

**AN ORDINANCE LICENSING  
JUNKYARDS AND AUTOMOTIVE WRECKING AND SALVAGE YARDS  
LOCATED IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS**

To protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Tarrant County, Texas, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, Texas, hereby adopts the following ordinance and fees affecting junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards located in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County, Texas under the authority of sections 396.041-396.045 of the Texas Transportation Code:

**I. DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply for the purposes of this ordinance:

- A. **“Automotive wrecking and salvage yard”** means an outdoor place where a person stores three or more vehicles for the purpose of dismantling or otherwise wrecking the vehicles to remove parts of sale or use in automotive repair or rebuilding business.
- B. **“Junk”** means copper, brass, iron, steel, rope, rags, batteries, tires or other material (other than a wrecked vehicle) that has been discarded or sold at a nominal price by a previous owner of the material.
- C. **“Junkyard”** means a place where a business that owns junk, and is operated to store, buy or sell junk, keeps all or part of the junk outdoors until the business disposes of the junk;
- D. **“Recycling business”** means a business primarily engaged in the business of:
  - 1. Converting metal or other material into raw material products having prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value;
  - 2. Using raw material products of that kind in the production of new products; or
  - 3. Obtaining or storing metal or other material for a purpose described by subsection (1) or (2) of this subdivision.
- E. **“Wrecked vehicle”** means a discarded, junked, damaged, or worn-out automotive vehicle that is not in a condition to be lawfully operated on a public road.

**II. EXCEPTIONS TO LICENSING**

The licensing requirements of this ordinance do not apply to:

- A. A recycling business;
- B. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that is located entirely within a municipality and regulated in any manner by the municipality;
- C. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that began operation before April 8, 1988; or
- D. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard in operation prior to July 16, 2013 and lawfully licensed and renewed under Commissioners Court Order No. 59890. However, renewal licenses are governed by this amended ordinance.

### III. EXCEPTIONS TO SCREENING

The screening requirements of this ordinance do not apply to:

- A. An automotive wrecking and salvage yard as defined by, and that is subject to Chapter 397, Texas Transportation Code;
- B. A junkyard that is defined by Section 391.001 of the Texas Transportation Code and that is subject to Subchapter E, Chapter 391, Texas Transportation Code;
- C. A recycling business;
- D. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that is located entirely within a municipality and regulated in any manner by the municipality;
- E. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard that began operation before April 8, 1988; or
- F. A junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard in operation prior to July 16, 2013 that was lawfully licensed and renewed under Commissioners Court Order No. 59890.

### IV. OFFENSES

- A. It shall be an offense and violation of this ordinance to operate a junkyard as defined in this ordinance without a valid license issued by the Transportation Services Department of Tarrant County, Texas, and approved by the Commissioners Court.
- B. It shall be an offense and violation of this ordinance to operate an automotive wrecking and salvage yard as defined in this ordinance without a valid license issued by the Transportation Services Department of Tarrant County, Texas, and approved by the Commissioners Court.
- C. It shall be an offense and violation of this ordinance to operate a junkyard as defined in this ordinance at a location not approved by the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, Texas.
- D. It shall be an offense and violation of this ordinance to operate an automotive wrecking and salvage yard as defined in this ordinance at a location not approved by the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, Texas.

### V. PERMIT FOR LICENSES AND RENEWALS

- A. The Commissioners Court imposes a non-refundable fee of **\$150.00** for issuance if a license to operate a junkyard. The Commissioners Court imposes a non-refundable fee of **\$150.00** for the issuance of license to operate an automotive wrecking and salvage yard.
- B. The Commissioners Court imposes a non-refundable fee of **\$150.00** for the renewal of each license issued under the authority of this ordinance.
- C. In order to operate a junkyard or automotive wreckage and salvage yard as defined in this ordinance, the proposed operator must first obtain approval from the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department (the "Department") by submitting an application and paying the required license fee to the Department.

- D. **Completed Applications:**
1. The time frame for the Commissioners Court to approve or disapprove an application begins on the date a completed application is received by the Department.
  2. A “completed application” means an application that is in the form provided by this ordinance, fully filled out and accurately containing the required information, including a description of a location of the property and compliance with screening requirements, and that is submitted to and received by the Department. Additionally, an application is not considered a “completed application” until the required license fee has been paid.
  3. The location of junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard must be described on the application by:
    - Mail address
    - Legal description
    - Any other description sufficient to apprise the Commissioners Court of the exact location of the proposed junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.
  4. All applications must have a map of the site of the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard indicating the location of required screening as described in section VII.
- E. **Time for Approval.** The Commissioners Court shall either approve the application and issue a license or disapprove the application within 45 days from the date a completed application is received by the Department. Failure to take action within this time frame results in the issuance of a license to the applicant for the requested location. If the Department denies the application, the applicant may choose to (1) submit a subsequent completed application for approval indicating that the applicant’s proposal complies with this ordinance; or (2) appeal the denial to the Commissioners Court for review of the denial. An appeal must be submitted in writing and received by the Department no later than 7 days from the date the application is denied.
- F. Each license is valid for one year from the date of issuance so long as the licensed operation remains in compliance with this ordinance.

## **VI. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF LICENSE OR RENEWAL**

Any of the following grounds are reasons for denial for the license or renewal of the license for a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard:

- A. Material misstatements or misrepresentations in the application for license, the accompanying documents or at the hearing before the Commissioners Court;
- B. Location of a church or residential dwelling within 300 feet of the proposed screen or fence of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard;
- C. Insufficient screening as described in VII.

**VII. GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OF LICENSE**

- A. The owner or operator of a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard shall have 120 days from the date of a notice that the location is not in compliance with this ordinance's screening requirement to rectify the situation. Failure to rectify the screening violation will subject the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard owner to a hearing before the Commissioners Court, at which time the license for said yard may be revoked for noncompliance with this ordinance.
- B. If a location has been previously permitted by the Commissioners Court, the location may have a permit renewed despite the fact that the location does not comply with the location restrictions of VI. B, but the location must be screened as required in this ordinance.

**VIII. SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**

A person who operates a junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard must screen it with a solid barrier fence at least eight feet high. The fence must be painted a natural earth tone color and may not have any sign appear on its surface other than a sign indicating the business name.

**IX. PUNISHMENT**

A penalty for violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or not less than \$100 and not more than \$500. Each day a violation continues is a separate offense.

**X. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. These rules shall be constructed liberally to accomplish their purpose.
- B. The Commissioners Court shall resolve any question regarding any interpretation of these rules.
- C. In the event of any conflict between the rules and a State law, a rule adopted under a State law, or a Municipal Ordinance, the stricter of the two provisions prevails.
- D. The masculine, feminine, and neuter genders shall be constructed to include the other genders as required. The singular and plural shall be construed to include the other number as required.
- E. Severability. If any provision of these rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of these rules and the application thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

\*\*\*\*\*

**APPLICATION FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
JUNKYARD or AUTOMOTIVE WRECKING  
& SALVAGE YARD LICENSE**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER INFORMATION**

(if different from Applicant Information)

***\*If the Applicant is not the Owner of the location for the proposed facility, then a notarized statement from the Owner indicating the Owner's permission to operate the facility is required for this application to be considered complete.***

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Tarrant County Transportation Services  
100 E. Weatherford #401  
Fort Worth, TX 76196  
(817) 884-1250

**PROPERTY AND USE INFORMATION**

\*Location of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*For this application to be complete, Applicant must attach or submit with this application a legal description of the property and map depicting in scale the entire location of the proposed facility, as well as the location of any existing or proposed buildings, perimeter screening, and car storage locations.***

Nature of Proposed Permit:

- ( ) Automotive Wrecking & Salvage Yard
- ( ) Junkyard

Type of junk to be handled:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER/APPLICANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CERTIFICATION:**

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the requirements for applying for and receiving a license to operate a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard contained in the attached ordinance. I acknowledge and understand that:

1. No work of any kind may start to operate the type of operation applied for until a license is issued by Tarrant County.
2. This Application is incomplete until I make payment to Tarrant County of the non-refundable \$150 application fee.
3. Once granted, the license may be revoked if any false statements are made in this Application or its attachments.
4. If the license expires or is revoked for any reason, I must cease operation of the facility until a new license is issued. In that event I will be required to submit a new Application with accompanying fees and receive approval before any operations may continue.
5. I may only use, occupy, or permit the use or occupancy of any building, development, or premises, or any part thereof, hereafter created, erected, changed, converted, altered, or enlarged ONLY IF the development is in compliance with the Tarrant County Subdivision and Land Use Regulations and the regulations of the Tarrant County Public Health Department.

Tarrant County Transportation Services  
100 E. Weatherford #401  
Fort Worth, TX 76196  
(817) 884-1250

I hereby certify to the following:

1. I have carefully read the complete Application and all its attachments and certify that all documents submitted are true and correct.
2. The Owner of the location of the proposed or existing facility, if different from the Applicant, has authorized the submittal of this Application as demonstrated by the Owner's notarized statement accompanying this Application.
3. As the Owner of the Subject Property or a duly authorized Applicant, I hereby grant permission to representatives of Tarrant County to enter the premises and make all necessary inspections and to take all other actions necessary to review and act upon this Application.
4. The property on which the junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard is to be operated is in compliance, to the extent applicable, with the Tarrant County Subdivision and Land Use Regulations and the regulations of the Tarrant County Health Department.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tarrant County Transportation Services  
100 E. Weatherford #401  
Fort Worth, TX 76196  
(817) 884-1250