



ORDINANCE ADDING RMC CHAPTER 5.85, “JUNK DEALERS AND SCRAP METAL RECYCLERS”

City Attorney’s Office

City Council
March 11, 2025

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BACKGROUND

- **Junk Dealers/Scrap Metal Recyclers: Businesses involved in the buying and selling of used machinery or scrap metal.**
 - Secondhand machinery;
 - Oil well rings;
 - Stainless steel;
 - Electrical power generating equipment;
 - Materials used in construction, agriculture, railroads;
 - Etc.



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EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL JUNK TRANSACTIONS

- **Examples:**
 - Copper Wire Theft
 - EX: City light poles, apartment complexes under construction, etc.
 - Copper Piping Theft
 - EX: A/C units, housing materials, hardware stores, etc.
 - Catalytic Converter Theft
- **City of Los Angeles “Heavy Metal Task Force”:**
 - To address stolen copper wiring and telecommunications cable from street lights.



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SIMILAR ORDINANCES IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- **California Municipalities that have Adopted “Junk Dealer/Scrap Metal Recycler” Ordinances:**
 - City of Stockton (SMC 5.28.280-510)
 - City of Patterson (PMC 5.44.010-100)
 - City of Riverbank (RBMC 135.01-99)
 - Yuba County (YCMC 6.36.010-110)
- **Each Ordinance Addresses:**
 - Licensing requirements;
 - Required operating procedures; and
 - Mechanisms to hold junk dealers/recyclers accountable.
- **City of Las Vegas Bill No. 2024-22:**
 - Ordinance to regulate how junk transactions can be conducted.



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RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE

- **Sections 5.85.040-090: Operating and Reporting Requirements**
 - No operating between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - No acquiring junk from individuals under the age of 18.
 - Must use check or paper draft to make payment above \$10.
 - Give daily report of all transactions within previous 24 hours.
 - Notify RPD of sales and purchases, of certain junk items.
 - Allow for periodic inspections.
- **Sections 5.85.100-120 and 5.85.140-150: License Requirements and Permit Application Process**
 - Have a (1) City business tax certificate, (2) minor conditional use permit, (3) state business license from DOJ, and (4) City junk dealer/recycler business establishment permit.
- **Sections 5.85.130 and 5.85.160-190: Denial of Applications, Revocation of Permits, and Penalties for Violations**
 - Under certain grounds, City can deny applications for establishment permits and/or revoke existing establishment permits.
 - Violators will be subject to increased fines for each violation.



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority #2 Community Well-Being, Goal 2.4



Community Well-Being
Ensure safe and inclusive neighborhoods where everyone can thrive.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Receive this report summarizing the proposed ordinance adding Chapter 5.85 “Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Recyclers” to the Riverside Municipal Code; and
2. Recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance adding Chapter 5.85 “Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Recyclers” to the Riverside Municipal Code.



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