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## Memorandum

DATE: July 20, 2026  
TO: Board of City Commissioners  
FROM: Shawn Ouradnik, Inspections Director  
SUBJECT: Hearing on Appeal regarding Administrative Notice and Order to Correct at 379 7 Avenue South

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### Background:

On June 19, 2026, the Inspections Department was inspecting the multi-family property at 379 7 Ave S. The inspector on site made note of a Ford RV with the license number A52140 that appeared damaged. The on-site inspector took photos and investigated the vehicle. During that investigation it was noted that the vehicle was inoperable, and on June 23, 2026, a tow notice was issued for the Ford RV under Article 13-09 of the Fargo Municipal Code and International Property Maintenance Code Sections 202 and 302.8.

On June 29, 2026, Doug Hanson, the owner of the Ford RV, appealed the tow notice to the Inspections Department. That appeal was referred to the City Commission office to set a hearing date for the appeal according to Section 13-0908 of the Fargo Municipal Code. On June 7, 2026, Mr. Hanson amended his appeal and included photos of the Ford RV.

The recommendation is: **To accept the findings of staff, deny the requested appeal, and direct staff to remove the Ford RV located at 379 7 Avenue South.**



July 8, 2026

Doug Hanson  
379 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South #3  
Fargo, ND 58103

**RE: NOTICE OF HEARING**

Mr. Hansen:

The City of Fargo is in receipt of your Notice of Appeal regarding the Administrative Notice and Order to Correct at 379 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and a hearing has been scheduled on the matter.

The Fargo City Commission will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026, in the City Commission Chambers at Fargo City Hall, 225 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, Fargo, ND. Your hearing is scheduled for 5:05 p.m.

This Notice of Hearing is provided to you in conformance with Section 13-0908 of the Fargo Municipal Code. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (701) 241-1561.

Sincerely,



Shawn Ouradnik  
City of Fargo Inspections Director



Inspections Department  
225 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
(701) 241-1561

**VEHICLE REMOVAL NOTICE**  
**Administrative Notice of Order to Correct**

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

LOCATION OF VEHICLE TO BE REMOVED: 379 7 Ave S, Fargo, ND

PROPERTY OWNER: David A Sonsthagen

OWNERS ADDRESS: 208 15TH ST S, Fargo, ND 58103

**YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO REMOVE THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFIED JUNK VEHICLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH FARGO MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE 13-09 ON OR BEFORE 7/10/26.** The term "junk automobiles" includes, without limitation, any motor or non-motorized vehicle which is not licensed for use upon the highways of the state of North Dakota for a period in excess of sixty (60) days, and shall also include, whether licensed or not, any motor vehicle which is inoperative.

If any or all of the vehicles listed remain on the above property after the compliance date, they will be removed by the City of Fargo. In the event that the property owner disagrees with the determination of the City and this notice of removal, the property owner may appeal to the Board of the City Commissioners by filing a notice of appeal, in writing, within ten (10) days of this notice.

The International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) Section 202 defines inoperable motor vehicles as a vehicle that cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power.

| Vehicle Description | License Number | State |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| Ford RV             | A52140         | ND    |

Sincerely,

Lynne Olson

Rental Housing Inspector

[molson@FargoND.gov](mailto:molson@FargoND.gov)

(701) 476-4165





INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT  
Fargo City Hall  
225 Fourth Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Phone: 701.241.1561  
Email: [Inspections@FargoND.gov](mailto:Inspections@FargoND.gov)

**Before the Board of Appeals of the City of Fargo**

\$150 filing fee must accompany this form

Appeals of (Owner/Interested Parties): Doug Hanson

Property Address: 379 7th Avenue South, Fargo, ND

What specific violations are you appealing and what material facts do you have to support your objection? (Attach additional pages as necessary)

The RV is not a junk vehicle and is being worked on daily to repair the damage from the fire in June within the limits of my disability and financial situation. See attached.

What relief do you seek, and why do you feel that the finding should be reversed, modified, or otherwise set aside? (Attach additional pages as necessary)

The ability to fix the RV at my own pace as my health and income allows. This is an RV, not a daily vehicle. See attached.

This appeal must be filed with the Fargo Inspections Department within 20 days of the date on your notification of the violations. The Inspector who performed the original inspection will present this appeal at the next meeting of the Board of Appeals, not less than 10 and not more than 60 days from the date below. You will be notified by mail in advance of the date, time, and place of the meeting. Any orders to correct violations that are appealed on this form will be stayed until the Board of Appeals has made its ruling.

We require that the signatures of all interested parties, along with their respective addresses and contact information, be affixed to this appeal. Please attach an additional page as necessary to include all those participating in the appeal.

Name: Doug Hanson Address: 379 7th Avenue South, #3  
Email: dj\_schaeffer@msn.com Phone: 701-781-3181 or 218-790-5567

Signature: [Signature]

Interest: RV mechanic

In addition, it is necessary that there be a verification of the truth of the matters stated above by at least one of these parties. Please be advised that such a signature will be considered a declaration under penalty of perjury.

Name: Doug Hanson Date: 6-29-2016

Signature: [Signature]

Interest: RV mechanic

These requirements are made in accordance with the International Codes as adopted in the Fargo Municipal Code.

**Appeal of Vehicle Removal Notice, dated June 23, 2026, location 379 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Fargo**

I am writing to appeal the violation issued regarding the RV being labeled a junk vehicle. I disagree with this assessment. The RV is not abandoned, neglected, unused, or unrepairable, it is a project that I have been consistently working on, within the limits of my disability and financial situation.

I am a disabled senior living on the minimum Social Security amount. Despite these limitations, I have been working on the RV daily because I have been trying to get it ready for a long trip. Until earlier this month, the RV was operational until an unexpected fire caused by a leak. I took pictures of the damage and have pictures of the repairs I've completed since the fire. This RV is not a daily-use vehicle, it is used for trips, so I do not understand why I am now pressured to return it to operation immediately when it is not in use and will not be driven until I can afford a trip.

Finding parts for this older RV is extremely difficult, especially within my budget. I've already made many repairs and have also purchased a new hood and other parts from an individual out of town, but because I do not have a vehicle, I must rely on him to deliver the parts. He is busy and unable to give me a firm delivery date, but I have already paid for the items and am waiting for delivery.

I am a retired mechanic, and this RV is more than just a vehicle, it is the one thing that gives me purpose and keeps me going. I have invested every spare dollar into restoring it. I am not harming anyone, nor is the RV negatively affecting anyone. I simply need time, available funds, and understanding to complete the repairs. Taking this away would be taking away the one thing that keeps me grounded, even though I haven't done anything wrong. The RV is not new or shiny for the neighbors to look at, but it is what I can afford, and I am doing everything I can to maintain and improve it. I should not be treated unfairly or targeted because I am elderly, disabled, and living on limited income. These are circumstances, not choices, and they are not a violation of any rule.

The requirement to include a \$150 filing fee with my appeal is burdensome and feels discriminatory and a barrier towards elderly and disabled people. As a disabled person living on the minimum Social Security, that amount is not feasible. My income is far below the levels for individuals who cannot afford court or administrative filing fees. The RV is parked in a parking space that is included in with my rent. I have not willfully violated any regulations when you came onto my property and issued a violation that the RV was unrepairable which is incorrect. I would have appreciated a conversation before an order was issued which would have cost nothing instead of an outrageous fee of \$150 to correct the mistake of calling it unrepairable. I am working towards repairing the RV, just not within your unrealistic timeframe of 7/10/26 given my circumstances. My limited income must go directly toward any repairs, not a fee simply to speak with someone about correcting what appears to be a mistake on the inspector's part.

Many individuals who come and go from this property engage in activities that are disruptive and harmful than anything I am doing, yet I am the one being penalized for quietly working on my RV and trying to live a peaceful life. I keep to myself, I do not cause problems, and I am not harming anyone. It feels inappropriate and unfair that I am being targeted for simply maintaining the only project that gives me purpose, while far more serious issues of drug activity and drug dealing go unaddressed. I have no disrespect for the property owner, he keeps the place as nice as he can, but he is not here enough to see what his tenants are doing and the mess that I am constantly cleaning up.

I request time and consideration of my disability and financial hardship. I will finish the repairs when I'm able, but I need the flexibility to do so at a pace my health and income allow. This is my one and only priority and am actively working on in spending all my time and income on already. I am simply trying to live my remaining time doing what I love, which doesn't negatively affect anyone else. Please allow me to continue peacefully working on the RV. I've done nothing wrong other than be elderly, disabled, and poor.

Thank you

  
6-29-2026



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6-29-2026



**Pictures taken of engine after fire**



**Pictures of engine work in progress after fire**

