

303.083 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

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CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO

CERTIFICATION

ROSTER OF OFFICIALS

ADOPTING ORDINANCE NO. 116-84

COMPARATIVE SECTION TABLE

TABLES OF SPECIAL ORDINANCES OF SHEFFIELD LAKE

CHARTER

PART ONE - ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE

TITLE ONE - Administration

CHAPTER 301 Definitions

CHAPTER 303 Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty

303.01 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWFUL ORDER OF POLICE OFFICER; FLEEING.

303.02 TRAFFIC DIRECTION IN EMERGENCIES; OBEDIENCE TO SCHOOL GUARD.

303.03 OFFICER MAY REMOVE IGNITION KEY.

303.04 ROAD WORKERS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT EXCEPTED.

303.041 EMERGENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORONER'S VEHICLES EXEMPT.

303.05 APPLICATION TO PERSONS RIDING, DRIVING ANIMALS UPON ROADWAY.

303.06 FREEWAY USE PROHIBITED BY PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND ANIMALS.

303.07 APPLICATION TO DRIVERS OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES.

303.08 IMPOUNDING OF VEHICLES; REDEMPTION.

303.081 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

303.082 PRIVATE TOW-AWAY ZONES.

303.083 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

303.09 LEAVING JUNK AND OTHER VEHICLES ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION OR NOTIFICATION.

303.10 PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLICE OFFICER.

303.99 GENERAL TRAFFIC CODE PENALTIES.

303.991 COMMITTING AN OFFENSE WHILE DISTRACTED PENALTY.

CHAPTER 305 Traffic Control

TITLE THREE - Streets and Traffic Control Devices

TITLE FIVE - Vehicles

TITLE SEVEN - Parking

TITLE NINE - Pedestrians, Bicycles and Motorcycles

PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE

PART SEVEN - BUSINESS REGULATION CODE

PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE

PART ELEVEN - PLANNING AND ZONING CODE

PART THIRTEEN - BUILDING CODE

PART FIFTEEN - FIRE PREVENTION CODE

OH

Sheffield Lake

Codified Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH

303.083 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

CHAPTER 303 Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty

303.082 PRIVATE TOW-AWAY ZONES.

(a) The owner of a private property may establish a private tow-away zone, but may do so only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The owner of the private property posts on the property a sign, that is at least eighteen inches by twenty-four inches in size, that is visible from all entrances to the property, and that includes all of the following information:

A. A statement that the property is a tow-away zone;

B. A description of persons authorized to park on the property. If the property is a residential property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only tenants and guests may park in the private tow-away zone, subject to the terms of the property owner. If the property is a commercial property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only customers may park in the private tow-away zone. In all cases, if it is not apparent which persons may park in the private tow-away zone, the owner of the private property shall include on the sign the address of the property on which the private tow-away zone is located, or the name of the business that is located on the property designated as a private tow-away zone.

C. If the private tow-away zone is not enforceable at all times, the times during which the parking restrictions are enforced;

D. The telephone number and the address of the place from which a towed vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night;

E. A statement that the failure to recover a towed vehicle may result in the loss of title to the vehicle as provided in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4505.101.

In order to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the owner of a private property may modify an existing sign by affixing to the existing sign stickers or an addendum in lieu of replacing the sign.

(2) A towing service ensures that a vehicle towed under this section is taken to a location from which it may be recovered that complies with all of the following:

A. It is located within twenty-five linear miles of the location of the private tow-away zone, unless it is not practicable to take the vehicle to a place of storage within twenty-five linear miles.

B. It is well-lighted.

C. It is on or within a reasonable distance of a regularly scheduled route of one or more modes of public transportation, if any public transportation is available in the municipal corporation or township in which the private tow-away zone is located.

(b) (1) If a vehicle is parked on private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation, the owner of the private property may cause the removal of the vehicle by a towing service. The towing service shall remove the vehicle in accordance with this section. The vehicle owner and the operator of the vehicle are considered to have consented to the removal and storage of the vehicle, to the payment of the applicable fees established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, and to the right of a towing service to obtain title to the vehicle if it remains unclaimed as provided in Ohio R.C. 4505.101. The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that has been removed under this section, subject to subsection (c) of this section, may recover the vehicle in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

(2) If a municipal corporation requires tow trucks and tow truck operators to be licensed, no owner of a private property located within the municipal corporation shall cause the removal and storage of any vehicle pursuant to subsection (b) of this section by an unlicensed tow truck or unlicensed tow truck operator.

(3) No towing service shall remove a vehicle from a private tow-away zone except pursuant to a written contract for the removal of vehicles entered into with the owner of the private property on which the private tow-away zone is located.

(c) If the owner or operator of a vehicle that is being removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section, arrives after the vehicle has been prepared for removal, but prior to the actual removal from the property, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator oral or written notification at the time of such arrival that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a fee of not more than one-half of the fee for the removal of the vehicle established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, in order to obtain release of the vehicle. That fee may be paid by use of a major credit card unless the towing service uses a mobile credit card processor and mobile service is not available at the time of the transaction. Upon payment of that fee, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator a receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed and the actual amount received and shall release the vehicle to the owner or operator. Upon its release the owner or operator immediately shall move the vehicle so that the vehicle is not parked on the private property established as a private tow-away zone without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation.

(d) (1) Prior to towing a vehicle under subsection (b) of this section, a towing service shall make all reasonable efforts to take as many photographs as necessary to evidence that the vehicle is clearly parked on private property in violation of a private tow-away zone established under subsection (a) of this section.

The towing service shall record the time and date of the photographs taken under this section. The towing service shall retain the photographs and the record of the time and date, in electronic or printed form, for at least thirty days after the date on which the vehicle is recovered by the owner or lienholder or at least two years after the date on which the vehicle was towed, whichever is earlier.

(2) A towing service shall deliver a vehicle towed under subsection (b) of this section to the location from which it may be recovered not more than two hours after the time it was removed from the private tow-away zone, unless the towing service is unable to deliver the motor vehicle within two hours due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or other event that is not within the power of the towing service.

(e) (1) If an owner of a private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section causes the removal of a vehicle from that property by a towing service under subsection (b) of this section, the towing service, within two hours of removing the vehicle, shall provide notice to the law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation concerning all of the following:

- A. The vehicle's license number, make, model and color;
- B. The location from which the vehicle was removed;
- C. The date and time the vehicle was removed;
- D. The telephone number of the person from whom the vehicle may be recovered;
- E. The address of the place from which the vehicle may be recovered.

(2) The chief of a law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation shall maintain a record of any vehicle removed from private property in the chief's jurisdiction that is established as a private tow-away zone of which the chief has received notice under this section. The record shall include all information submitted by the towing service. The chief shall provide any information in the record that pertains to a particular vehicle to a person who, either in person or pursuant to a

telephone call, identifies self as the owner, operator or lienholder of the vehicle, and requests information pertaining to the vehicle.

(f) (1) When a vehicle is removed from private property in accordance with this section, within three business days of the removal, the towing service or storage facility from which the vehicle may be recovered shall cause a search to be made of either of the following to ascertain the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle:

A. The records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;

B. The records of any vendor or vendors, approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, that are capable of providing real-time access to owner and lienholder information.

(2) The towing service or storage facility may search the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System in order to determine the state in which the vehicle is titled. The entity that provides the record of the owner and any lienholder under this division shall ensure that such information is provided in a timely manner.

(3) Subject to subsection (f)(6) of this section, the towing service or storage facility shall send notice to the vehicle owner and any known lienholder as follows:

A. Within five business days after the applicable entity provides the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the motor vehicle, if the vehicle remains unclaimed, to the owner's and lienholder's last known address by certified or express mail with return receipt requested, by certified mail with electronic tracking, or by a commercial carrier service utilizing any form of delivery requiring a signed receipt.

B. If the vehicle remains unclaimed thirty days after the first notice is sent, in the manner required under subsection (f)(3)A. of this section.

(4) Sixty days after any notice sent pursuant to subsection (f)(3) of this section is received, as evidenced by a receipt signed by any person, or the towing service or storage facility has been notified that delivery was not possible, the towing service or storage facility, if authorized under Ohio R.C. 4505.101(B), may initiate the process for obtaining a certificate of title to the motor vehicle as provided in that section.

(5) A towing service or storage facility that does not receive a signed receipt of notice, or a notification that delivery was not possible, shall not obtain, and shall not attempt to obtain, a certificate of title to the motor vehicle under Ohio R.C. 4505.101(B).

(6) With respect to a vehicle concerning which a towing service or storage facility is not eligible to obtain title under Ohio R.C. 4505.101, the towing service or storage facility need only comply with the initial notice required under subsection (f)(3)A. of this section.

(g) (1) The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that is removed under subsection (b) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:

A. Presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement;

B. Payment of the following fees:

1. All applicable fees established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, except that the lienholder of a vehicle may retrieve the vehicle without paying any storage fee for the period of time that the vehicle was in the possession of the towing service or storage facility prior to the date the lienholder received the notice sent under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section;

2. If notice has been sent to the owner and lienholder as described in subsection (f) of this section, a processing fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(2) A towing service or storage facility in possession of a vehicle that is removed under

authority of subsection (b) of this section shall show the vehicle owner, operator or lienholder who contests the removal of the vehicle all photographs taken under subsection (d) of this section. Upon request, the towing service or storage facility shall provide a copy of all photographs in the medium in which the photographs are stored, whether paper, electronic, or otherwise.

(3) When the owner of a vehicle towed under this section retrieves the vehicle, the towing service or storage facility in possession of the vehicle shall give the owner written notice that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed, the owner may be able to file a civil action under Ohio R.C. 4513.611.

(4) Upon presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement, the owner of a vehicle that is removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. The owner of the vehicle shall not retrieve any personal items from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner, unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability. For purposes of subsection (g)(4) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the vehicle.

(h) No person shall remove, or cause the removal of any vehicle from private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under this section, or store such a vehicle other than in accordance with this section, or otherwise fail to comply with any applicable requirement of this section.

(i) This section does not affect or limit the operation of Ohio R.C. 4513.60 or Ohio R.C. 4513.61 to 4613.65 as they relate to property other than private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under subsection (a) of this section.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (h) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(k) As used in this section, "owner of a private property" or "owner of the private property" includes, with respect to a private property, any of the following:

(1) Any person who holds title to the property;

(2) Any person who is a lessee or sublessee with respect to a lease or sublease agreement for the property;

(3) A person who is authorized to manage the property;

(4) A duly authorized agent of any person listed in subsections (k)(1) to (3) of this section.

(ORC 4513.601)

303.083 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

(a) The chief of a law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation, within the chief's respective territorial jurisdiction, or a state highway patrol trooper, upon notification to the chief of such action and of the location of the place of storage, may order into storage any motor vehicle, including an abandoned junk motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63, that:

(1) Has come into the possession of the chief, or state highway patrol trooper as a result of the performance of the chief's or trooper's duties; or

(2) Has been left on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel, or upon or within the right-of-way of any road or highway, for forty-eight hours or longer without notification to the chief of the reasons for leaving the motor vehicle in such place. However, when such a motor vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic it may be ordered into storage immediately unless either of the following applies:

A. The vehicle was involved in an accident and is subject to Ohio R.C. 4513.66, or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance;

B. The vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle. If the vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle, the chief, or state highway patrol trooper shall allow the owner or operator of the vehicle the opportunity to arrange for the removal of the motor vehicle within a period of time specified by the chief, or state highway patrol trooper. If the chief, or state highway patrol trooper determines that the vehicle cannot be removed within the specified period of time, the chief, or state highway patrol trooper shall order the removal of the vehicle.

(3) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the chief shall designate the place of storage of any motor vehicle so ordered removed.

(b) If the chief, or a state highway patrol trooper issues an order under subsection (a) of this section and arranges for the removal of a motor vehicle by a towing service, the towing service shall deliver the motor vehicle to the location designated by the chief not more than two hours after the time it is removed.

(c) (1) The chief shall cause a search to be made of the records of an applicable entity listed in Ohio R.C. 4513.601(F)(1) to ascertain the identity of the owner and any lienholder of a motor vehicle ordered into storage by the chief, or by a state highway patrol trooper within five business days of the removal of the vehicle. Upon obtaining such identity, the chief shall send or cause to be sent to the owner or lienholder at the owner's or lienholder's last known address by certified or express mail with return receipt requested, by certified mail with electronic tracking, or by a commercial carrier service utilizing any form of delivery requiring a signed receipt. The notice shall inform the owner or lienholder that the motor vehicle will be declared a nuisance and disposed of if not claimed within ten days of the date of the sending of the notice.

(2) A. The owner or lienholder of the motor vehicle is responsible for payment of any expenses or charges incurred in its removal and storage and may reclaim the motor vehicle upon payment of those expenses or charges, and presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title or memorandum certificate of title to the motor vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle, or a lease agreement. Upon presentation of proof of ownership evidenced as provided above, the owner of the motor vehicle also may retrieve any personal items from the vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. However, a towing service or storage facility may charge an after-hours retrieval fee established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25 if the owner retrieves the personal items after hours, unless the towing service or storage facility fails to provide the notice required under Ohio R.C. 4513.69(B)(3), if applicable. However, the owner shall not do either of the following:

1. Retrieve any personal item that has been determined by the chief, or a state highway patrol trooper, as applicable, to be necessary to a criminal investigation;
2. Retrieve any personal item from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner, unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability.

B. For purposes of subsection (c)(2) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the vehicle.

(3) If the owner or lienholder of the motor vehicle reclaims it after a search of the applicable records has been conducted and after notice has been sent to the owner and any lienholder as described in this section, and the search was conducted by the place of storage, and the notice was sent to the motor vehicle owner by the place of storage, the owner or lienholder shall pay to the place of storage a processing fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), in addition to any expenses or charges incurred in the removal and storage of the vehicle.

(d) If the owner or lienholder makes no claim to the motor vehicle within ten days of the date of

sending the notice, and if the vehicle is to be disposed of at a public auction as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.62 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the chief, without charge to any party, shall file with the Clerk of Courts of the county in which the place of storage is located an affidavit showing compliance with the requirements of this section. Upon presentation of the affidavit, the Clerk, without charge, shall issue a salvage certificate of title, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, to the chief. If the vehicle is to be disposed of to a motor vehicle salvage dealer or other facility as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.62 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the chief shall execute in triplicate an affidavit, as prescribed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, describing the motor vehicle and the manner in which it was disposed of, and that all requirements of this section have been complied with. The chief shall retain the original of the affidavit for the chief's records, and shall furnish two copies to the motor vehicle salvage dealer or other facility. Upon presentation of a copy of the affidavit by the motor vehicle salvage dealer, the Clerk of Courts, within thirty days of the presentation, shall issue a salvage certificate of title, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances.

(e) Whenever a motor vehicle salvage dealer or other facility receives an affidavit for the disposal of a motor vehicle as provided in this section, the dealer or facility shall not be required to obtain an Ohio certificate of title to the motor vehicle in the dealer's or facility's own name if the vehicle is dismantled or destroyed and both copies of the affidavit are delivered to the Clerk of Courts.

(f) No towing service or storage facility shall fail to comply with this section.
(ORC 4513.61)

303.09 LEAVING JUNK AND OTHER VEHICLES ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION OR NOTIFICATION.

(a) No person shall willfully leave any vehicle or an "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 on private property for more than seventy-two hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property or on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or upon or within the right of way of any road or highway, for forty-eight hours or longer, without notification to the chief of the law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation of the reason for leaving the motor vehicle in such place.

For purposes of this section, the fact that a vehicle has been so left without permission or notification is prima-facie evidence of abandonment. Nothing contained in this section shall invalidate the provisions of other ordinances regulating or prohibiting the abandonment of motor vehicles on streets, highways, public property or private property within the Municipality.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall also be assessed any costs incurred by the Municipality in disposing of an abandoned junk motor vehicle that is the basis of the violation, less any money accruing to the Municipality from this disposal of the vehicle.
(ORC 4513.64)

303.10 PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLICE OFFICER.

(a) No person shall knowingly present, display or orally communicate a false name, social security number or date of birth to a law enforcement officer who is in the process of issuing to the person a traffic ticket or complaint.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
(ORC 4513.361)

303.99 GENERAL TRAFFIC CODE PENALTIES.

(a) General Misdemeanor Classifications. Whoever violates any provision of this Traffic Code for

which violation no penalty is otherwise provided, is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
(ORC 4513.99)

(b) Penalties. Whoever is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this Traffic Code shall be imprisoned for a definite term or fined, or both, which term of imprisonment and fine shall be fixed by the court as provided in this section.

Classification of
Misdemeanor

Maximum Term
of Imprisonment

Maximum
Fine

First degree

180 days

\$1,000.00

Second degree

90 days

750.00

Third degree

60 days

500.00

Fourth degree

30 days

250.00

Minor

No imprisonment

150.00

(ORC 2929.24; 2929.28)

303.991 COMMITTING AN OFFENSE WHILE DISTRACTED PENALTY.

(a) As used in this section and each section of the Traffic Code where specified, all of the following apply:

(1) "Distracted" means doing either of the following while operating a vehicle:

A. Using an electronic wireless communications device, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.204, in violation of that section.

B. Engaging in any activity that is not necessary to the operation of a vehicle and impairs, or reasonably would be expected to impair, the ability of the operator to drive the vehicle safely.

(2) "Distracted" does not include operating a motor vehicle while wearing an earphone or earplug over or in both ears at the same time. A person who so wears earphones or earplugs may be charged with a violation of Section 331.43.

(3) "Distracted" does not include conducting any activity while operating a utility service vehicle or a vehicle for or on behalf of a utility, provided that the driver of the vehicle is acting in response to an emergency, power outage or a circumstance affecting the health or safety of individuals.

As used in subsection (a)(3) of this section:

A. "Utility" means an entity specified in division (A), (C), (D), (E) or (G) of Ohio R.C. 4905.03.

B. "Utility service vehicle" means a vehicle owned or operated by a utility.

(b) If an offender violates any section of this Traffic Code which provides for an enhanced penalty for an offense committed while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the violation, the offender is subject to the applicable penalty for the violation and, notwithstanding Ohio R.C. 2929.28, is subject to an additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) as follows:

(1) Subject to Traffic Rule 13, if a law enforcement officer issues an offender a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of any section of the Traffic Code that indicates that the offender was distracted while committing the violation and that the distracting activity was a contributing factor to the commission of the violation, the offender may enter a written plea of guilty and waive the offender's right to contest the ticket, citation or summons in a trial provided that the offender pays the total amount of the fine established for the violation and pays the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

In lieu of payment of the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the offender instead may elect to attend a distracted driving safety course, the duration and contents of which shall be established by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. If the offender attends and successfully completes the course, the offender shall be issued written evidence that the offender successfully completed the course. The offender shall be required to pay the total amount of the fine established for the violation, but shall not be required to pay the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), so long as the offender submits to the court both the offender's payment in full and such written evidence within ninety days of the underlying violation that resulted in the imposition of the additional fine under this section.

(2) If the offender appears in person to contest the ticket, citation or summons in a trial and the offender pleads guilty to or is convicted of the violation, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, may impose the applicable penalty for the violation and may impose the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

If the court imposes upon the offender the applicable penalty for the violation and an additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the court shall inform the offender that, in lieu of payment of the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the offender

instead may elect to attend the distracted driving safety course described in subsection (b)(1) of this section. If the offender elects the course option and attends and successfully completes the course, the offender shall be issued written evidence that the offender successfully completed the course. The offender shall be required to pay the total amount of the fine established for the violation, but shall not be required to pay the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), so long as the offender submits to the court the offender's payment and such written evidence within ninety days of the underlying violation that resulted in the imposition of the additional fine under this section.

(c) If a law enforcement officer issues an offender a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation of subsection (b) of this section that indicates that the offender was distracted while committing the violation and that the distracting activity was a contributing factor to the commission of the violation, the officer shall do both of the following:

(1) Report the issuance of the ticket, citation, or summons to the officer's law enforcement agency;

(2) Ensure that such report indicates the offender's race.

(ORC 4511.991)

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- Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH
- ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
- ORDINANCE NO. 116-84
- ORDINANCES OF SHEFFIELD LAKE
- ORDER OF POLICE OFFICER; FLEEING

- order to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the owner of a private property may modify an existing sign by affixing to the existing sign stickers or an
- ordinance with subsection (a) of this section, without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation, the owner of the p
- ordinance with this section
- adopted under Ohio R
- ordinance with subsection (g) of this section
- order to obtain release of the vehicle
- ord the time and date of the photographs taken under this section
- ord of the time and date, in electronic or printed form, for at least thirty days after the date on which the vehicle is recovered by the owner or lienholder or at least two years afte
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- ord that pertains to a particular vehicle to a person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner, operator or lienholder of the vehicle, and re
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- order to determine the state in which the vehicle is titled
- ord of the owner and any lienholder under this division shall ensure that such information is provided in a timely manner
- ordinance with this section, or otherwise fail to comply with any applicable requirement of this section
- order into storage any motor vehicle, including an abandoned junk motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R
- ordered into storage immediately unless either of the following applies:
- ordinance;
- order the removal of the vehicle
- ordered removed
- order under subsection (a) of this section and arranges for the removal of a motor vehicle by a towing service, the towing service shall deliver the motor vehicle to the location desi
- ords of an applicable entity listed in Ohio R
- ordered into storage by the chief, or by a state highway patrol trooper within five business days of the removal of the vehicle
- ords has been conducted and after notice has been sent to the owner and any lienholder as described in this section, and the search was conducted by the place of storage, and

the noti

- ordinance, the chief, without charge to any party, shall file with the Clerk of Courts of the county in which the place of storage is located an affidavit showing compliance with the requir
- ordinance, the chief shall execute in triplicate an affidavit, as prescribed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, describing the motor vehicle and the manner in which it was disposed of, and
- ords, and shall furnish two copies to the motor vehicle salvage dealer or other facility
- ordinances regulating or prohibiting the abandonment of motor vehicles on streets, highways, public property or private property within the Municipality
- Ordinances and/or any other documents that appear on this site may not reflect the most current legislation adopted by the Municipality
- Ordinances should be consulted prior to any action being taken
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