

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR
HUMAN HABITATION IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California,
ORDAINS as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 7.96, consisting of Sections 7.96.010 to 7.96.040, of Title 7 of
the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, is hereby added as follows:

“Chapter 7.96 Prohibition on Use of Vehicle for Human Habitation.

7.96.010 Findings of Fact and Intent.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors finds that substantial public health,
safety, and quality-of-life concerns are posed by persons who sleep, during evening
hours, in vehicles, campers, and trailers parked on public streets, on public
easements, in public parks, and in off-street parking lots located in the unincorporated
area of the County. Residents of the unincorporated area of the County have
informed this Board of litter and unsanitary conditions related to individuals who sleep
in vehicles, campers, and trailers. Further, County residents have expressed to this
Board that allowing people to sleep in vehicles, campers, and trailers in these places
is incompatible with the character of communities within the unincorporated area of

the County. Moreover, the presence of individuals sleeping in vehicles, campers, and trailers creates anxiety for some County residents, who contact law enforcement personnel to report suspicious vehicles. Likewise, this Board finds that persons sleeping in vehicles, campers, and trailers are at a heightened risk of being the victim of assault, robbery and other criminal activity. It is the purpose and intent of the Board of Supervisors to regulate the use of motor vehicles for sleeping in order to prevent the effects described above.

7.96.020 Definitions.

For purpose of this Chapter 7.96, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

- (A) Vehicle. A "vehicle" is a device, conveyance, or other artificial contrivance, whether operable or inoperable, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on land, excepting a device used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
- (B) Camper. A "camper" is a structure designed to be mounted upon a vehicle and to provide facilities for human habitation or camping purposes.
- (C) Trailer. A "trailer" is a vehicle or moveable structure constructed, designed, and intended for use, used, or capable of being used, as a residence, place of abode, domicile, or shelter or enclosure for human habitation, whether mounted permanently upon a moveable chassis, whether equipped with

permanent or temporary wheels, tires, or running gear, or whether susceptible of being hauled, towed, moved, or transported from place to place.

7.96.030 Sleeping in Vehicles, Campers and Trailers for Human Habitation – Prohibited in Public Places During Designated Hours.

Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of any day and 6:00 a.m. of the next ensuing day, no person shall sleep in any vehicle, camper or trailer located on any public street, on or in any public easement, in any public park, or in any off-street lot designated for parking, within the unincorporated area of San Mateo County. The prohibition against sleeping in vehicles, campers, or trailers in off-street lots designated for parking shall not apply to any person possessing written authorization from the owner of the lot authorizing the person to sleep in the lot.

7.96.040 Violation an Infraction.

Violation of this Chapter 7.96 shall constitute an infraction.”

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days from the passage date thereof.
