

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, GARBAGE, TRASH AND LITTER OF THE MOBILE CITY CODE

Sponsored by: William S. Stimpson

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA,
AS FOLLOWS:**

ARTICLE ONE: Amendment and Restatement of Chapter 25 GARBAGE, TRASH, AND LITTER

Chapter 25, Garbage, Trash and Litter of the Mobile City Code, 1991, is hereby amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

CHAPTER 25 GARBAGE, TRASH, AND LITTER

ARTICLE 1. GARBAGE AND TRASH

Sec. 25-1 – Applicability and Rule of Construction

- (a) Except where otherwise provided, the provisions of this article apply throughout the City limits.
- (b) If any portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such judgment shall in no way affect or impair the validity of the remaining portions of this article.

Sec. 25-2 – Definitions

As used in this article, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (1) *Apartment* is a suite of rooms which composes a residence in a multi-dwelling unit, which the occupant(s) rents.
- (2) *Balloon* is a flexible nonporous bag made from materials such as rubber, latex, polychloroprene, or nylon fabric that can be inflated or filled with fluid, such as helium, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, oxygen, air, or water and then sealed at the neck, usually used as a toy or decoration.
- (3) *Bulk container* is any dumpster, roll-off container, or stationary storage facility placed for the temporary containerization of solid waste at a place of business, multi-dwelling unit complex, industrial or construction site, and is tightly covered or constructed to eliminate wind-driven debris and unsightly litter on or about the premises.
- (4) *Business* means a sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other business entity, either for-profit or not-for-profit, including retail establishments where goods or services are sold, professional corporations and other entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering, architectural, or other professional services are delivered, and private clubs.
- (5) *Condominium* is a suite of rooms which compose a residence in a multi-dwelling unit, which the occupant(s) owns or rents from the owner.
- (6) *Downtown Business District* means the area bounded by the Mobile River on the east, Canal Street on the south, Broad Street on the west, and Beauregard Street on the north.
- (7) *Enforcement Officer* means a City of Mobile employee designated by the Mayor as the person to exercise the authority, enforce the provisions and perform the duties delegated by this Chapter in accord with the prescribed procedures of this jurisdiction.
- (8) *Cigarette litter receptacle* is a container for the disposal of litter from smoking including cigarettes, cigars and their butts.
- (9) *City* means the City of Mobile, in the County of Mobile, d in the State of Alabama.
- (10) *City limits* are the corporate boundaries of the City.

- (11) *Commercial premises* is any lot or any building, or part thereof, used in connection with or for the conduct of any business, trade, occupation, or any profession for which a license is required by the City, and includes all unimproved real property not zoned for single-family residential use.
- (12) *Commercial waste* means refuse from commercial premises including garbage, trash, kitchen waste, restaurant waste, food containers, paper, floor litter, sidewalk sweepings, leaves, grass, weeds, hedge trimmings, and small tree trimmings not exceeding five feet in length and four inches in diameter, and includes waste generated from a business operating on residential premises and waste generated from multi dwelling units.
- (13) *Corrective notice* is a written notice or warning issued by an enforcement officer to inform the recipient of a violation of this article and specifying a period of time in which to correct the violation. A corrective notice does not impose a fine.
- (14) *Construction Debris* means rubbish resulting from construction, demolition, or alteration of any building or structure, including scrap, lumber, plaster, roofing, concrete, brick and sanding dust, mortar and glass, resulting from the construction, repair, remodeling, removal, or demolition of any structure.
- (15) *Domestic waste* Any waste capable of entering into or passing through a plumbing system. Such waste includes but is not limited to human excrement, bath water, kitchen and bathroom waste and waste from septic tanks, sumps, outhouses, or any other waste collection point. The term "domestic waste" does not include waste from any commercial or industrial process that is authorized by Mobile Area Water and Sewer System to be discharged into a sewage collection system.
- (16) *Food service facility* Any establishment, retail food store, public or private school, correctional facility, hospital, food processing or preparing establishment, or other establishment where food is prepared for sale or offered for sale, including any establishment that slaughters, fabricates, bones, or processes animals, poultry, or fish whether or not required by law to be licensed or permitted by an agency of the state.
- (17) *Garbage* means putrescible material and other daily non-putrescible disposable items when part of household garbage.
- (18) *Garbage cart* is a 64- or 96-gallon container provided by the City for use with its automated garbage collection system.
- (19) *Grease hauler* Any person who removes fat, oil, or grease waste of any form from a premises by means of transporting the waste over a public road. This includes waste from grease traps, grease interceptors, grease collection bins, or any other fats, oils, or grease collection point.
- (20) *Hazardous materials/waste* means a substance in quantity and form which may pose an unreasonable risk to human health and safety or to the environment, including private property. Additionally, the definition of Hazardous waste includes any material regulated under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subtitle C (42 U.S.C. §§ 6921 – 6939g) including waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence. Hazardous Materials includes pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, antifreeze, batteries, acids, cleaners, paint, medications, fluorescent light bulbs, railroad ties, and petroleum products.
- (21) *Household* means a single-family residence, an individual mobile home, and/or a multi-family residence.
- (22) *Household garbage* means putrescible solid waste as well as ordinary waste generated by a household. t. This term does not include sewage, bodily waste, or ashes. Applies to areas zoned as single-family, duplex, tri-plex, or quad-plex. This term does not include Multi-dwelling unit waste and waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence.
- (23) *Household trash* means non-putrescible solid waste consisting of yard clippings, leaves, wood, tree limbs and trunks, bedding, appliances, furniture, paper and cardboard, plastics, wood, wrappings, cans, and similar materials, but not ashes. This term does not include Multi-dwelling unit waste and waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence.
- (24) *Junk* refers to any vehicle parts, rubber tires, appliances, dilapidated furniture, machinery, equipment, building material, or other items which are either in a wholly or partially rusted, wrecked, junked, dismantled or inoperative condition. This term includes a vehicle with one or more of the following characteristics: it is non-operating, abandoned, wrecked, or partially dismantled; or it has flat tires, or a missing engine, door(s), hood, windows, or other missing body parts.
- (25) *Knowingly* means a person is aware of taking the action, behavior, or conduct which amounts to committing a violation. It is not a requirement that the person has knowledge that the behavior is an offense.
- (26) *Litter* means any garbage, refuse, or noncontainerized man-made solid waste, such as paper, plastic, diapers, cigarette butts, bottles, cans, glass, crockery, scrap metal, construction materials, rubbish, disposable packages, or containers.
- (27) *Litter receptacle* is a container constructed and placed for use as a depository for litter.

- (28) *Manufactured home* means a building, transportable in one (1) or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term also includes park trailers, travel trailers and similar transportable structures placed on a site and intended to be improved property.
- (29) *Manufactured home park* means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are affixed are constructed by the owner of the park of subdivision before placement of a manufactured home on an individual lot. The facilities servicing the lot include, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pad(s).
- (30) *Multi-dwelling unit* is a building in which five or more multiple separate housing units for residential occupants are contained in one building or several buildings within one complex and under the same ownership or with multiple owners. Condominiums or apartments may compose the buildings in a multi-dwelling unit.
- (31) *Multi-family residence* means two, three, or four family separate residential units in a single residential structure, such as a duplex, triplex, or fourplex.
- (32) *Municipal offense ticket (MOT)* is a citation specifying a violation of a City ordinance issued by an enforcement officer of the City and directs the violator either to pay a fine and court costs or to appear in municipal court to answer the charge(s).
- (33) *Occupant* is any owner, tenant, or person residing, in possession or in charge of any house, building, store, shop, lot, or premises.
- (34) *Owner* is any person, agent, firm, corporation or other entity having legal title to real property, including any mortgagee bank, company, institution, individual, or other entity of record which has foreclosed on the property, or the estate of a deceased owner or the last recorded owner in the property tax records of the county revenue commissioner.
- (35) *Person* means an individual, partnership, association, syndicate, company, firm, trust, corporation, government, corporation, department, bureau, agency, business, or any entity recognized by law, and any agents of those entities.
- (36) *Places of assembly* are buildings, structures, or portions of a building or structure used for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social, or religious functions, recreation, food or drink consumption, or for awaiting transportation.
- (37) *Premises* means any building or real property.
- (38) *Private property* is property owned by any person as defined herein.
- (39) *Public nuisance* includes any growth of weeds, scrub (wild) bushes, and grass exceeding community standards, normally ten inches in height, and/or nonorganic debris that presents a fire hazard, a health hazard, a flooding hazard, a safety hazard, or otherwise endangers human health and safety or the environment.
- (40) *Putrescible* means an item that will rot or decay, such as food waste, and therefore is likely to attract vermin and other vectors.
- (41) *Qualified Business Enterprise* is a restaurant, bar, or other substantially similar establishment approved by the Public Services Department operating within the defined Downtown Business District.
- (42) *Refuse* is a term applied generally to trash, garbage, debris, litter, and any discarded materials.
- (43) *Residential premises* are premises used as single- or multi-family dwellings, townhouses, apartments, and condominiums, both privately and publicly owned.
- (44) *Septage hauler* Any person who removes domestic waste from a premises and transports the waste over a public road.
- (45) *Single-family residence* is a one-family dwelling; a residential structure, which does not share any common walls with another residence; the dwelling may be owner-occupied or tenant-occupied.
- (46) *Sky lantern* is a device that requires a flame which produces heated air trapped in a balloon-type covering allowing the device to float in the air. Sky lanterns shall not include hot-air balloons used for transporting persons.
- (47) *Trash* is non-putrescible solid waste consisting of yard clippings, leaves, wood, tree limbs and trunks, bedding, appliances, paper and cardboard, plastics, wood, wrappings, cans, and similar materials.
- (48) *UNTCC* is a uniform non-traffic citation and complaint as set out in Rule 20 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration. When issued electronically, it is known as an eUNTCC.
- (49) *UTCC* is a uniform traffic citation and complaint as set out in Rule 20 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration.

(50) *Vehicle* is any device capable of moving and transporting persons or property upon a public highway, street, or waterway. This shall include any watercraft, boat, ship, vessel, barge, or other floating craft. For the purposes of this ordinance, *Vehicle* does not include devices moved by human power and those vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes, not licensed pursuant to state law, and that are not operated on any public highway for purposes other than crossing such public highways or along such highways between two tracts of the owner's land.

Sec. 25-3 – Department of Public Services, Sanitation Division

(a) The Department of Sanitation shall from time to time implement rules and guidelines consistent with the provisions of Chapter 25 in order to implement and effectuate the application of said provisions.

(b) The pickup schedule for household garbage and household trash will be fixed under guidelines and procedures implemented by the Department of Sanitation.

Sec. 25-4 – General Requirements

It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally damage, remove, handle or to otherwise disturb the garbage containers or the contents thereof which have been placed on city right of way for servicing by the garbage collectors; provided, that this section does not apply to the owner, occupant, lessee, or tenant of the residence or dwelling so placing the container and contents.

Sec. 25-5 – Household garbage.

(a) *Frequency.* Pickup of household garbage is once per week based on the household address. Frequency may be governed by to guidelines implemented by the Department of Sanitation and is subject to change. Holiday schedules may vary.

(b) *Garbage cart issuance.* The City of Mobile will assign an initial 96-gallon or 64-gallon garbage cart to newly constructed residential units. All existing households eligible for collection are required to have a City assigned garbage cart. An additional or replacement garbage cart may be assigned to the address by the City for a fee (for a total limit of 2 per household). Title of the garbage cart shall at all times remain with the City. Payment options can be found by checking the City of Mobile website at www.CityofMobile.org or by calling Mobile 311 at 251-208-5311.

(c) *Garbage carts.*

- (1) All household garbage shall be contained inside plastic bags and placed inside of a city-issued garbage cart. All garbage carts shall be closed to prevent animals from scattering the garbage. Garbage carts overloaded so that lids will not close will not be picked up.
- (2) Garbage carts should be placed with the handle facing away from the street to ensure the cart is aligned with the garbage truck loading mechanism.
- (3) No intentional marking, drawing, or writing with paint, ink, or another substance on, or the intentional etching into the garbage cart is allowed.
- (4) Maintenance. Garbage carts that have deteriorated to the extent of having jagged or sharp edges capable of causing injury to the garbage collectors or others whose duty it is to handle these containers, will not be collected. Deteriorated carts must be replaced at the cost of household. Garbage carts shall be kept cleaned, maintained, sanitized, and free of any other forms of deterioration inside and outside.
- (5) Removal of garbage cart from the assigned address shall be prohibited.
- (6) Failure to comply with any provision of 25-5(c) shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof.

(d) *Quantity.* Each household shall be limited up to two (2) city issued garbage carts. Unauthorized garbage carts will not be picked up.

(e) *Location.* All containers shall be placed curbside and not placed in the street. Carts placed in medians or on vacant lots will not be collected. Garbage carts not serviced on the scheduled route due to placement or obstruction (i.e., blocked by vehicles, etc.) will not receive additional/return service.

(f) *Time.* Household garbage containers shall be placed by the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the regular collection day, and empty containers should be returned to the household as soon as possible, but not later than 11:59 p.m. on collection day. If a resident does not know the collection day for their area, they may request this information by contacting Mobile 311 at 251-208-5311 or check the City of Mobile website at www.cityofmobile.org. It shall be a violation of this Chapter punishable under Article Three hereof to allow a container to remain by the curb beyond the time stated above.

(g) *Hazardous materials/waste and Household Trash.* It shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof to place these materials, as defined in 25-2, in garbage carts even if they are in a plastic bag.

Sec. 25-6 – Household trash.

(a) *Frequency.* Pick-up is every other week, subject to change pursuant to guideline implemented by the Department of Sanitation. Holiday schedules may vary.

(b) *Quantity.*

(1) Maximum quantity for no additional charge is limited to approximately two (2) cubic yards (3 feet by 3 feet by 6 feet) or the equivalent of fifteen (15) bags of leaves, per household, every other week. (There is no charge for this amount.)

(2) Amounts exceeding the maximum collection limit will be considered an oversized load. The household will have the choice of taking it to an approved landfill or contacting the city to collect it for a fee. Trash piles that are requested for oversized loads will be evaluated by a Sanitation department official who will determine the collection fee based on the size of the pile. The Department of Sanitation may elect to collect the fee before removing the trash. Information and payment options can be found by checking the City of Mobile website at www.CityofMobile.org or by calling Mobile 311 at 251-208-5311.

(3) Where household trash exceeds the maximum allowed, that trash will not be collected, and a corrective notice will be given explaining the violation.

(c) *Time.* Household trash may not be placed for collection prior to forty-eight (48) hours before the designated pickup day.

(d) *Location.* Household trash shall be placed on the property where it originated as close to the street as possible without posing an obstruction to pedestrians or other risk to health and human safety. Trash piles that are not serviced on the scheduled route due to placement or obstruction (i.e., blocked by vehicles, etc.) will not receive additional/return service and it will be the responsibility of the property owner to remove. It shall be a violation of this Article to place household trash in any of the following locations or ways:

- (1) On medians, on vacant or abandoned residential or commercial property.
- (2) Obstructing sidewalks.
- (3) Obstructing gutters, ditches, or any portions of the city's drain system.
- (4) Obstructing the street, creating a traffic hazard.
- (5) In a location that could cause a fire hazard, with trash not eligible for city pickup.
- (6) Around fire hydrants, signposts, guy wires, power poles, over water meters, over masonry work, against fences, or at the base of trees located within the City of Mobile rights-of-way.
- (7) Under low hanging power lines, TV cables or low tree limbs.

(e) *Leaves, straw, and grass clippings* may be placed by the curb for pickup at the scheduled time if bagged or boxed and limited to the quantities defined above.

(f) The following materials are not collectible as part of household trash, and it shall be a violation of this Article to place these materials on the curb:

- (1) Limbs greater than twelve (12) inches in diameter;
- (2) Limbs greater than six (6) feet in length;
- (3) Construction debris (including home improvement projects);
- (4) Debris from a lot clearing project;
- (5) Materials from commercial projects;
- (6) Materials from evictions; or
- (7) Any materials accumulated from commercial businesses.

(g) Failure to comply with any requirement of this Section 25-6 shall be a violation.

Sec. 25-7 – Hazardous materials/waste.

(a) It shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof. to place or include Hazardous materials/waste with household trash or household garbage. Said matter must be disposed of by the household at a facility legally permitted for the disposal of these items. b) Broken glass, sharp metal objects, or hypodermic needles and other household medical waste must be disposed of in puncture-proof sealed containers or biohazard waste bags.

Sec. 25-8 – Downtown Business District

(a) Except as provided below, the City of Mobile does not provide trash or garbage services to businesses or commercial enterprises.

(b). Commercial waste will be collected once each day from all qualified business enterprises located within the Downtown Business District.

(c) *Garbage Carts.*

(1) Issuance. Garbage carts must be obtained from City for a fee. Title of the garbage cart shall at all times remain with the City. The City will only service City garbage carts. Payment options can be found by checking the City of Mobile website at www.CityofMobile.org or by calling Mobile 311 at 251-208-5311.

(2) Maintenance. Garbage carts that have deteriorated to the extent of having jagged or sharp edges capable of causing injury to the garbage collectors or others whose duty it is to handle these containers, will not be collected. Deteriorated carts will be replaced by the City, for a fee paid by the business owner. Garbage carts shall be kept cleaned, maintained, sanitized, and free of any other forms of deterioration inside and outside.

(3) No intentional marking, drawing, or writing with paint, ink, or another substance on, or the intentional etching into the garbage cart is allowed.

(4) It shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof. to intentionally damage or remove a garbage cart from the assigned address.

(d) *Quantity.* All garbage consisting of kitchen waste, restaurant waste, food refuse or other matter offensive in sight or smell shall be bagged and placed in ninety-six (96) gallon garbage carts. The combined weight of garbage and cart shall not exceed one hundred (100) pounds each; garbage carts weighing in excess of one hundred (100) pounds will not be picked up.

(e) *Location.* Containers of commercial waste may be placed for collection on or near the curb line of the originating place of business, including streets at the front or rear, or the alley of that business's property, providing the alley is accessible to the collectors' trucks at the time of collection of garbage. Placement areas shall be kept cleaned, maintained, and sanitized.

(f) *Time.* Garbage Carts in the Business District shall not be placed on the sidewalk or curb for collection between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. After the garbage has been collected, the owners of the containers shall remove them from the streets of the City not later than two hours after the garbage has been collected. Waste containers may be placed in alleys at any time.

(g) Failure to comply with any provision of 25-8 shall be a violation of this section. punishable under Article Three hereof.

Sec. 25-9 – Commercial, Outside of Downtown Business District

(a) The provisions of this section shall apply to all Commercial Enterprises, Multi-dwelling units, manufactured home parks, and places of assembly that are located within the City limits and are outside of the Downtown Business District.

(b) Commercial pickup outside the business district will be arranged by the owner or occupant of the commercial enterprise.

(c) Commercial premises shall install dumpsters, bulk containers, or other containers to be emptied on a timely basis at the owner or occupant's expense.

(d) All dumpsters shall be affixed with an identification decal, which is legible and waterproof, that includes the following information:

- (1) The name of the entity or business using the dumpster;
- (2) If the business is also the owner of the property, the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is authorized to accept legal service for the owner; and
- (3) If the business is a tenant on the property, the name address and telephone number of the person who is authorized to accept legal service for the tenant.

(e) In the event that an owner or occupant of commercial premises elects to enclose a dumpster or secure the dumpster with an automatic lock release in accordance with subsection (e) or is required to do so as provided in subsection (e), then said owner or operator must ensure the conditions noted below are met. Dumpster enclosures are not optional for an owner or occupant that has committed a second violation of Sec. 25-10 of this ordinance, in which case the City requires the owner or occupant to enclose the dumpster and secure it by installing an automatic lock.

(1) Dumpster enclosures must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Constructed of wood or brick and at least the height of the dumpster, which is being enclosed, but not to exceed eight (8) feet in height.
- (b) The dumpster enclosure may be equipped with a door or gate constructed of wood or other opaque material that opens outward and which remains closed unless the dumpster is being filled or emptied.
- (c) The dumpster enclosure must be of sufficient size to allow for placement and removal of the dumpster without causing damage to the enclosure.
- (d) The dumpster enclosure must be kept in good repair and condition.
- (e) Failure to comply with any provision above shall be a violation of this Article. Any owner or occupant of commercial premises that has a dumpster located thereon who pleads guilty to a violation of this section, or is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty of violating this section, may, on a first offense, be allowed the option to either pay the applicable fine and costs, or alternatively, to enclose the dumpster or secure the dumpster with an automatic lock release in accordance with the requirements of this section within the sixty-day period following the guilty plea or adjudication. Upon a second violation of this section, the occupant shall be required to enclose the dumpster or secure the dumpster with an automatic lock release in accordance with the requirements of this section in addition to all other fines, penalties, and costs that may be imposed. For purposes of this section, failure by the defendant to either pay a fine or appear in court as required by a properly served charging document shall be considered the same as pleading guilty to violating this section.

- (1) To be deemed secured under this section, the dumpster must have a functioning automatic lock release, sometimes called a gravity lock release or similar product, that will cause the lid of the dumpster to be securely closed and sealed whenever the dumpster is not being filled or emptied.
- (f) Failure to comply with any requirement of this Section 25-9 shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof.

Sec. 25-10 – Commercial Waste/Collection

- (a) It shall be the duty of each owner, occupant, tenant, or lessee of any commercial premises, multi-dwelling unit premises, manufactured home park, or places of assembly to keep the premises clear and free of litter, trash, junk, and high grass and weeds as defined under “public nuisance” in Section 25-2-34. These areas include grounds, parking lots, roads, driveways, rights-of-way, loading and unloading areas, storm drains, vacant lots, and unimproved real property. See Sec. 52-56 for the circumstances in which the City may declare a nuisance.
- (b) All persons performing construction and demolition work, and owners or occupants of commercial premises shall provide on-site receptacles for loose debris paper, building material waste, scrap building materials, and other litter products to prevent the scattering of such materials by wind or rain.
- (c) No owner or occupant of commercial premises who is not a licensed junk dealer may grant permission to any person to dispose of litter, garbage, trash, or junk on the premises.
- (d) All owners or occupants of commercial premises shall store their trash, garbage, or litter in appropriate containers; maintain their premises as clean, neat, and sanitary; and shall prevent litter from blowing or washing onto adjacent property thoroughfares or into storm drains or waterways. Spillage and overflow around containers shall be cleaned up as it occurs.
- (e) Where commercial enterprises share parking lots, the occupant and/or owner must decide who will be responsible for the container. That enterprise must put their name and contact information on the container and take ownership over its maintenance.
- (f) Containers required by this section shall be of sufficient size and material to hold the litter and other waste from visitors to the commercial enterprise.
- (g) The occupant and/or owner of each commercial enterprise is responsible for emptying and otherwise maintaining the containers to limit litter, waste, or debris in the area.
- (h) Any owner or occupant of commercial premises that has a trash or litter located within the parking lots, who pleads guilty to a violation of this section, or is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty of violating this section, may, on a first offense, be allowed the option to either pay the applicable fine and costs, or alternatively, provide appropriate containers, labeled with the responsible party’s (Dumpster info – 25-11-d) distributed evenly throughout the parking lot at a rate of one container every 12 parking places or at a maximum of a 60-foot spacing between each container for all on-site. Upon a second violation of this section, the owner or occupant if found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty shall pay the applicable fine, court costs and provide one garbage can for every 12 parking spaces as required by this section. For purposes of this section, failure by the defendant to either pay a fine or appear in court as required by a properly served charging document shall be considered the same as pleading guilty to violating this section.

(i) Failure to comply with any requirement of this Section 25-10 shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof.

Sec. 25-11 – Vehicles hauling garbage, trash, and refuse.

(a) Each truck or other vehicle used in the business of collecting and hauling trash, garbage and refuse for hire shall be designed so that the cargo does not escape the vehicle. Any said vehicle shall have the following characteristics:

- (1) The vehicle shall have solid sides, a tailgate, a cover, and be watertight;
- (2) The sides and tailgate should be at least four (4) feet in height.
- (3) The top should be solid or rigged with a tarpaulin that can be spread tightly over the top of such truck to cover the entire opening and extend 12” down the sides. The solid top or tarpaulin shall be used at any time the vehicle is moving, except in those instances where the vehicle is collecting waste and moving fewer than one hundred (100) yards at an average speed less than 15 mph.
- (4) Tanks, containers and other receptacles should be watertight and operators should use covers or lids in such a manner as to prevent the dropping, escaping, or spilling of any waste upon the road, street, alley, or any public or private property.

(b) If trash, garbage or refuse leaves a vehicle, the operator shall collect it at that time.

(c) Each truck or other vehicle used in the business of collecting and hauling of trash, garbage and refuse for hire shall have the cubic yardage of the body of the truck or vehicle painted in five-inch letters on the left side of the body near the cab. Each truck or vehicle shall have signs painted on both doors of the truck or vehicle indicating the correct name of the hauler and their telephone number.

(d) No such truck shall be used in the business of collecting and hauling trash, garbage and refuse unless there has been a City license procured by the operator thereof, and no license shall be issued by the city revenue officer for any such truck until such truck has been examined by the city police department and approved as complying with the provisions of this section. The license number for any such truck shall be prominently displayed and affixed outside of such truck to the left front door of the cab. Every such license shall be subject to revocation for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or any other ordinance of the city pursuant to the provisions for revocation of city licenses set forth in the license code of the city.

(e) No truck or other vehicle used in the business of collecting and hauling trash, garbage and refuse for hire shall operate or carry on its work between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of each day in the area bounded on the west by Broad Street, on the east by Mobile River, on the north by State Street and on the south by Monroe Street; provided, that where such trucks or other vehicles do not pick up garbage or trash on or along the streets of the city, but pick up trash and garbage only in private alleys off the streets, they may operate on the streets of the city at all hours of the day and night but shall comply in such operations with all other provisions of this section.

(f) Failure to comply with any provision of this section shall be a violation punishable under Article Three hereof.

(g) The provision of Sections 25-11 shall not apply to a responsible government agency which deposits sand or other substance to increase traction, or water or other substance to clean or maintain a street or roadway.

ARTICLE II. LITTER¹

Sec. 25-20 – Cleaning litter, trash, or junk from private property.

(a) The owner of any vacant or unoccupied private property shall at all times keep it clear of litter, garbage, junk, or trash. The owner must also properly dispose of litter, garbage, junk, or trash located on that property. It shall not be a defense that the litter was placed or caused by a third party. (b) Licensed junk dealers or commercial premises used for the repair, rebuilding, reconditioning, or salvaging of goods whose work area is screened from public view by a fence, hedge, wall or similar device of sufficient height to provide a visual buffer, and who complies with the city's junk and zoning ordinances shall not be subject to the provisions of this section.

(b) The failure, neglect or refusal of any owner notified by an enforcement officer to properly dispose of litter, trash, garbage, or junk within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice shall constitute a violation of this article.

Sec. 25-21 – Litter receptacles.

(a) Except for premises within the business district, every owner or occupant of commercial premises shall, at their own expense, provide, place, and regularly maintain litter receptacles, including cigarette litter receptacles, at entrances, employee smoking areas and common pedestrian transition points. The number of litter receptacles shall be adequate to contain litter generated at these premises. In determining the adequate number of receptacles, it is suggested, but not mandatory except as required by subsection (c) below, that receptacles be distributed evenly throughout the parking lot at a rate of one container every 20 parking places for all on-site parking.

(b) Litter receptacles on any premises shall meet the following minimum standards:

- (1) Constructed of such quality as to maintain the receptacle's original shape when kept in an outdoor location and reasonably resistant to rust and corrosion.
- (2) Constructed and designed or covered in such a manner as to prevent or preclude litter from escaping from the receptacle.
- (3) Serviced with such frequency as necessary to prevent spillage from overflow and to prevent offensive odor.

(c) Any owner or occupant of commercial premises who pleads guilty or is found by a court to be guilty of violating this section, may, on a first offense, either pay the applicable fine and costs, or alternatively, provide one (1) receptacle for every twenty (20) parking places. for all on-site parking. Any owner or occupant who pleads guilty or is found by a court to be guilty of a second violation of this section, shall pay the applicable fine and court costs and shall thereafter provide one (1) litter receptacle for every twenty (20) parking spaces for all on-site parking. For purposes of this section, failure by the defendant to either pay a fine or appear in court as required by a properly served charging document shall be considered the same as pleading guilty.

d) It shall be a violation of this article for any person to deposit any item except litter into a litter receptacle. It shall be a violation of this article to fail to comply with any provisions of this section.

Sec. 25-22 – Littering from a vehicle.

(a) It shall be a violation of this article for any person in a vehicle to drop, deposit, discard or otherwise dispose of litter in or upon any public or private property within the city including but not restricted to, any street, median, right-of-way, sidewalk, park, vacant or occupied lot, body of water, except in litter receptacles or in an area designated by the state department of environmental management as a permitted disposal site.

(b) The owner of the motor vehicle shall be responsible in the event that any person commits the preceding unlawful acts while in a motor vehicle, whether it is moving or at rest.

(c) It shall be a violation of this article for any person, hauler, firm, or business falling within Section 25-11 to haul garbage, paper, trash, sand, gravel, wet cement, construction materials, other loose materials, or waste unless the truck or vehicle used is properly covered, secured or sealed to prevent any loss or spillage during hauling, or littering of streets or highways, or nuisances or hazard to the public health of the environment.

(d) It shall be a violation of this article for any person, hauler, firm, or business in 25-22(c) to allow materials being hauled to spill, drop from, or escape the vehicle, without immediately recovering the lost or spilled materials.

(e) Any person cleaning litter or junk from private property and operating a vehicle on a public right of way in the city limits from which any glass, nails or other sharp objects have fallen or escaped which could cause an obstruction or damage a vehicle or otherwise endanger travelers on such public property shall immediately cause the public property to be clear of such objects and shall pay any cost thereof. It shall be a violation of this Section to fail to comply with any provision herein.

Sec. 25-23 – Sweeping litter into street.

(a) It shall be a violation of this article to blow, sweep, or push litter, junk, or trash, including yard clippings, leaves, grass, or cigarette butts, onto the city streets, alleys, stormwater structures, ditches, or waterways. All litter and trash shall be deposited into a garbage cart, garbage can, bag, or box, cigarette litter receptacle or litter receptacle and be tightly covered and secured to prevent scattering before pickup.

Sec. 25-24 – Dumping of litter, trash, or junk.

(a) It shall be a violation of this article for any person to discard or dump any litter, garbage, trash or junk on any private or public property unless disposed of in receptacles provided for public use that comply with the requirements of this article or in an area designated by the state department of environmental management as a permitted disposal site.

(b) For the purposes of this section, items found in an accumulation of garbage, trash or other discarded material including, but not limited to, bank statements, utility bills, bank card bills, and other financial documents, clearly bearing the name of a person, shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person whose name appears thereon knowingly deposited the litter. Advertising, marketing and campaign materials and campaign literature shall not be sufficient to constitute a rebuttable presumption under this section. No prosecution for violation of this section based on evidence that creates a rebuttable presumption shall be brought against a person unless he or she has been given written notice by an enforcement officer that items found in an accumulation of garbage, trash or other discarded materials contain his or her name, and that under this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that he or she knowingly deposited the litter. The notice shall advise the person of the penalty for violating this section, and shall provide that, unless the person can present satisfactory information or evidence to rebut the presumption to the designee of the city within fifteen (15) days of the date of the notice, an action under this section may be filed against him or her in municipal court. If the person responds to the notice and presents information or evidence to the designee of the city, the designee shall review the information of evidence presented and make a determination as to whether or not an action should be brought against the person for violating this section. The designee shall provide written notice to the person of the determination, and if the intent is to proceed with an action under this section, the notice shall be sent before an MOT or UNTCC is issued.

Sec. 25-25 – Removal of litter from litter receptacles.

(a) The removal of litter from receptacles placed at public parks, beaches, fishing areas and other public recreation sites shall be the responsibility of those state and local agencies responsible for the maintenance of these sites.

(b) The removal of litter from garbage cans, litter receptacles, or bulk containers placed on private property which are used by the public on commercial premises shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of those premises. It shall be a violation of this article for an owner or occupant to fail to regularly remove or provide for the regular removal of litter as required by this subsection.

Sec. 25-26 – Yard, garage sale, or other unauthorized temporary signs.

(a) It shall be a violation of this article to place any signs on trees or utility poles in the city rights-of-way without exception.

(b) *Exception.* Notwithstanding the provision of 25-26(a), special event directional signs may be placed on public property in compliance with Chapter 54, Section 122-125.

Sec. 25-27 – Balloon or Sky Lantern Release.

(a) It shall be a violation of this Section for any person to intentionally release, organize the release of, or intentionally cause to be released one or more sky lanterns or balloons inflated with gas that is lighter than air which includes but is not limited to, helium, with the exception of:

- (1) Balloons released by a person or educational institution on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes.
- (2) Balloons released indoors.
- (3) Balloon tests performed.

Article III – Enforcement

Sec. 25-30 – Violations

(a) The provisions of this Article III apply to provide enforcement procedures with regard to all violations of Chapter 25.

(b) It is a violation to fail to comply with any provision of Chapter 25.

(c) Violations of Chapter 25 may be enforced as applicable by one or more of the following actions: 1) Corrective Notice; 2) Municipal Offense Ticket (MOT); 3) Uniform Non-Traffic Citation and Complaint; and 4) Uniform Traffic Citation and Complaint.

Sec. 25-31 – Enforcement procedures.

(a) A city police officer may choose to cite and release defendant for a violation of Chapter 25. The UNTCC shall serve as the charging instrument and shall be issued in accordance with Rule 20 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration.

(b) A city employee designated as an enforcement officer may issue a municipal offense ticket (MOT) for a violation of Chapter 25. The person charged with a violation must do the following within the time period specified on the MOT, or within twelve (12) hours before the court date shown on the MOT:

- (1) Appear in person before a magistrate, who will retain a copy of the ticket, sign the plea of guilty waiver of rights on the MOT, and pay the fine and applicable court costs; or
- (2) Sign the plea of guilty waiver of rights provision on the MOT and mail or hand deliver to the clerk of the municipal court the signed page and payment for the amount of the fine and applicable court costs. Remittance by mail or hand delivery of the fine and costs constitutes a guilty plea and waiver of trial, even if the "plea of guilty waiver of rights" provision on the ticket has not been signed by the defendant. If the amount sent is insufficient, then the money received by the clerk shall be considered to be a partial payment of the penalty, and it shall be applied by the clerk to the fine and costs and shall be deposited as required by law. The clerk may give notice of the insufficiency, and a supplemental summons or warrant of arrest shall be issued for the defendant's arrest, and a judgment shall be entered by the magistrate for the balance due; or
- (3) Sign the MOT and agree to appear in court on the date and at the time shown on the MOT to protest the charges. If the defendant fails to appear, the municipal court may, in its discretion, issue further notice or a supplemental summons or warrant of arrest.

(c) Employees of the city designated as enforcement officers, who observe violations of Chapter 25, are further authorized to appeal before a magistrate and request a summons or warrant to be issued pursuant to Rule 3.1 of the Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(d) Employees of the city designated as enforcement officers may issue corrective notices to owners or occupants found to be in violation of any of the provisions of Chapter 25. The issuance of a corrective notice is not required prior to the issuance of an MOT or UNTCC.

Sec. 25-32 – Failure to comply with corrective notices.

It shall be a violation for any owner or occupant of property in the city limits who receives a corrective notice from an enforcement officer to fail or refuse to complete the corrective action within the time designated.

Sec. 25-33 – Penalties.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of Chapter 25.

(b) Knowing violation of article. For any violation of this article that is committed knowingly, the fine shall be three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00), or imprisonment for up to three (3) months, or a combination thereof.

(c) Other violations of article. For all violations of this article that are not subject to paragraph (b) above, the fine shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or a combination thereof.

(d) Each day a violation of this article is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(e) Any person who appears in municipal court and is found guilty of a violation of this chapter may, in the discretion of the court, be punished by a fine of up to three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00) or imprisonment of up to three (3) months, or a combination thereof; or, in the alternative, may be subject to any lawful order including without limitation, community service or remedial action, including but not limited to picking up litter.

(f) A schedule of fines for violations of this article shall be published in the municipal court magistrate's fine schedule, which appears at section 1-32 of the City Code.

ARTICLE VI. SEPTAGE AND GREASE HAULER REGULATIONS

Sec. 25-40 – Title

This body of regulations shall be known as the septage and grease hauler regulations.

(Ord. No. 25-086, § 1, 11-26-02)

Sec. 25-41 – Findings and purpose.

(a) The United States District for the Southern District of Alabama, Southern Division, entered a consent decree in a civil action styled United States of America, the State of Alabama, and Mobile Bay Watch, Inc. versus the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile, Alabama, Case No. CV-99-0595-CB-S and 2002-58-CB-S.

(b) The consent decree requires the board of water and sewer commissioners (hereafter the "board") to develop, among other things, a grease control program.

(c) In order to comply with the court's consent decree, the board has asked the city to cooperate by imposing reasonable regulations upon companies that are licensed by the city to operate a septage and grease hauling business.

(d) The city believes that the board's request is reasonable and desires to accommodate the board; and the city further finds that such a policy is desirable and promotes the public health, safety and welfare as it will prevent unlicensed operation of such companies and will reduce illegal discharges of septage and grease.

Sec. 25-42 – License required.

No person shall engage in the business as a septage or grease hauler within the city or its police jurisdiction without first obtaining a business license in accordance with chapter 34 of the Mobile City Code.

Sec. 25-43 – Operating requirements.

(a) It shall be a violation of this code for any grease hauler or septage hauler to dispose of any waste at any location other than a disposal site permitted to accept such waste by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the Alabama State Board of Health, the state department of agriculture, or another governmental agency with authority to permit such activity.

(b) Every vehicle used by any septage or grease hauler must prominently display on the exterior of the vehicle in at least four-inch lettering the following information: company name, business license number and business telephone number.

(c) Every vehicle used by any septage or grease hauler must maintain a chain of custody or manifest for each pick up, disposal or other service provided for each customer. Such document must identify the source of waste hauled, the type of waste hauled, the date and time waste were accepted by the hauling company, the amount of waste accepted, the disposal location for waste, and any applicable permit numbers associated with the process. When waste is removed from a food service facility, a copy of the completed manifest must be returned to the originating facility.

(d) Any violation of this code section, may result in the issuance of a MOT or UNTCC to the operator and or vehicle's owner of the septage or grease hauler vehicle.