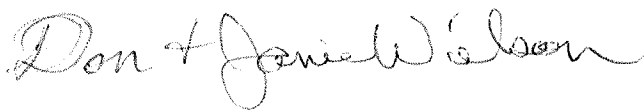
I was not satisfied with either answer from Officer Zwick or Mr. Hunter, so I called and made a complaint with Sergeant Scott Johnson of the Multnomah County Sheriffs Department. I had several conversations with Sgt. Johnson and at one point informed him I was told Juan Sandoval was an illegal alien who had been sent to Tacoma for deportation. I asked if that would make any difference in the Sheriff's ability to impound the car? Sgt. Johnson was not sure that just because Juan was sent to Tacoma that he would definitely be deported, but he made an attempt to speak to my tenant again about the car being removed because we are trying to re-rent her unit, and the car was directly out front.

Someone visiting Unit B was able to move the vehicle north up the street about 150 feet next to the side yard of my new neighbor, Lynn. Lynn bought a house that was empty for some time, and we have tried to stay on good terms as he has improved the looks of the yard tremendously. We spoke to him about his trees hanging over our fence and the mess they make from their leaves and blossoms falling on our cars. We thought he understood we would cut off the branches straight up from the fence line on our side. When we cut the branches he came out and was very upset about the trimming, so now the car in front of my unit is going to sit next to his house for probably a year till the license expires. We certainly didn't want Lynn to think it was some revenge tactic over the tree trimming incident, so I told him all the facts about the car and apologized for it being left next to his house, but explained I was going to City Hall to try to change the abandoned vehicle laws.

What I have a hard time accepting is the explanation that the Sheriff's department has "no obligation" to do more with a car involved in a drug bust than to leave it parked in front of a well maintained triplex, or next to our neighbors side yard on a public street for the duration of the license plates legal time limit. What about the obligation the city and county has to their citizens who live in a neighborhood they take pride in? Citizens who don't want cars left on our streets for months that belong to illegal aliens who are in jail, and most likely going to be deported and never come back for their car. Especially, an abandoned car that is taking up valued street parking, in front of income property. This car is affecting our livelihood because it is making it hard for us to re-rent our apartment and to rent to other citizens who are in need of well maintained housing.

A few days ago the car disappeared. I was told someone who knew Juan came and got it. Fortunately, in this situation, the car was eventually moved, but the abandoned car laws in Portland need to be changed as suggested, so citizens like ourselves do not have to spend as much time as we have trying to find a solution to an abandoned vehicle. I would appreciate your response to this request to change the abandoned vehicle law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don + Janie Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Don and Janie Wilson

Parsons, Susan

From: Jaine Wilson [jwilsonwaesq@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 1:41 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: Agenda addition City counsel meeting June 12

Hi Susan,

I spoke to you today on the phone concerning the problem I am having with the abandoned vehicle in front of my triplex. Please put my name on the City Counsel meeting for June 12 at 9:30 am so I can address the issue of abandoned vehicles left on the street when the owner was arrested and taken to jail.

Thank you for your assistance,

Janie Marie Wilson
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 16854
Portland, OR 97292
PHONE: (206)963-3564
jwilsonwaesq@gmail.com

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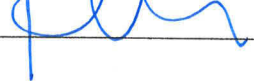
Request of Janie Wilson to address Council regarding abandoned vehicles
(Communication)

JUN 12 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JUN 07 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		