

**DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01**

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**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DOUGLASS,  
CHAPTER 15, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, PART 6, REMOVAL AND  
IMPOUNDMENT OF ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES, TO UPDATE THE  
PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES, ABANDONED  
VEHICLES, DISABLED VEHICLES, AND VEHICLES THAT INTERFERE WITH  
TRAFFIC OR POSE A HAZARD, AND TO REORGANIZE AND RESTATE CHAPTER  
15, PART 6 IN ITS ENTIRETY**

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**WHEREAS**, Douglass Township, Berks County is a Township of the Second Class, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors wish to amend the Code of the Township of Douglass, Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Part 6 Removal and Impoundment of Illegally Parked Vehicles, to update the procedure for handling illegally parked vehicles, abandoned vehicles, disabled vehicles and vehicles that interfere with traffic or pose a hazard and to reorganize and restate Chapter 15, Part 6 in its entirety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has met the procedural requirements of the Second Class Township Code for the adoption of the proposed ordinance, including holding a public hearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE DOES HEREBY ENACT AND ORDAIN, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Code Amendment.** The Code of the Township of Douglass Township, Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Part 6, Removal and Impoundment of Illegally Parked Vehicles, is hereby amended to provide, in its entirety, as follows:

Part 6: REMOVAL AND IMPOUNDMENT OF ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES, ABANDONED VEHICLES, DISABLED VEHICLES, AND VEHICLES THAT INTERFERE WITH TRAFFIC OR POSE A HAZARD

**§ 15-601 Applicability and scope.**

This part is enacted under authority of 75 P.S. § 6109(a)(22) of the Vehicle Code and gives authority to the Township to remove and impound those vehicles which are parked in a tow-away zone and in violation of the parking regulations of this chapter. Vehicles which have been abandoned (as defined by the Vehicle Code) or which are disabled or parked in a manner as to interfere with the traffic or pose a hazard to others may be towed under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

**§ 15-602 Authority to remove and impound.**

The Township of Douglass shall have authority to remove and impound or to order the removal and impounding of any vehicle parked overtime or otherwise illegally, provided that the circumstances of its parking were within the conditions stated in § 15-601 of this part and provided that no such vehicle shall be removed or impounded except in strict adherence to the provisions of this part or the provisions of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

**§ 15-603 Designation of approved storage garages; bonding; towing and storage.**

Removal and impounding of vehicles under this part shall be done only by approved storage garages that shall be designated from time to time by the Board of Supervisors. Every such garage shall submit evidence to the Board of Supervisors that it is bonded or has acquired liability insurance in an amount satisfactory to the Board of Supervisors as sufficient to indemnify owners of impounded vehicles against loss or damage to those vehicles while in the custody of the garagekeeper for the purpose of towing or storage. The approved storage garage shall submit to the Board of Supervisors its schedule of charges for towing and storage of vehicles under this part, and when the schedule is approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, those charges shall be adhered to by the approved storage garage. No different schedule of charges shall be adopted without approval of the Board of Supervisors, and no different charges shall be demanded of or collected from any person whose vehicle is removed or impounded under this part by any approved storage garage. The Board of Supervisors shall delete from its list of approved storage garages any garage that makes any unapproved charge in connection with any vehicle removed or impounded under this part. The Police Department, through any on-duty supervisor, may override any provision of this Part in an emergency or unusual towing situation.

**§ 15-604 Notification of removal and impounding.**

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, within twelve (12) hours from the time of removal of any vehicle under authority granted by this part, notice of the fact that the vehicle was removed shall be sent by the Township to the owner of record of the vehicle. The notice shall designate the place from which the vehicle was removed, the reason for its removal and impounding and the garage in which it was impounded.

**§ 15-605 Effect of payment of towing and storage charges.**

The payment of any towing and storage charges authorized by this part shall, unless payment is made under protest, be final and conclusive and shall constitute a waiver of any right to recover the money so paid. If payment of any towing or storage charges is made under protest, the offender shall be entitled to a hearing before a District Judge. Payment of towing and storage charges shall not relieve the owner or driver of any vehicle from liability for any fine or penalty for the violation of the provision of this chapter for which the vehicle was removed or impounded.

**§ 15-606 Records of vehicles removed and impounded.**

The Township shall cause a record to be kept of all vehicles impounded under this part and shall be able at all reasonable times to furnish the owners or the agents of the owners of those vehicles with information as to the place of storage of the vehicle.

**§ 15-607 Restrictions upon removal of vehicles.**

No vehicle shall be removed under the authority of this part if, at the time of the intended removal, the owner or the person for the time being in charge of the vehicle is present and expresses a willingness and intention to remove the vehicle immediately.

**§ 15-608 Reclamation Costs.**

In order to reclaim his vehicle, the owner shall pay towing and storage costs, plus a fee of \$25, of which \$10 shall be transferred to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation by the garage to which the vehicle was taken.

**§ 15-609 Penalty for Violation.**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50, together with all costs of disposing of the vehicle under the provisions of the Vehicle Code, 75 P.S. § 7301 et seq. (1977), as hereafter amended, supplemented, modified or reenacted by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

**§ 15-610 Reports and Disposition of Unclaimed Vehicles.**

If, after a period of 15 days, the vehicle in storage remains unclaimed, a report shall be filed with PennDOT in accordance with § 7311 of the Vehicle Code, by the person having legal custody of the vehicle. If the vehicle has not been claimed after 30 days, the vehicle may be transferred to a licensed salvor, who will then be responsible for filing the proper reports and disposing of the vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 73 of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code (75 Pa.C.S.A. § 110 et seq., as amended).

**SECTION 2. Severability.** The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any

section, sentence, clause, part or provision herein shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, or otherwise illegal or unenforceable, by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the Court shall not effect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts or provisions of the Ordinance and said remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board that this Ordinance would have been adopted as if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part or provision had not been included herein.

**SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This amendment shall become effective January 1, 2026.


**SECTION 4. Repeal and Ratification.** In the event that there is any conflict between the provisions of this Ordinance and any other duly enacted ordinance of the Township, the provisions in this Ordinance shall prevail. Any other tenants and provisions of the ordinance of the Township that are unaffected by this Ordinance are hereby reaffirmed and ratified.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Douglass Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

ATTEST:

**DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP**

  
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Kaleena Breitbarth  
Township Manager/Secretary

By:   
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Ronald Mest  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors