

## City Ordinance Spotlight

The Oneida City Police Department has seen an increase in complaints and violations regarding 'junk vehicles' on properties. So, we wanted to take a moment to educate and remind the community of the local laws.

First, an ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE is any motor vehicle which is not operable or which has been abandoned, junked or discarded or stored in such a manner that the vehicle is not readily operable. A JUNKED CAR is any remnant of a stripped motor vehicle which is not readily operable. Any motor vehicle which is older than seven model years and unlicensed shall also be deemed to be an abandoned motor vehicle or junked car.

Next, the local laws include ordinances which prohibit the placement, deposit, storage, and permission/allowance of any abandoned motor vehicle or junked vehicle to remain upon any private property or land in the City of Oneida, except when sheltered in a garage or other similar enclosure away from public view.

Exceptions to this include commercial garages and new or used car dealers at their place of business. But, any person wishing to display for sale, on their property, an unregistered motor vehicle, or store an unregistered seasonal use vehicle, must first obtain a permit from City Hall. If granted permission, any unregistered seasonal use vehicle outside of a garage must be kept covered with a fitted cover, tarpaulin or similar opaque covering during the season or part of the year it is not licensed or intended for on-road operation.

Furthermore, it is a violation for anyone to display license plates on an unregistered vehicle when the vehicle is not registered and meets the criteria of an abandoned or junked vehicle.

(For reference, see section 180-15 of the Oneida City Ordinances)

It is also unlawful for anyone to allow or keep, pile or store any motor vehicles or vehicle, or part thereof, unregistered, upon any municipal parking lot, street or public place within the City without authorization. The vehicle in violation will need to be removed within 24 hours of receipt of an appearance ticket, or it will be considered a nuisance, and may be towed.

Violations of these local laws can be punishable by fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$250 for a first offense; for a second conviction by a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$400; and for a third conviction by a fine of not less than \$400 nor more than \$600 and/or 15 days imprisonment. Every day a violation of this section shall continue shall constitute a separate and punishable offense.

Furthermore, there are additional provisions which may result in the removal of the vehicle by the city, at the property owner's expense.

For more information on the City ordinances, please visit: <https://ecode360.com/ON1850>