

## Sorrento Parking Ordinance

### 1. Authority and Purpose:

This ordinance is adopted by the Selectmen of the Town of Sorrento in accordance with 30-A MRSA #3009. The Selectmen find that unrestricted parking of motor vehicles on certain portions of public ways in Town creates a traffic hazard and is dangerous to motorists and pedestrians alike. Unrestricted parking causes traffic congestion, reduces sight distances for motorists, impedes winter maintenance, and causes motorists to drive outside the designated travel lane and into oncoming traffic. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate parking as necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

### 2. Definitions:

Words used in this ordinance shall be defined in accordance with 29 MRSA #1; any undefined word shall have its common, ordinary meaning.

### 3. Regulated Areas:

No person shall park a motor vehicle on the following public ways or portions of public ways, or town parking facilities where signs erected by the Town and/or conditions or times defined by such signs forbid such parking.

#### Parking Restrictions:

1. No parking along any town road from November 1 of any year through April 15 the following year.
2. Non-resident commercial vehicles may not park at any time in town pier parking lot or along waterfront roads.
3. Vehicles found to be in violation of this ordinance will be towed away at owner's expense.

#### Exceptions:

This ordinance does not apply to motor vehicles parked in prohibited area for the following reasons:

- a) Mechanical problems or breakdown.
- b) Emergency situations.
- c) Maintenance , construction, repair or installation of utilities or the public way by any State or municipal agency or utility company.

### 4. Towing:

A motor vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance may be towed by a wrecker authorized by the Town, at the request of and under the supervision of a town constable or other official duly authorized and appointed by the Selectmen. Towing under this section shall not be allowed unless, at the time of the tow, there is at least one (1) sign stating that violators may be towed and indicating the telephone number and address of the place at which a towed car can be recovered. Within 5 days of the tow the Town officer who supervised the tow shall send to the registered owner a notice stating the date and time of the tow, the location where the motor vehicle is impounded, and the requirements for release of the motor vehicle.

5. Release of Towed Vehicle:

Any person seeking release of a motor vehicle towed pursuant to this ordinance must first

a) pay all towing charges and storage charges, and b) present satisfactory evidence of his or her right to possession and sign a receipt for the vehicle.

6. Prima Facie Evidence of Operation:

No person shall cause, allow or permit a motor vehicle registered to his or her name to park in violation of this ordinance. The fact that a motor vehicle is unlawfully parked shall be prima facie evidence of the unlawful parking of such vehicle by the person in whose name such vehicle is registered.

7. Enforcement and Penalties:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the municipal officers or their duly appointed designee. A violation of this ordinance is a civil violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00, nor less than \$25 per offense. Any person charged with a violation of this ordinance may waive court action by paying a fee of \$25.00 to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the violation.

8. Severability and Effective Date:

In the event that any provision of this ordinance is declared by a court to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions continue in full force and effect. This ordinance shall become effective when adopted by a majority of the Board of Selectmen of Sorrento.

Date Adopted: November 23 1994

Signed Louis Sutherland \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Perry \_\_\_\_\_

Hilly Welch \_\_\_\_\_

Sorrento Board of Selectmen