

PINELLAS COUNTY
CODE ENFORCEMENT
TASK FORCE
RECOMMENDATIONS

February 24, 2004

**CODE ENFORCEMENT
TASK FORCE**

COMMISSIONER SUSAN LATVALA

Craig Knarich
David Scales

COMMISSIONER JOHN MORRONI

Virginia Lomagno
Donna Bryan

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Robert Dray
Don Hazelton

COMMISSIONER KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL

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Glenda Datsko

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Douglas M. Lampe

COMMISSIONER BARBARA SHEEN TODD

Karl Maier
Al Redman

COMMISSIONER KENNETH T. WELCH

Karen L. Dunbar/Richard Cooks
Ray Neri

PINELLAS COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

On May 6, 2003 the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners directed staff to conduct a review of Code Enforcement within the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County. Under Resolution #03-90 the BCC created a Task Force comprised of 14 citizen members with staff support from the Department of Environmental Management, Development Review Services, Community Development, County Connection Centers, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Community Police Unit and the County Attorney's Office.

The meetings of the Task Force began on September 17, 2003 and after 11 meetings concluded on February 11, 2004. Will Davis, Director of Environmental Management, chaired the Task Force. Each member was provided a workbook that contained Code sections that staff suggested for discussion. The members were invited to introduce any other topic they felt needed consideration.

Task Force Review Included the Following:

- **Noise**
- **Lot Mowing**
- **Trash and Debris**
- **Inoperable Motor Vehicles**
- **Commercial Vehicles**
- **Housing**
- **Zoning**
- **Other Recommendations to Improve Neighborhood Appearance and Value.**

Task Force Recommendations

- **Require all long-term, residential, rental housing including but not limited to single family, duplex, triplex dwellings and multifamily buildings to be licensed and accountable to meet minimum property maintenance and nuisance codes.**
- **Rename and redefine the “Commercial Vehicle Code” to the “Prohibited Vehicle and Equipment Code”. The new definition would prohibit all vehicles in excess of 21’ in length, 8’ in width, and 8’ in height to be parked in residential areas (except for service). The Code change allows one pickup truck, van, or utility trailer to have attachments such as racks or utility boxes. One such work type vehicle would be allowed for each residential unit provided the vehicle meets the 21-8-8 rule. It specifically excludes recreational vehicles and boats from the definition. (See attached Code Revision 122-37 (b).)**
- **Limit parking on the grassy areas of the front yard to (1) additional vehicle, parked parallel to the driveway on a manufactured-type surface. (Zoning)**
- **Prohibit parking RV’s within front yard setbacks; Require RV’s to be parked on a manufactured-type surface; Require the RV to be operational; Allow RV’s up to 38’ to be parked in residential areas. (Zoning)**
- **Require boats parked in residential zones to meet the same restrictions as RV’s. (Zoning)**
- **Provide for towing of inoperable vehicles from private property.**
- **Prohibit dumpsters in residential single family, duplex, triplex or four-unit complexes. (Zoning)**
- **Institute a franchise waste collection system for the unincorporated County.**
- **Reduce the time for compliance for repeat violators of the Lot Mowing Code from 10 days to 3 days. (See attached Code Revision 58-334 (b).)**
- **Allow utility sheds to remain in setbacks without requiring a variance, provided it is in good repair and has been in place 7 years or more. (Zoning)**
- **Require all new sheds in residential areas be placed on a non-biodegradable, manufactured floor. (Zoning)**
- **Reduce the noise level in neighborhoods on Sunday through Thursday nights. (See attached Code Revision 58-449 and Noise Diagram).**
- **Prohibit staking and chaining dog(s) in the front yard of a property.**
- **Reduce and/or eliminate certain threshold criteria for use of the Trash and Debris Code. (See attached Code Revision 58-300 and 58-304).**

- Exempt inoperable vehicles stored within a “fully enclosed structure.” (See attached Code Revision 58-272).
- Recommend the BCC support the following rule changes of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:
 1. Require signs on the property where dangerous wildlife resides, stating the type of wildlife and other appropriate information.
 2. Create a rule to require Class III wildlife to be reclassified to Class II wildlife when the animal/snake reaches an age and/or size where they could pose a threat to people and household pets.
 3. Require the FWC to maintain a web site that will allow a person to determine the location and type of dangerous wildlife within their community.
 4. Define an “appropriate neighborhood” so that permits would not be issued to persons who would locate dangerous wildlife near schools, day care centers, nursing homes, etc.
 5. Create a rule to prohibit Class II wildlife or venomous snakes from being kept in a house or dwelling where children under the age of 16 reside.
- Adopt standards within the Zoning Code to address outdoor cages from a structural, size and setback perspective.
- Update code publications to reflect revisions and proactively distribute.
- Implement a proactive Code Enforcement Program in partnership with communities. Action plans should include: (In order)
 1. Education regarding code compliance.
 2. Sponsorship of voluntary community clean-ups.
 3. Systematic enforcement sweeps.
- Continue policy of pursuing all violations found on a property.
- Petition the County Court to revert to a three week “Arrest Date” from the current four weeks.
- Provide notice to violators that a reoccurrence of the violations within five years will result in immediate citation.
- Create an Intent statement in the Administrative Section of the Code to strengthen penalties for repeat violators.
- Adopt a minimum fine amount of \$100.00 for any code violation.
- Reconvene a Code Enforcement Task Force a minimum of every five years.

ATTACHMENTS

Pinellas County Code Sec. 58-272 Suggested Revisions

Sec. 58-272. Exemption.

One off-road vehicle, per dwelling unit, may be placed or stored on residential property provided that the off-road vehicle is located on a trailer that has a current registration tag, also known as a license plate, of a kind required under state law as a condition of operation upon the public streets, affixed thereto. Any inoperative vehicle that is stored within a fully enclosed structure as defined in this section.

Pinellas County Code Sec. 58-334 Suggested Revisions

Sec. 58-334. Notice of violation.

(b) The written demand referenced in subsection (a) of this section shall also include a notice that in the event that property owner does not achieve compliance with the provisions of this article within 10 days from the date of the written demand, the violation of this article will be abated by, or at the direction of, the county. In the case of a repeat violation where the same property is again in violation the written demand shall allow 3 days to achieve compliance. The notice shall include an estimate of the administrative costs, mowing and clearing costs to be incurred by the county to achieve compliance with the provisions of this article. No property shall be cleared by, or at the direction of, the county until at least ten days after the date of the written demand.

Pinellas County Code Sec. 58-449 Suggested Revisions

Sec. 58-449. Noises created within residential zones.

(a) Except for those noises otherwise specifically provided for within this article, it shall be unlawful to create or to permit to be created any noise within a residential zone that exceeds 72 dBA during the hours between 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., or 55 dBA during the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., daily on Friday and Saturday, and 72 dBA during the hours between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., or 55 dBA during the hours between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday, measured at the nearest adjacent property line.

Pinellas County Code Sec. 58-300, 58-304 Suggested Revisions

Sec. 58-300. Intent.

It is hereby declared, due to the urban character and population density of the county, that the excessive growth or accumulation of weeds and similar plant material, or the accumulation of debris or other noxious material upon property situate in the unincorporated area of the county is contrary to the public health, safety and welfare, in that such growth or accumulation creates a haven or breeding place for snakes, rats, rodents and other vermin of like or similar character, creates a fire hazard to adjacent properties, and creates a traffic hazard at road intersections within the county. It is therefore deemed in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the county that such growth and accumulations be prohibited in accordance with this article.

Sec. 58-304. Prohibition against excessive accumulation of certain materials.

No person shall dump or cause to be dumped, or place or cause to be placed, or leave or permit to accumulate any garbage, refuse, rubbish, junk, debris, or similar noxious material of any kind or cause or permit the untended growth or excessive accumulation of weeds or other plant material on any property situate in the unincorporated area of the county, whether improved or unimproved, ~~so that the same shall constitute a breeding place or haven for snakes, rats, rodents, or other vermin of similar kind or character, or mosquitoes; or constitute a fire hazard endangering the lives and property of the citizens of the county; or constitute a traffic hazard by obstructing passage upon any road, or by obstructing the view of approaching traffic at any intersection of roads in the county.~~

Pinellas County Code Sec. 122-37, (b) Suggested Revisions

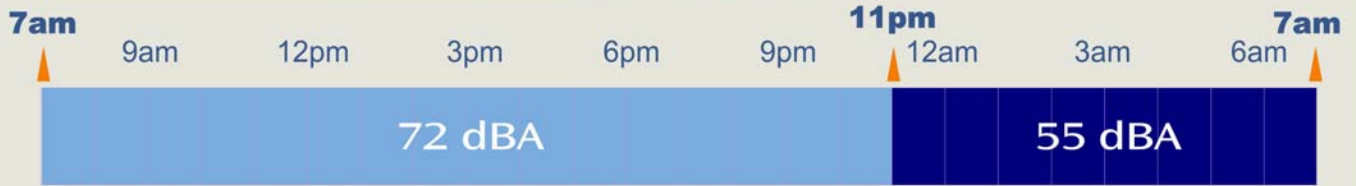
~~Commercial vehicle means a motor vehicle propelled by other than muscular power operated or intended to be operated over public streets and highways and used as a means of transporting persons or property and is used for commercial purposes or is a truck, trailer, semitrailer, truck tractor combination as defined in F.S. ch. 320, or is a moving van, delivery truck, dump truck, service vehicle, tow truck, wrecker, bus, crane, dragline, earth-mover, bulldozer, backhoe, trencher or similar vehicle. The term also includes any vehicle used as a platform for a derrick, hoist, crane, compressor, tanks, ladder racks, or similar equipment or as a means of transporting or storing a commercial vehicle. Automobiles, vans, recreational vehicles, pickup trucks weighing no more than 10,000 pounds (as determined by the vehicle's registration), and other similar vehicles are specifically excluded from this term.~~

PROHIBITED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT shall include but not be limited to all trucks, trailers and stretched and or extended automobiles or sport utility vehicles in excess of 21', semi-trailer, tractor trailer combination, or truck tractor as defined in F.S. § 320.01(11), or is a step-van, cube van, box truck, flat bed truck, tow truck, wrecker, moving van, bus, construction, landscaping, or land clearing equipment. "Construction, land clearing and landscaping equipment" as used in this section shall include but not be limited to front loaders, bulldozers, dragline, crane, or similar vehicle, or a tar pot, concrete mixer, trencher, stump grinder, brush shredder, or similar equipment designed to be towed behind a motorized vehicle. For each residential dwelling unit there may be one van, pick up truck, or utility trailer, with attachments such as ladder racks, utility beds, flat beds, glass racks, side racks, elevated tool boxes and or cargo and equipment carried within or on the vehicle. However, the vehicle together with any and all such attachments and/or cargo shall be no more than 21 feet in length, 8 feet in height, and 8' in width. The vehicle must be parked on a prepared, inorganic, hard surfaced, non-dirt, parking area and not on the grassy or vegetated area of the yard. This section is not intended to include operable boat trailers with or without boats, or other recreational vehicles as those are addressed in Section *** of this Code

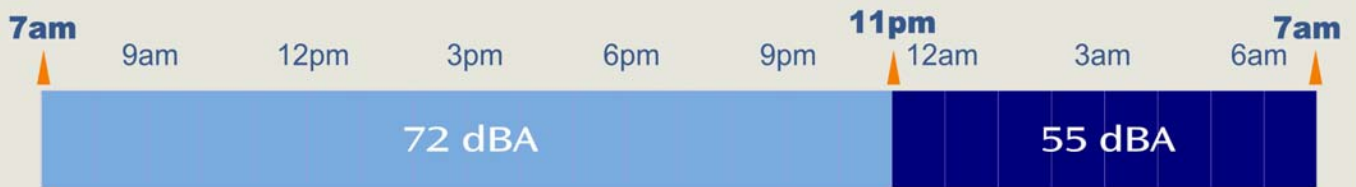
PROHIBITIONS. No person or agent thereof shall cause or permit a ~~commercial-prohibited~~ vehicle to be stored, maintained, or parked in a residential zoning district, unless such vehicle is parked on private property within a fully enclosed garage, thereby eliminating its visibility. One such vehicle may be parked on a residential property for no more than 30 minutes during the normal lunch hours of 11 AM to 2PM, not to exceed one 30-minute period per 24 hour day. Vehicles actively operating in a commercial, service capacity on a residential property where the vehicle is located, are excluded from this provision.

Noise Code

EXISTING - Sunday through Saturday



PROPOSED - Friday & Saturday



PROPOSED - Sunday through Thursday

