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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER# 000108 063009
CODE INTERPRETATION

Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) Section 15.05.010.K.

Section 15.05.010.K of the Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) adopts the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). Misreading of the code section regarding inoperable or unlicensed vehicles is leading to difficulty in getting compliance with the code. Some violators are reading the following section to mean that even if a vehicle is inoperable, if it is licensed it is not a violation.

Section 302.08 of the adopted IPMC states:

“Motor Vehicles, recreational vehicles, and boats. Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle, recreational vehicle or boat shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle, recreational vehicle or boat shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, damaged to the extent it prevents normal operation, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.”

To clarify, the word “or” is a conjunction used to express alternatives between different descriptive elements. In the above sentence, this means that only one of the elements mentioned (inoperable *or* unlicensed) in the first clause needs to be satisfied in order for the violation to have occurred. Therefore the following applies:

Any vehicle required to be licensed under Washington State law which is parked wholly or partially on private property must properly display current and legal license plates and registration tabs to be in compliance with IPMC 302.8 as adopted in SMC 15.05.010.K.

Any vehicle required to be licensed under Washington State law which is parked wholly or partially on private property must be legally operational to be in compliance with IPMC 302.8 as adopted in SMC 15.05.010.K.

In other words, an inoperable vehicle is in violation of the code. A vehicle that is not licensed is in violation of the code. A licensed vehicle that is inoperable is in violation of the code. An operable vehicle that is unlicensed is in violation of the code.



Director's Signature

6/30/09
Date