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ARTICLE I

Police Service

§10-101 County Police Force Established. The commissioners of Chatham County, State of Georgia are authorized and empowered to create, organize and maintain a county police force in and for the County of Chatham, which county police shall consist of not less than five men which force of men may be increased from time to time and which may be decreased from time to time to a number of not less than five men by said Commissioners of Chatham County when they shall deem such increase or decrease necessary and proper, and shall establish an office or quarters for county police force in Chatham County jail. (1909 Ga. Laws 378)

§10-102 Same; Organization and Maintenance. The Commissioners of Chatham County are authorized and empowered to appoint all members of said county police force; to create one member of said force as chief thereof; to make and promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the organization and government of said county police force; to exercise immediate control over them; to remove them or any of them at their discretion and fill all vacancies which shall occur for any reason whatsoever; to grant orders to the County Treasury of Chatham County for the payment of the salaries of such police and for the payment of the expenses of such county police force which shall be incurred by and with the consent of said Commissioners of Chatham County; and it shall be the duty of the commissioners of Chatham County to pay such orders out of any money in the county treasury. (1909 Ga. Laws 378, 379)

§10-103 Qualifications and Oath of Policemen. No person shall be appointed to the county police force unless he be a reputable citizen of Chatham County not less than twenty-one years of age, of good moral character and otherwise meet such requirements as may be demanded by the said Commissioners of Chatham County. Every member of such county police force shall subscribe to the following oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my ability and skill, I will, during my continuance in office, faithfully discharge all the duties which may be required of me; in all cases conform to the rules and regulations which shall be made by the Commissioners of Chatham County; enforce all the laws of the United States, the State of Georgia, and the ordinances of Chatham County; and uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Georgia." (Amended May 25, 1990)

§10-104 Powers and Duties of Policemen. The members of said county police force shall be clothed in addition to such

authority as shall be given by the said commissioners of Chatham County with all the authority as to the enforcement of the law, the preservation of the peace and the upholding of the dignity of the State of Georgia as special deputy sheriffs, constables and other peace officers are now clothed by law and it shall be the duty of such county police force to patrol Chatham County as they shall be directed by said Commissioners of Chatham County to enforce all rules and regulations as shall be made and promulgated by said Commissioners of Chatham County for the government of county property; to arrest persons for violations of State laws or who are charged with violations of State laws or who are charged with violations of ordinances of the City of Savannah or the County of Chatham and who have fled from arrest therefrom; to execute criminal warrants; to preserve order; to discharge in Chatham County such duties as are usually performed by police in cities or counties and other peace officers and generally to obey all orders of the Commissioners of Chatham County. (1909 Ga. Laws 378, 380)

§10-105 Resisting Policemen Punishable. Any person or persons who shall interfere with a member or members of such county police in the discharge of his or their duty or who shall resist arrest at the hands of a member or members of said force shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (1909 Ga. Laws 378, 381)

§10-106 Assistance from Georgia State Patrol. The Georgia State Patrol shall not exercise any power of arrest, with the exception provided by law for arrest powers and general law enforcement authority on property owned by the State or its departments, bureaus, commissions, or authorities, except for offenses arising from violation of the traffic laws, or laws regulating the use, ownership, and control of motor vehicles, or for offenses committed upon the highways of the State. Provided that upon request of the governing authorities of any municipality, or of the sheriff of any county, or of the chief officer of the county police force in all counties having a population of more than 100,000 according to the U.S. Decennial Census of 1970, or any future such census, or of the judge of the superior court of any county of this State or the Governor of this State, the Director of Public Safety, in unusual circumstances, may, and in the case of an Order from the Governor of Georgia shall, direct members of the Georgia State Patrol to render assistance in any other criminal case, or in the prevention of violations of law, or in detecting and apprehending those violating any criminal laws of this, or any other state, or the United States. (1974 Ga. Laws 447)

§10-107 Blue Dome Lights on Vehicles.

1. All official police vehicles of the Chatham County Police Force shall henceforth be equipped with flashing blue dome lights in compliance with the laws of the State of Georgia pertaining to authorized emergency vehicles.
2. No other authorized emergency vehicles shall be permitted to use, display or have installed thereon a blue dome light in Chatham County, without the corporate limits of any municipality therein.
3. Any person, firm or corporation installing, permitting the installation of or using a blue dome light on a vehicle owned, rented or under their control shall be guilty of a violation of the provisions of this Ordinance. (#187, 4/22/66) 2/66)

ARTICLE II

Police and Licensing Powers of Chatham County

§10-201 Police; Licensing; Penalties; Recorder's Court. The County of Chatham is hereby authorized:

1. To enact ordinances for the policing of Chatham County and the governing of said county outside the corporate limits of any municipality located therein and to provide punishment therefor.
2. To enact ordinances levying occupational or license taxes on persons, firms or corporations doing business in said county outside the corporate limits of municipalities located therein.
3. To establish and create a county recorder's court which shall have jurisdiction in said county outside the corporate limits of municipalities and which shall be empowered to hear and determine cases involving violations of all county ordinances with authority to inflict punishment and/or penalty for the violation thereof; and shall have such other and further powers as may be prescribed by law or ordinance. Such county recorder's court shall have similar jurisdiction as that conferred on recorders court of municipalities, and the creation of such county recorder's court previously authorized by legislative Act is hereby ratified and confirmed. (1952 Ga. Laws 617 - Ga. Const. Art. VI, Sec. I, Para. II; 1985 Ga. Laws 4658)

§10-202 Constitutional Amendment Continued.

1. That constitutional amendment authorizing Chatham County to enact ordinances for the policing of the county, for the levying of occupational licenses taxes, providing for penalties, and authorizing, confirming, and ratifying the establishment of a county recorder's court (Resolution Act No. 162; House Resolution No. 182-755 i; Ga. L. 1952, p. 617) shall not be repealed or deleted on July 1, 1987, as a part of the Constitution of the State of Georgia but is specifically continued in force and effect on and after that date as a part of the Constitution of the State of Georgia.
2. This act is passed pursuant to Article XI, Section I, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of the State of Georgia which authorizes the continuation of certain amendments to the Constitution.
3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed. (1986 Ga. Laws 4560)

ARTICLE III

Private Detectives, Private Security and Alarm System Business

(Article III deleted and replaced
in its entirety on February 26, 2010.)

§10-301 Title. The Title of the Ordinance shall be the Chatham County Private Detectives, Private Security and Alarm System Business Ordinance.

§10-302 Definitions.

1. Private detective business shall mean the business of obtaining or furnishing, or accepting employment to obtain or to furnish, information with reference to:
 - a. Crimes or wrongs done or threatened against the United States of America or any state or territory thereof;
 - b. The background, identity, habits, conduct, business, employment, occupation, assets, honesty, integrity, credibility, knowledge, trustworthiness, efficiency, loyalty, activity, movement, whereabouts, affiliations, associations transactions, acts, reputation, or character of any person;
 - c. The location, disposition, or recovery of lost or stolen property;
 - d. The cause or responsibility for fires, libels, accidents, damage, or injury to persons or property;
 - e. The securing of evidence in the course of private detective business to be used before any court, board, officer, or investigation committee; or
 - f. The protection of individuals from serious bodily harm or death.
2. Private security business shall mean engaging in the business of, or accepting employment to provide private patrol service, watchman service, or guard service for consideration on a private contractual basis and not as an employee.
3. Alarm system business shall mean any person, partnership or corporation engaging in the business of planning, installing, servicing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, or monitoring alarm systems within the unincorporated limits of Chatham County.

4. Alarm system shall mean an assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard to which the Chatham County Police Department, Savannah Fire Department, or Southside Fire Department is expected to respond. (Amended February 9, 2018.)
5. Alarm system coordinator refers to the person or entity designated to administer the provisions of this ordinance.
6. False alarm shall mean a bell, mechanical, electrical, or telephone apparatus or combination thereof which is activated for the purpose of summoning the Chatham County Police Department to respond when evidence of hazards is found and the responding service is not needed. Exceptions will be made for alarms activated during system repair or maintenance, provided there is prior notification. Exceptions will be made for false alarms occurring during tornadoes or hurricanes and during widespread power outages exceeding three hours in duration. Such exceptions will not be counted as false alarms. (Amended February 9, 2018.)
7. Registered alarm user shall mean any person, business, or entity, including governmental agencies who own or lease an alarm system from a licensed alarm system business, or on whose premises a licensed alarm system is maintained for the protection of the premises.

§10-303 Occupational Tax Certificate Required.

1. All persons engaged or seeking to engage in a private business, a private security business, or an alarm system business shall comply with the requirements of this Article. Tax certificates issued pursuant to this Article shall be valid from the date of issuance through December 31st of the year in which the tax certificate is issued. The tax certificate shall be in a conspicuous place at the business location.
2. The fees and charges of the tax certificate required pursuant to this Article shall be as specified in the Chatham County Revenue Ordinance.
3. The Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services shall be authorized to make or cause to be made inspections to determine compliance with the tax certificate posting provisions of the Article.

§10-304 Application; Issuance of Tax Certificates.

1. The business owner, or in the event of a corporation, desiring to operate a business covered under this Article shall make an

application on a form provided by the Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services for the purposes of registering said business and obtaining a tax certificate to operate said business in unincorporated area of Chatham County.

2. The Police Chief may grant or renew a tax certificate to any business meeting the following qualifications:
 - a. The applicant and all persons employed by the applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. The applicant and all persons employed by the applicant must be a citizen of the United States or must have a U.S. Immigration Service work permit.
 - c. Private detective business and private security business applicants must provide proof of a valid state license as required under O.C.G.A. § 43-38-6, and alarm system business applicants must provide proof of a valid state license as required under O.C.G.A. § 43-14-8.1. Alarm system installation businesses must provide proof that a minimum of one employee of the company has the required low voltage electrician's license issued by the State of Georgia.
 - d. The applicant must register and provide proof that the applicant and all persons employed by the applicant have not been convicted of a felony or any crime involving the illegal use, carrying, or possession of a dangerous weapon or any crime involving moral turpitude.
 - e. The applicant must inform the Police Chief in writing upon hiring a new unregistered employee and must provide proof that the new employee has not been convicted of a felony or any crime involving the illegal use, carrying, or possession of a dangerous weapon or any crime involving moral turpitude. The new employee must be registered with the Police Chief prior to assuming any duties regulated by this Article.
 - f. The applicant must inform the Police Chief in writing 30 days if the applicant or an employee of the applicant is convicted of a felony or any crime involving the illegal use, carrying, or possession of a dangerous weapon or any crime involving moral turpitude.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct any alarm system business without first paying the required fees and obtaining an alarm system business tax certificate.

4. Omit without substitution. (Amended February 9, 2018.)

§10-305 Uniforms; Vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person having a tax certificate under this ordinance to wear uniforms or to use vehicular markings which are confusingly similar to the uniform and vehicle markings of the Chatham County Police Department. (Amended February 9, 2018.)

§10-306 Alarm Systems Monitoring; Registration of Alarm Users; Police and Fire Service Response; Fees for False Alarms.

1. Each alarm system business must provide to the Alarm System Coordinator a listing of locations that are using an alarm system as defined in Section 10-302(4) of this article furnished by said business. This listing must be in a computerized format specified by the Alarm System Coordinator. All locations on the listing will be considered registered alarm users. Each alarm system business is responsible for supplying the Alarm System Coordinator with any changes to its list of registered alarm users within 72 hours. A registration fee as required by the Chatham County Revenue Ordinance, will be collected by the alarm system business and remitted to the alarm System Coordinator for each registered user at the time of registration.
2. Only those locations registered by a licensed alarm system business will be eligible to receive police services in response to an activated alarm. Unregistered alarm users may not receive a police response to an alarm. Audible alarm from unregistered locations are subject to violation of the Chatham County Noise Ordinance.
3. Excessive false alarms for registered alarm users are considered to be any number in excess of three (3) false alarms during the 12-month billing cycle. All police responses to excessive false alarms will be billed to the alarm user and the alarm system business providing monitoring services to the registered alarm user. The fees for false alarms and the method of billing is as provided in the Revenue Ordinance.
4. All police responses to false alarms at unregistered locations will be charged a fee and will be billed as provided in the Revenue Ordinance.
5. The police department is responsible for monitoring and documenting false alarms incidents. A listing of alarm companies with excessive false alarms, locations with excessive false alarms, and the number of excessive false alarms will be maintained by the Alarm Systems Coordinator.

6. The Police Chief may at this discretion identify those critical or high risk locations or institutions that are not subject to automatic suspension for false alarms (as provided for when such suspension would be detrimental to the safety of the public.

§10-307 Audible Alarm System Cutoff Required; Self-Dialing Prohibited.

1. Every alarm system which uses an audible alarm device to attract the attention of the public shall be equipped with an automatic five (5) minute or less cutoff device or shall be silenced manually within five (5) minutes after activation.
2. Self-dialing devices that call police directly from the alarm location are prohibited. Alarms must ring into a monitored central station which can verify the alarm prior to calling police. It is unlawful to maintain, operate, connect, or allow to be maintained, operated, or connected, any automatic dialing device which automatically dials the police department and then relays any prerecorded message to report any robbery, burglary, fire or other emergency.

§10-308 Provision for Compliance. Those alarm system businesses not in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance at the time of its adoption shall have a period of sixty (60) days from the effective date of the ordinance to conform to the requirements thereof.

§10-309 Suspension or Revocation. The Police Chief may, after hearing, suspend or permanently revoke a tax certificate issued under this ordinance, if it is determined that the holder of such tax certificates has committed an act which is a violation of this ordinance or the provision of any Federal or State law, or other ordinance of Chatham County, Georgia, including provisions relating to collection and remittance of permitting, registration and false alarm fees.

§10-310 Severability. If any section of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional, illegal or void, it shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections of this ordinance.

§10-311 Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

§10-312 Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on February 26, 2010.

ARTICLE IV

Medical Reports to Police

§10-401 Report of Injuries, Wounds, Drug Use, etc.

1. The management of any hospital or any doctor or druggist in Chatham County shall file a report with the Chatham County Police Department within four (4) hours, of the name and nature of the case of any person brought under its or his care who is suffering from a wound or wounds of any description that may have been inflicted by firearms, knife or other instrument, or any person who is the victim or any accident who might come under its or his care whose case is of a suspicious nature where said injury or accident or wound happened in Chatham County beyond the corporate limits of any municipality therein. (#123, 8/8/58)
2. Where there is evidence or reason to believe that said injury or accident or wound happened within the corporate limits of any municipality within Chatham County, said doctor or druggist shall file said report with the Chief of Police of such municipality. Where there is evidence or reason to believe that said injury or accident or wound happened in a county other than Chatham County, said doctor or druggist shall file said report with the Police Department of said other county.
3. The management of any hospital, any doctor, or any druggist in Chatham County shall file a report with the Chatham County Police Department within four (4) hours, of the name and nature of any person brought under its or his care for treatment of an overdose of any narcotic or addictive drug likely to have been obtained from illegal sources.
4. Where there is evidence or reason to believe that said injury, accident, wound, drug overdose or addiction happened within the corporate limits of any municipality within Chatham County, said management of any hospital, any doctor, or any druggist shall file said report with the Chief of Police of such municipality. Where there is evidence or reason to believe that said injury, accident, wound, drug overdose, or addiction happened in a county other than Chatham County, said management of any hospital, any doctor, or any druggist shall file said report with the Police Department of said other county. (No. 534, 3/7/75 as amended by No. 536, 4/4/75, Par. 1)

ARTICLE V

Emergency Vehicle Service

§10-501 Fee. There shall be a charge of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the transport of any person by the Emergency Medical Service.

§10-502 Liability for Payment. The owner or the representative to whom a vehicle has been entrusted by the owner shall be responsible for the payment of the transport of any occupant of a vehicle involved in a collision to which an Emergency Medical Vehicle has been called for emergency transportation or other transportation from the scene of a collision to a hospital or other place.

§10-503 Lien Against Vehicle. There shall be a lien against the vehicle which is involved in a collision to which an Emergency Medical Vehicle has been called for the transportation of an occupant or occupants from the scene of the collision, for the payment of said charge for transportation.

§10-504 Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

§10-505 Termination of Lien. The Chief of the Chatham County Police or his duly authorized representative is hereby authorized to release the vehicle from the lien herein above set forth upon the payment of all charges.

§10-506 Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective on May 1, 1981. (3/1/81)

§10-507 (10-507 - 10-525 Reserved)

ARTICLE VI

Wrecker Service

§10-601 Call List. In order for any business establishment to be listed on the "Head-Out Wrecker Service Call List" kept by the Chatham County Police Department, the following qualifications, standards and conditions must be complied with. (#502, 7/5/74)

§10-602 Definition. A wrecker service as defined for the purpose of being listed on the Wrecker Service Call List will be any company that can:

1. Provide twenty-four (24) hours, seven (7) days a week wrecker service and be available to release a vehicle to its rightful owner at any time of day or night;
2. Meet vehicle storage requirements as contained in this chapter and according to the requirements set forth by the Chatham County zoning laws pertaining to junk yards and storage areas;
3. Be able to provide auto body repair service on the premises of said wrecker company;
4. Provide all personnel and equipment as set forth in this chapter;
5. Comply with all applicable provisions and requirements of the zoning ordinance of Chatham County;
6. Be licensed as either a junk yard or storage area pursuant to the Chatham County Zoning. (#502, 7/5/74; #533, 3/7/75)

§10-603 Requirements for Listing:

1. A Head-Out Wrecker Service as defined is not to be confused with road service offered by service stations and auto service companies when such service is requested by the owner of a vehicle.
2. The wrecker service will be open and available for call twenty-four (24) hours, seven (7) days per week.
3. Such wrecker service shall have at least one (1) wrecker in working condition at all times. Wreckers will be capable of handling light and heavy loads. Each wrecker service shall have at least one (1) of the following types of wreckers:

- a. Light Duty Wrecker - A light duty wrecker is defined as one of 8,500 pounds minimum G.V.W. with a 5,000 pound hand or power winch, crane and boom.
 - b. Heavy Duty Wrecker - A heavy duty wrecker is defined as one of 10,000 pound minimum G.V.W. with a 10,000 pound power winch, crane and boom.
 - c. Extra Heavy Duty Wrecker - An extra heavy duty wrecker is defined as one of 30,000 pound minimum G.V.W. with a 30,000 pound power winch, crane and boom.
4. Such wrecker will be required to carry a full compliment of service items such as fire extinguishers, chains, dollies, proper emergency lighting or flares for on-scene work, equipment needed for lifting, extricating, righting of wrecked vehicles and removal from the thoroughfare by towing or carting.
 5. The wrecker company will have an area for storage of towed vehicles. The parking (storage area shall be for not less than thirty (30) vehicles and as set forth by the zoning ordinance governing junk yards and storage.
 6. Each wrecker will carry a broom and the wrecker driver or his assistant, shall be required to sweep up and remove broken glass or other debris when a vehicle is removed from the street. Removing all debris from the street is part of the wrecker companies obligation. When directed by police to remove material which is part of a load being trucked over the thoroughfare the wrecker company may remove or sub-contract for the removal of material as directed and charge a reasonable rate for such removal. When two (2) different companies are assigned a call, both are equally responsible for cleaning the wreck area.
 7. The wrecker company will maintain such records as are required by the Chatham County Police Department and shall abide by all regulations that may be instituted by the Police Department to maintain a high level of service to the public.

§10-604 Wrecker Rates

1. Charges will not be greater than those contained in this chapter. Such rates will be posted in the place of business in such a manner as to be prominently displayed for the attention and information of claimants of vehicles which have been towed. Chatham County will not be responsible for any charges placed against a towed vehicle. All charges will be paid by the vehicle owner or by sums derived from the legal sale of such vehicles to cover costs.

- a. The maximum charges for towing services under this Ordinance shall be:

| | <u>Regular Wrecker Service</u> | <u>Extra Heavy Duty Wrecker</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| ACCIDENT: | | |
| First Hour or Portion | \$ 55.00 | \$ 75.00 |
| Each Add'l Quarter Hour | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| Recovery Fee | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | |
| First Hour or Portion | \$ 55.00 | \$ 65.00 |
| Each Add'l Quarter Hour | 10.00 | 15.00 |
| Dolly Service | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Rental Equipment | Rental Cost For Job | |
| (Amended September 9, 1988) | | |

2. Storage charges: Charges for storage or off-street parking shall be charged at the rate of 1½ dollars (\$1.50 per day). Towed vehicles will not be parked on any County right-of-way.
3. All head-out wrecker services shall maintain while on the head-out wrecker list with the Chatham County Police, liability insurance in the form of a comprehensive, general and automobile liability policy. Such policy will protect the wrecker service from claims for bodily injury, including death to its employees and all others, and from claims for property damage and/or all claims which may arise out of, or as a result of, services performed at the request of the Police Department. Owners of head-out wrecker services shall indemnify Chatham County and the Chatham County Police Department from all claims and damages arising from services performed by such wrecker services:
- | | <u>Person</u> | <u>Per Accident</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| a. Bodily Injury..... | \$100.00..... | \$300,000 |
| b. Property Damage..... | | 100,000 |
- c. Head-out wrecker service companies shall furnish to the office of the Chief of Police of Chatham County a copy of the insurance certificate showing the amount and expiration date of the policy.
4. Failure to respond by a head-out wrecker service to pick up a wrecked, disabled or illegally parked vehicle when requested to do so by the Chatham County Police Department will result in its removal from the head-out wrecker list. Those head-out wrecker service owners who are removed from the rotating

wrecker list will be afforded a hearing before the Chief of Police of Chatham County upon request when they take exception to their removal from the list.

5. Each wrecker must be equipped with an emergency amber light which will be used to get to the scene of an emergency whenever necessary.
6. Wrecker companies will promptly answer all requests for assistance from the Chatham County Police Department. Consistent, undue delay will result in removal from the rotating wrecker list.
7. Wrecker services operating on the police rotating list will not monitor any one of the police department radio channels (frequencies) for purposes of monetary gain. (U.S. Code, Title 47, Section 605 - Secrecy of Communications.) Violations of this section will result in removal from the rotating wrecker list.
8. No wrecker service company will answer any call for service coming directly to them by an owner of a vehicle unless he first notifies the dispatcher of the Chatham County Police Department as to the nature of the request, location of vehicles, etc.
9. Such wrecker company shall be required to submit a letter of intent to perform within the bounds of this chapter. Such letter will contain a description of equipment, name and address of owner. The Chatham County Police Department will furnish a form to be completed by the applicant for wrecker list. Completed copies will be forwarded to the office of the Chief of Police.
10. All wrecker services on the head-out list will be required to furnish the office of the Chief of Police a list of all vehicles (not later than the fifth (5th) of every month) that they towed on the previous month. In addition, no vehicle will be towed from the scene of any accident, incident, etc., until the wrecker driver is given a third (3rd) or pink copy of the CCPD Auto Form #102 furnished by this Department.
11. Violations of this chapter resulting in removal from the head-out list shall be for a period of not more than six (6) months. Repeated violations may result in permanent removal from the head-out wrecker list. (#502, 7/5/74; #501, 8/16/74)

§10-605 Chatham County Sheriff's Department.

1. The foregoing provisions of this Article (Ordinance) shall also apply to the Chatham County Sheriff's Department.

2. This amendment shall become effective immediately. (Amended July 12, 1990)