

City needs to make it harder to park derelict vehicles: Lukes

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Coun. Janice Lukes (Waverley West).

The City of Winnipeg will soon discuss making it more difficult for residents to park dilapidated vehicles on driveways or in back lanes.

Coun. Janice Lukes (Waverley West) says it's time to review the definition of derelict vehicles to make it easier to remove inoperable vehicles that sit – sometimes for years. In a motion to be tabled in the City's Protection, Community Services and Parks Committee on Wednesday, Lukes says inoperable rusty cars with flat tires have a negative impact on neighbourhoods.

"I know some people work on restoring older vehicles," she said in a phone interview with the *Winnipeg Sun* on Tuesday. "It is private property. I understand that. I

understand that some people take time to fix up a vehicle. But I also understand that some people just hoard on their driveways or in their back lanes and they don't want to haul it away. Those are the ones that really impact neighbourhood livability. We live in a city. We have rules."

Section 18 of the Neighbourhood Livability Bylaw defines a derelict vehicle as a used vehicle or the body or chassis of a used vehicle that is not in operating condition and is rusted, wrecked, or partly wrecked, or is dismantled or partly dismantled, and is not insured and registered and does not have a current valid license plate attached and has been entirely or partially located outside of a building for more than one month.

"The multiple criteria that must be met to remove a vehicle are extremely restrictive and favour the violator," said Lukes. "Non-operable vehicles that are an eyesore should be removed in a timelier manner."

Coun. Shawn Nason (Transcona) told the *Sun* he has had several problems with derelict vehicles in his ward. One of the vehicles, a van, was used for nefarious purposes. He said Lukes' motion has merit.

"It does take quite a while for them to be removed," he said. "I've had a couple situations in Transcona where they've been used to do unsavoury things."

To be enacted, Lukes' motion must be developed in partnership with the public service and survive votes in committee and council.