



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR**

**Office of the Executive Director**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

**FROM:** Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director *ML*

**DATE:** October 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances to amend or add provisions related to inoperable vehicles, unregistered vehicles, storage of boats or recreational vehicles, and associated fines

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Pursuant to the direction of the Legislative Matters Committee, attached please find a draft ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances to amend or add provisions related to inoperable vehicles, unregistered vehicles, storage of boats or recreational vehicles, and associated fines. At their meeting on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met to review a draft ordinance addressing several potential nuisances on private property and they specifically requested that staff revise the initial draft to create three separate ordinances that could be considered independently. The attached document represents one of the three draft ordinances.

In addition to separating the ordinances, staff has also modified the prior language relating to storage of boats, trailers and recreational vehicles. Language that was initially proposed regarding the size of vehicles has been eliminated, in addition to the initially proposed language requiring that vehicles be stored outside of the side and rear yard setbacks established in the Zoning Ordinance. Staff additionally attempted to clarify a provision that is intended to indicate that the stored vehicles cannot be occupied for living or commercial business purposes when they are stored in Somerville.

At the request of the Committee, staff researched whether there were any exemptions relating to the registration of motor vehicles for active duty military personnel. It was learned that, while the Commonwealth does not require personnel transferred to Massachusetts from elsewhere to re-register their vehicles, if they are registered in their home state, there was no exception to the requirement to have registration. (Note that active duty personnel assigned overseas are not required to renew their drivers' license within the established timelines and can do so when they return.) As a result, no modification was made to the proposed language related to registered vehicles.

Staff looks forward to continued discussion on this draft ordinance.