

Bill No. 5033

Ordinance No. 22-004

Requested by: Chief Kurt Frisz and Tim Lohmar

Sponsored by: Joe Brazil and Dave Hammond

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 375  
OF THE ORDINANCES OF ST. CHARLES  
COUNTY, MISSOURI ("OSCCMo") BY  
ENACTING SECTION 375.935 "VEHICLE  
PROWLING" AS A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE

WHEREAS, Thefts from vehicles and tampering with motor vehicles have reached epidemic proportions in St. Charles County; and

WHEREAS, This is swiftly becoming the number one public safety issue in St. Charles County; and

WHEREAS, Immediate action is needed to provide law enforcement with the necessary tools and enforcement mechanisms to deal with this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 375.935 is hereby enacted as follows:

Section 375.935 "Vehicle Prowling":

1. No person shall test or pull any doors of successive vehicles, or open or attempt to open the trunk of successive vehicles, that the person does not own or lease, without each owner's or lessee's permission, and which serves no legitimate or lawful purpose. For purposes of this ordinance, "successive" shall mean more than one

*posted 1/26/2022*

vehicle within any one (1) hour period.

2. No person shall enter a vehicle that person does not own or lease without the owner's or lessee's permission for any illegitimate or unlawful purpose. For purposes of this ordinance, "enter" shall mean being physically present in or accessing a vehicle.
3. This section shall not apply to any law enforcement officer, public safety officer or other public employee who performs the acts described herein while in the performance of official duties.

Section 2. A violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or by imprisonment in the St. Charles County Jail for a term not to exceed one year, or by both fine and imprisonment. Enforcement of this Section shall be the responsibility of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Section 3. Publication and Posting. Following passage and approval, this Ordinance shall be published at least once in a legal publication or in a newspaper of general circulation in St. Charles County and posted in six (6) public places within St. Charles County pursuant to the St. Charles County Charter, Article II, Section 2.603.1.

Section 4. Responsibility for Publication and Posting. The Chief of Police, or his designee, shall arrange for publishing this ordinance in accordance with Section 3 of this ordinance. Payment to any publication or

newspaper publishing this ordinance shall be from the appropriate budget line item or items of the Police Department.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective on the thirty-first (31st) day after publication of this ordinance and public posting pursuant to the St. Charles County Charter, Article II, Section 2.603.1.

January 10, 2022  
DATE PASSED

January 13, 2022  
DATE APPROVED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Harry Shneider  
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

St. Ed  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:  
Paul Smith  
COUNTY REGISTRAR