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FEATURED

Resident questions current junk car ordinance

Kristi Parker Johnson | Herald staff writer

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Stormie Gordon, who lives next door to this property on Stacie Road, asked the City Council on Tuesday about the legality of these vehicles parked by her privacy fence.

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On a recent Wednesday morning, Stormie Gordon's front yard on Stacie Road in north Harker Heights was clean and tidy. The concrete driveway, which appeared to have been poured in the not-so-distant past, was empty of vehicles, and a new 6-foot wooden privacy fence guarded the property line.

In direct contrast, an El Camino and a red sports car sat tail-to-nose in a neighbor's yard next door, less than two feet from Gordon's fence. Five more vehicles filled the driveway and the street directly in front of the house, and a portable gazebo lined with canvas curtains took up most of the space in the small front yard.

Gordon is not happy with the state of her neighbor's yard. She believes the vehicles are unsightly and present a safety hazard to the neighborhood. She addressed the City Council on Tuesday and asked for clarification on ordinances that cover junked cars and public nuisances.

"I have been repeatedly told by code enforcement ... that (Ordinance 93.02) is not enforceable due to the vehicles having registration and inspection stickers," Gordon said. "However, the ordinance does not specify that these unused vehicles must be unregistered to be considered 'junked.'"

According to Gordon, most of the vehicles in question are never driven and haven't left the property since the owner moved them there.

Gordon fears the vehicles are potential fire hazards that could harbor mosquitoes and rodents. She said the cars parked in front of the house, as well as the curtained gazebo, also prevent her from safely exiting her driveway.

"Blocking my line of vision is a hazard to myself and my grandchildren — who are minors — when they are in my vehicle with me."

The City Council promised Gordon that they would schedule a workshop to discuss the ordinances and to try to find solutions to the problem.

Gordon's neighbor could not be reached for comment.

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