

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

City Attorney’s Office

Safety, Wellness, and Youth Committee  
January 15, 2025

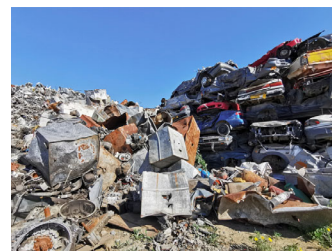
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## BACKGROUND

- **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 Safety, Wellness, and Youth Committee:

1. Receive the following report and presentation proposing an amendment to the Riverside Municipal Code in order to add Chapter 5.85 "Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Recyclers";
2. Make a motion to refer the following report and presentation to the City Council to adopt an ordinance amending the Riverside Municipal Code adding Chapter 5.85 "Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Recyclers."



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