

ORDINANCE #68598
Board Bill No. 295
Committee Substitute

An Ordinance adding a new Chapter under Title 15, under Chapter 15.83, pertaining to the offenses against the motor vehicles of the others; containing a penalty clause and emergency clause.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has had a seventeen percent increase in the number of vehicle break-ins since 2005.

WHEREAS, vehicle break-ins have a significant and serious economic impact on the City of St. Louis, its residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, vehicle break-ins also have a tremendous psychological impact on the City's residents and visitors and are a nuisance and a blight and raise safety concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. No person shall vandalize, deface, attempt to forcibly enter, forcibly enter, enter or damage the motor vehicle of another without permission of the owner.

SECTION TWO. No person shall steal, remove or take any item from the motor vehicle of another without permission of the owner.

SECTION THREE. For offenses under this Ordinance, the City Counselor shall inform the victim of the pending charges and provide that victim an opportunity to be heard in the Municipal Courts for the City of St. Louis on that matter.

SECTION FOUR: The City Court shall not have jurisdiction under this ordinance where the charged person has any prior felony convictions (including any form of probation sentence) or any prior convictions for any stealing or property damage related offenses, or has been charged previously under this ordinance unless charges against such persons have been first referred by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department directly to the Circuit Attorney and the Circuit Attorney has refused prosecution on the charges.

SECTION FIVE: Any person guilty of a violation of either of these sections shall be sentenced for up to ninety (90) days in jail and up to a \$500 fine.

SECTION SIX: Emergency Clause. The passage of this ordinance being deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist within the meaning of Section 20 of Article IV of the Charter, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Approved: March 16, 2010