

§ 11-1002.2. *Sale of abandoned vehicles.*

(a) *A police department which takes into custody an abandoned motor vehicle, within fifteen days thereof, by registered mail, return receipt requested, signed by the addressee, shall notify the last known registered owner of the motor vehicle and all lien holders as shown on the records of the Department that the vehicle has been taken into custody. The notice shall describe the year, make, model, and serial number of the abandoned motor vehicle; set forth the location of the facility where the motor vehicle is being held, inform the owner and any lien holders of their right to reclaim the motor vehicle within three weeks after the date of the notice, upon payment of all towing, preservation and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody, and state that the failure of the owner or lien holders to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and all lien holders of all right, title, and interest in the vehicle and consent to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle at a public auction.*

(b) *If the identity of the last registered owner cannot be determined, or if the registration contains no address for the owner, or if it is impossible to determine with reasonable certainty the identity and addresses of all lien holders, notice by one publication in one newspaper of general circulation in the area where the motor vehicle was abandoned shall be sufficient to meet all requirements of notice pursuant to this section. The notice by publication may contain multiple listings of abandoned vehicles. Any such notice shall be within the time requirements prescribed for notice by registered mail and shall have the same contents required for a notice by registered mail.*

(c) *The consequences and effect of failure to reclaim an abandoned motor vehicle shall be as set forth in a valid notice given pursuant to this subsection.*

(d) *If an abandoned motor vehicle has not been reclaimed as provided for in subsection (c), the police department shall sell it at public auction. The purchaser of the motor vehicle shall take title to the motor vehicle free and clear of all liens and claims of ownership, shall receive a sales receipt from the police department, and shall be entitled to register the purchased vehicle and receive a certificate of title. The sales receipt at such a sale shall be sufficient title only for purposes of transferring the vehicle to a scrap processor for demolition, wrecking, or dismantling, and in such case, no further titling of the vehicle is necessary. From the proceeds of the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle the police department shall reimburse itself for the expenses of the auction, the costs of towing, preserving, and storing the vehicle which resulted from placing the abandoned motor vehicle in custody, and all notice and publication costs incurred pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any remainder from the proceeds of a sale shall be held for the owner of the vehicle or entitled lien holder for ninety days, and then shall be deposited with the State Treasurer in a special fund which shall remain available for the payment of auction, towing, preservation, storage, and all notice and publication costs which result from placing other abandoned vehicles in custody, whenever the proceeds from a sale of such other abandoned motor vehicles are insufficient to meet these expenses and*