

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF LARIMER, COLORADO**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE SAFE USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY TO LIMIT  
PUBLIC CAMPING AND PROHIBIT TEMPORARY STRUCTURES ON PUBLIC  
PROPERTY AND UNAUTHORIZED PARKING WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED  
PORTIONS OF LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO**

*WHEREAS*, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Larimer, Colorado, (“Board”) is authorized to enact this Ordinance pursuant to C.R.S. § 30-11-101(2), to provide for public health, safety, and welfare and C.R.S. §30-15-401(1)(h), 42-4-1204, 42-4-1801 et seq., 42-4-2101 et seq., 42-4-111 and other applicable law; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board finds that the purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to ensure the safe use of public property, to protect those lawfully using public property, preserve public property, promote the safe and lawful use of public property, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, including the residents of Larimer County; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board finds that addressing unauthorized parking and camping requires a balance between individual needs and public safety; and

*WHEREAS*, it is the Board’s intent that enforcement be secondary to the provision of resources, utilizing this ordinance as a legal framework for the Sheriff’s Office to connect individuals with services, mitigate environmental or health impacts, and restore public spaces for community use.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LARIMER, COLORADO, THAT:

**Section 1. Definitions**

1. “Abandoned” and “Abandoned Motor Vehicle” means any Vehicle left in one location on a Public Road (a) for more than forty-eight (48) hours without the consent of County; or (b) is reasonably determined by law enforcement to be deserted or discarded when considering the duration the Vehicle has remained stationary, the existence of debris inside or outside of the Vehicle, the structural integrity of the Vehicle, the condition of the Vehicle's tires, and any other fact that tends to show the Vehicle is deserted or discarded; or (c) is reasonably determined by law enforcement to be Inoperable; or (d) is not registered or does not have a license plate with a current registration sticker attached thereto in violation of Sections 42-3-121 and 42-3-114, C.R.S., except as provided for in Section 42-3-103, C.R.S.
2. “Camp” means temporarily or permanently sleeping, cooking, or otherwise engaging in activities of daily living, including having and storing paraphernalia of daily living such as clothing, personal hygiene items, or cooking equipment, or using shelter including any cover or protection from the elements other than clothing (such as a tent, sleeping bag, Vehicle, or other structure or material).

The term does not include napping during the day or picnicking.

3. "County Property" means all land, including, any park, parkway, recreation area, roadway, highway, open space, or any other public property owned by Larimer County in unincorporated Larimer County, Colorado.
4. "Inoperable" means that the totality of the circumstances then existing to law enforcement which would permit a reasonable person to conclude that the Vehicle is incapable of being driven or incapable of being driven without damaging the Vehicle.
5. "Public Highway" and "Public Road" mean the entire width between the boundary lines of every highway, road, street, alley, right of way, or public highway as defined in Section 43-2-101, C.R.S., that is under the jurisdiction of or the ownership and control of Larimer County.
6. "Motor Vehicle" means any self-propelled Vehicle which is designed primarily for travel on the Public Highways, and which is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the Public Highways.
7. "Owner" means a person who has, holds, possesses, or owns the legal title to a Vehicle or in the event a Vehicle is the subject of any agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with the immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the Owner, or parties otherwise having lawful use or control or the right to use or control a Vehicle for a period of thirty (30) days or more.
8. "Park" or "Parking" means the Standing of a Vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than very briefly for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, loading or unloading property or passengers.
9. "Recreational Vehicle" means a Vehicle: (a) Designed to provide temporary living quarters and which is built into, as an integral part of or a permanent attachment to a Motor Vehicle chassis or van which is used primarily for pleasure, enjoyment, other recreational purposes, or family transportation of the Owner, lessee or occupant; or (b) designed to be drawn by a Motor Vehicle and to provide temporary or permanent living quarters, and which is used primarily for pleasure, enjoyment, other recreational purposes, or family transportation of the Owner, lessee or occupant.
10. "Stand", "Standing", or "Stood" means the halting of a Vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than momentarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.
11. "Temporary Structure" includes any structure or material used to shelter a person or property after sundown and all enclosed structures but does not include non-enclosed portable structures designed to provide overhead covering,

including umbrellas and awnings.

12. "Trailer" means any wheeled Vehicle, without motive power, which is designed to be drawn by a Motor Vehicle and which is generally and commonly used to carry and transport personal effects, articles of household furniture, loads of trash and rubbish, horses, or other property over the Public Highways.
13. "Vehicle" means a device that is capable of moving itself, or of being moved, from place to place upon wheels or endless tracks, including but not limited to Motor Vehicles, Recreational Vehicles, and Trailers.
14. "Written Permission" includes a documented reservation, permit, park pass, or contract.

## **Section 2. Limitation on Public Camping**

No person shall Camp on County Property, including with the use of Vehicles on County Highways, without first having obtained the Written Permission of the authorized officer of such County Property. Failure to provide Written Permission upon request by an authorized party, including all law enforcement personnel shall be treated as an admission Written Permission was not obtained.

## **Section 3. Prohibited Use of Temporary Structures on County Property**

No person shall erect or use any tent, net, or other Temporary Structure for the purpose of shelter or storage of property on County Property without first having obtained the Written Permission of the authorized officer of such County Property. Failure to provide Written Permission upon request by an authorized party, including all law enforcement personnel shall be treated as an admission Written Permission was not obtained.

## **Section 4. Abandoned Vehicles and Unauthorized Parking**

1. No person shall have an Abandoned Motor Vehicle on any Public Highway or County Property.
2. Subject to the discretion afforded law enforcement and the Board's legislative intent as set forth in the recitals above, whenever a Vehicle is found Abandoned on any County Highway or County Property in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this Ordinance, any Peace Officer shall take the Vehicle's registration number and may take any other information displayed on the Vehicle which may identify its Owner, and shall hand to the occupant of such Vehicle or, if the Vehicle is unoccupied, shall conspicuously affix to such Vehicle a penalty assessment notice or summons and complaint, directing the Owner thereof to respond to and answer the charge or to remove the Vehicle within 72 hours.
3. It is a public nuisance, traffic obstruction and grounds to impound the Vehicle, for any person to Abandon any Vehicle upon any area or portion of a Public

Highway or County Property in violation of this Ordinance. This Section shall be in addition to, and shall not supersede, the provisions of Part 18, Article 4, Title 42, C.R.S., regarding towing of abandoned Vehicles.

4. Provision of Notice. Before a Vehicle may be impounded for violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this Ordinance, a Peace Officer shall conspicuously affix to such Vehicle a written notice that, if the Vehicle remains in violation of this Ordinance for more than seventy-two (72) hours after the written notice is affixed to the Vehicle, it may be impounded. A Vehicle may not be impounded unless more than 72 hours have passed since the notice was affixed to such Vehicle.

**Section 5. Enforcement**

Pursuant to § 30-15-401(1)(h), C.R.S. et seq., as amended, it is the duty of the law enforcement officers from the Larimer County Sheriff to enforce this ordinance.

**Section 6. Violation**

1. Violation of this ordinance is a civil infraction as provided for in § 30-15-402, C.R.S., as amended, and punishable by a fine of not more than \$300. This ordinance may be enforced by law enforcement officers from the Larimer County Sheriff. Any person having the authority and responsibility to enforce this ordinance may issue a citation or summons and complaint to the violator, or to a Vehicle, stating the nature of the violation and giving notice of the charge to the violator.
2. Persons having the authority and responsibility to enforce this ordinance and having knowledge of any violation may use the penalty assessment procedure defined in § 16-2-201, C.R.S., as amended, by issuing a penalty assessment notice and releasing the violator upon its terms. The penalty assessment notice will be a summons and complaint and will contain the identification of the offender, the specification of the offense, and the applicable fine.
3. As provided in § 16-2-201 (1.5), C.R.S., as amended, a penalty assessment notice may be placed on an unattended Vehicle parked in apparent violation of any county regulation. A penalty assessment notice placed on a vehicle will contain the license plate number and state of registration of the vehicle in lieu of the identification of the offender.
4. When the penalty assessment procedure is used, the following schedule of fines will be used for violations of this ordinance:
  - First Offense \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Second Offense within 30 days of original offense \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Third and Subsequent Offenses within 60 days of original offense \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. Restitution, including but not limited to necessary cleanup or removal costs related to violations of this ordinance, may be assessed against the individual responsible.

**Section 7. Severability**

Should any section, clause, sentence, or part of this Ordinance be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

**Section 8. Safety Clause**

The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public welfare, health and safety.

**Section 9. Relation to Other Regulations and Repeal**

This Ordinance is intended to supplement and be in addition to the Model Traffic Code as adopted by Larimer County, and other existing Larimer County traffic and parking regulations. All Larimer County ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, to the extent necessary for the enactment and enforcement of this Ordinance, are expressly repealed.

**Section 10. Public Health Safety and Welfare**

This Board of County Commissioners hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare.

**CERTIFICATION**

The Larimer County Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and shall have on file copies of this ordinance available for inspection by the public during regular business hours.

**INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON FIRST READING** on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026,  
and ordered published in the \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF LARIMER, COLORADO**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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