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OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

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November 27, 1990

Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: JUNK CAR REMOVAL PILOT PROGRAM REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

This informational report is being presented to provide an overview of the pilot junk car removal project that took place in the Meadowview area bounded by Florin Road, Freeport Boulevard, The Union Pacific Railroad tracks and the City limits during the month of September.

**BACKGROUND**

Throughout parts of Sacramento it is recognized that there is a considerable problem with junk cars, abandoned and/or inoperable, on City streets and on private property. Councilmembers Lynn Robie and Terry Kastanis decided to initiate a junk car removal program with the assistance of Neighborhood Services and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency during the month of September 1990 due to the number of complaints received and as a part of ongoing concentrated efforts to provide programs in the Meadowview area. This program was meant for voluntary participation by residents of Meadowview. The purpose of the program was not only to rid the area of junk vehicles, but to educate residents on city vehicle codes and how to easily get rid of a junk vehicle anytime of the year. Another positive aspect was initiating joint cooperation between the City, State and private business for the purpose of assisting the community.

The program included the following components: A private auto dismantler, U-Pull-It, Inc. located in the south area, agreed to remove junk vehicles for owners and who possessed the necessary paperwork such as a "pink slip" or "junk receipt". These documents

demonstrate that the owner has clear title to the vehicle which is required in order to have it removed. Upon receiving either document, U-Pull-It arranged to tow the vehicle away and pay the owner a \$25.00 "reward" if the vehicle had an engine and transmission. If there was no engine and transmission, the vehicle was simply towed free of charge.

The south area Department of Motor Vehicles agreed to participate in the program by helping junk vehicle owners if needed through the process of obtaining the necessary paperwork (pink slip or junk receipt). For those owners who had clear title but could not obtain the proper documents, Neighborhood Services agreed to "cite" the vehicles which enables the vehicles to be removed from the property without ownership documents. A follow up to the voluntary program included an intense enforcement period lasting three weeks by Neighborhood Services in the subject area which began during the last week of September.

The following are the results of the program: U-Pull-It towed 52 vehicles out of the area. Neighborhood Services had no special requests for assistance from owners who had no documents. Neighborhood Services follow up enforcement included marking 256 junk or abandoned vehicles on the street. Of those, 72 vehicles were towed and the remaining 184 were "gone on arrival" at the time of a recheck. The total number of cars towed from the area was 124.

Publicity for the program included the attached flyers that were mailed to every resident in the subject area. In addition, articles appeared in the local newspapers and news spots were heard on the radio. Due to the nature of the program, it may be helpful in future programs to have greater neighborhood participation such as door-to-door canvassing to get the word out and assist those unable to obtain the necessary documents. The understanding that this program was voluntary was sometimes unclear to those receiving the flyers. Fear or suspicion of the program could have been allayed by neighborhood representatives which may have also resulted in more participation.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

Special junk car removal programs such as this can be administered at almost no cost to the City. In fact, voluntary citizen participation in such programs may actually result in a savings to the City for Neighborhood Services staff time usually spent on enforcement.

#### POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In light of budgetary constraints and increasing demands placed on City services, the junk car removal project is a proactive and creative response to neighborhood issues. This staff report merely illustrates a positive example of creating partnerships, coordinating resources and promoting community participation.

**MBE/WBE EFFORTS**

Not applicable.

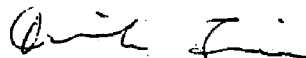
**RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for Committee information and requires no formal action. It is recommended that it be forwarded to full City Council for information.

Respectfully submitted,



MARY MCFADDEN  
Administrative Assistant  
to the City Council

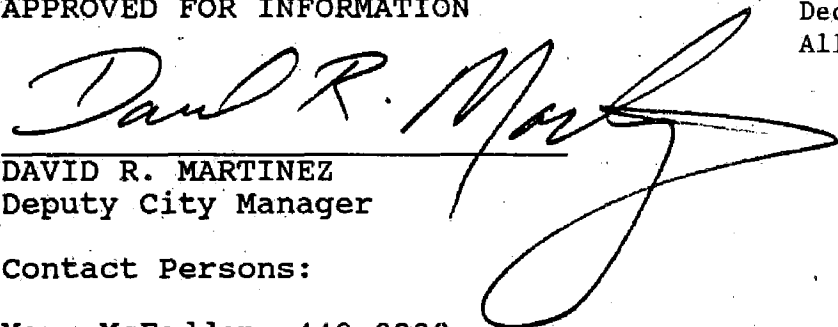


DERRICK LIM  
Administrative Assistant  
to the City Council

Attachments

APPROVED FOR INFORMATION

December 11, 1990  
All Districts



DAVID R. MARTINEZ  
Deputy City Manager

Contact Persons:

Mary McFadden, 449-8238  
Derrick Lim, 449-8237



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September 13, 1990

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Christine Olsen, City Public Information Officer  
449-5708

Michael Hanamura, City Neighborhood Services Division Manager  
449-5948

**CITY LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT TO GET RID OF JUNKED CARS**

Junked cars are a growing problem in Sacramento neighborhoods. Last year the City received more than 14,000 complaints about junked cars degrading neighborhoods, lowering property values, and creating traffic and safety hazards.

In an effort to address this problem, the City has teamed up with residents, neighborhood organizations, and a local business in a pilot project to get rid of junked cars on public streets and in driveways. The program gives junked car owners an easy and economical way to get rid of old or inoperable vehicles.

It is against the law to abandon any vehicle on a public street, or leave a vehicle on a public road or street in a way that creates a hazard. It is also against City ordinance to keep any vehicle on private property which is obviously inoperable. Owners of junked cars can be cited for these violations, and charged for the costs of removing and disposing of the car.

U-Pull-It, an auto dismantler in the pilot project area, is offering to haul away and scrap junked cars at no cost to the owners. In fact, for cars that still have an engine and transmission, U-Pull-It will pay the owner \$25. That's a great deal when you consider that owners may have to pay \$150 or more if they are cited by a government agency for having a junked car.

The City's pilot project to help owners get rid of their junked cars will run through September. The project area is bounded by Florin Road, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, the City limits, and Freeport Boulevard. Groups participating in the project include Concerned Citizens of South Sacramento; Neighborhood Awareness Group; Meadowview Community Action, Inc.; Meadowview Neighborhood League; Meadowview Improvement Committee; City of Sacramento; the Sacramento

Residents in the project area are receiving special mailers to let them know about the program and help in getting their vehicles scrapped at no cost. If the project is successful, it may be expanded to other areas of the City.

Even if they don't live in the project area, City residents who own cars they want to have hauled off and scrapped can call U-Pull-It at 1-800-442-JUNK, or another auto dismantler. U-Pull-It requires that owners give them the pink slip for the car, or a Junk Car Receipt (available from the State Department of Motor Vehicles).

City residents who want to complain about junked cars on City streets or private property can still call the City Neighborhood Services Division. However, junked cars are such a big problem in the City it may be some time before officers can respond to a non emergency situation. City Neighborhood Services can issue citations for junked cars. After giving the owner an opportunity to move the vehicle, the City can have a vehicle towed that violates State law or City ordinance. However, Neighborhood Services officers warn that the City cannot take action against vehicles that are just old or ugly. The car must be obviously inoperable, or create a safety hazard. City Neighborhood Services can be reached weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 449-5948.

- END -

# Junk cars put on endangered list

## Wrecker will pay \$25 for unused autos under community-city plan

By Ben Hellwarth  
Neighbors staff writer

Now is the time for all good Meadowview residents to come to the aid of their neighborhood by having their junk cars towed away.

Through the end of the month, city officials and a coalition of community groups have arranged to make it easier for residents in the south-area neighborhood to get rid of their old cars — cars that have ceased to function as transportation and now serve only as eyesores.

The intent of the pilot Junk Car Removal Project is as much to encourage people to have their automotive carcasses taken away as it is to provide information about disposing of old cars in general.

"This is the first time that any of us at the city have put together an educational program like this," said Mary McFadden, administrative assistant to Councilman Terry Kastanis. "We're trying to tell people what the codes are and how to get cars towed away."

If the program works out, similar efforts may be made in other city neighborhoods.

**'On any of the options, you cannot call and have your neighbor's car towed away.'**

**— Mary McFadden,  
aide to City Councilman  
Terry Kastanis**

Fliers announcing the program have already been mailed to residents who live south of Florin Road between Freepoint Boulevard and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

To entice people in the area to volunteer to get rid of their clunkers, the city will waive the \$75 abatement fee it usually charges for carting away illegally parked

junk cars.

In addition, officials have put out the word that, with proper documentation, U-Pull-It Inc. will pay owners \$25 to tow their old cars away if the vehicles still have engines and transmissions. If those parts are missing, the Stockton Boulevard towing business will pick up the cars, but won't pay the \$25.

There are some other particulars about having junk cars removed that residents should be aware of, McFadden said.

One point to keep in mind "is that it has to be your car. It cannot be someone else's car," she said. "On any of the options, you cannot call and have your neighbor's car towed away."

The simplest option for having your car towed is if you have the pink slip, proving that you own it. Then you can turn the pink slip in to U-Pull-It, along with one of the city's instruction sheets, and arrange to have the car towed. That option gets rid of the car and gets you \$25.

If you don't have the pink slip or you

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## Junk

Continued from Page 3

Forgot to clear title on the car but have its license plates, you need to get a "junk receipt" from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

To do so, you should take your license plates and any other documents you have, such as a bill of sale, to the DMV. It may be necessary to fill out a duplicate pink slip form and certificate of non-operation. The DMV can verify the owner on record and explain any other steps you might have to take before bringing the junk receipt and a filled-out city instruction sheet to U-Pull-It.

Once again, you would get \$25.

If you have no paperwork or license plates, or you have trouble getting a "junk receipt" from the DMV, you can't get the \$25, but you can get a break from the city, which for the month of September only is offering to tow Meadowview residents' cars without charging the usual \$75 abatement fee.

For more information or to make an appointment at the DMV, call 393-1837. The nearest office is at 7226 Florin Mall Drive.

For information about U-Pull-It, call 1-800-442-JUNK.

If you would like help from city officials or general information about the car removal program, call Mary McFadden at 449-8238, or Derrick Lim, Councilwoman Lynn Robie's administrative assistant, at 449-8237.

**IN BRIEF**

*Sacramento Union 9/19/90*

**No junk cars, please**

U-Pull-It, a south Sacramento auto dismantler, is offering to haul away and scrap junk cars free of charge to owners.

It will pay \$25 for cars with engines and transmissions.

The dismantler's offer is valid through September within an area bounded by Florin Road, the Union Pacific railroad tra-

cks, the city limits and Freeport Boulevard.

It is part of a pilot city program to get rid of junk cars on public streets and in driveways.

Residents wishing to participate should call U-Pull-It at 1-800-442-JUNK.


U-Pull-It requires that owners give the firm the vehicle's pink slip or a junk car receipt, available from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

It is illegal to abandon a vehicle on a public street or to keep an inoperable car on private property. Owners of junk cars can be charged for the costs of removing the cars.

A citation and removal of a junked car can cost the owner \$150 or more.

**HELP BUILD NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE AND BEAUTY BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT!**

Please join area residents, Concerned Citizens of South Sacramento, Meadowview Community Action, Meadowview Improvement Committee, Meadowview Neighborhood League, Neighborhood Awareness Group, Council Members Lynn Robie and Terry Kastanis, Neighborhood Services and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

	<p><b>\$25.00 REWARD</b></p> <p><b>For</b></p> <p><b>Junk Cars</b></p>
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Do you live south of Florin Road between Freeport Boulevard and the Union Pacific RR tracks? Need a quick way to get rid of your clunker and give your neighborhood a facelift? Read below and find out how to join in this year's *Neighborhood Cleanup and Junk Car Removal Project* during the month of September. (Of course, you can get rid of a clunker anytime of the year.)

U-Pull-It will pick up and pay you \$25.00 for your junk car if it has an engine and transmission. Cars without an engine and transmission will be picked up but no payment will be given.

<p><b>EASIEST</b></p> <p><b>EASY</b></p>	<p>1. <i>Have your pink slip?</i> Don't go to DMV. Just turn it into U-Pull-It, Inc. with this completed flyer.*</p> <p>2. <i>Have your license plates and no pink slip or forgot to clear your title?</i> You need a "junk receipt." Go to DMV with your plates and any documents you have like a bill of sale. You may need to fill out a duplicate pink slip form and certificate of non-operation (to avoid DMV charges). DMV will verify the owner on record and tell you the next step before you take this completed flyer and junk receipt to U-Pull-It.*</p> <p>*To junk a car, you must be the owner on record.</p>	<p><b>WORTH</b></p> <p><b>\$25.00</b></p> <p><b>TO YOU</b></p>
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<p><b>ALSO</b></p> <p><b>EASY</b></p>	<p>3. <i>Have no paperwork and plates--or trouble getting junk receipt at DMV?</i> U-Pull-It cannot pay the \$25 reward, but the City can help remove your car! <b>FOR SEPTEMBER ONLY</b>, the City will not charge you the usual \$75 abatement fee. For assistance, call 449-8238 or 449-8237 for <u>free</u> car removal.*</p> <p>*To junk a car, you must be the owner on record.</p>	<p><b>COSTS</b></p> <p><b>YOU</b></p> <p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>MONEY</b></p>
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**Car Removal Questions?**  
U-Pull-It, Inc.  
7600 Stockton Blvd.  
Call 1-800-442-JUNK

**Nearest Department of Motor Vehicles**  
7226 Florin Mall Drive  
393-1837  
For faster service, make an appointment!

Remember --

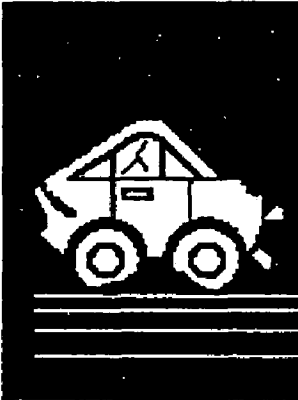
**ACT NOW!**

- Fast action = fast money and beautiful neighborhoods.
- Fill out the form on the reverse side of this notice.
- Stop by U-Pull-It anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. with your pink or junk slip.
- Car cannot be towed without a pink slip or junk receipt and completed flyer.
- Payment made at time of towing.
- Volunteers needed for community cleanup, Saturday, September 29, 1990.



**HELP BUILD NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE AND BEAUTY  
BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT!**

Please join area residents, Concerned Citizens of South Sacramento, Meadowview Community Action, Meadowview Improvement Committee, Meadowview Neighborhood League, Neighborhood Awareness Group, Council Members Lynn Robie and Terry Kastanis, Neighborhood Services and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.



# JUNK CAR BULLETIN!

*Did you know that a junk car can be illegal?*

- **FACT** - Vehicles can be parked on the driveway, but must be in running condition. If they appear inoperable or junked out, you can be asked to fix them or remove them. (The removal of a junk car can cost the owner up to \$75.00.)
- **FACT** - Vehicles can be parked on the street, but must be in running condition. If they are not operable because they have no wheels or engine, etc. They can be towed by the City at your expense. They must also have current licenses and registration.

If you have either one of these problems, there is help for you. You can even make some money from your junk car!

For more information, look for the junk car flyer arriving in your mail soon!