

40. AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF LOST AND UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

(DECEMBER 17, 1973)

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon municipalities by the provisions of Sec. 50-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, 1958 Revision,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Groton:

Section 1 - Any person who finds and takes possession of any article of the value of one dollar or more within the limits of the City of Groton shall report the finding of such article to the police department of the City of Groton within forty-eight hours from the time of such finding. The finder of such article shall, at the time of reporting, furnish to the police department, the date, time and place of finding, his name and address and a description of the article found, and, within a period of one week from such finding shall deliver such article to the police department. Any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both.

Section 2 - The police department shall, commencing within one week from the date of receipt of any lost article, advertise a general description of such article once a week for at least two successive weeks in a newspaper having a circulation in the City of Groton and shall retain custody of such article for six months from the date of receipt thereof, unless it is claimed by the rightful owner within such six months period. The requirements of advertising may be omitted when the value or estimated value of the article is less than two dollars. Perishable or obnoxious property or articles of a dangerous or harmful nature may be sold or otherwise disposed of as soon as practicable on the best terms available.

Section 3 - If the owner of any such article claims it within six months from the date of receipt by the police department, the article or the proceeds thereof shall be restored to him upon payment or deduction of all proper charges.

Section 4 - If no owners claims such article within six months from the receipt thereof by the police department, the police department shall, within two weeks thereafter, notify the finder of such fact by registered or certified mail at his last known address and the article or the proceeds thereof shall be turned over to the finder upon demand by him within thirty days from the expiration of the six months period and upon payment or deduction of all proper charges; but, if such finder fails to demand such article or the proceeds thereof or refuses to pay such charges within thirty days from the expiration of the six months period, such articles or proceeds shall belong to such municipality. The requirement of notification may be omitted when the value or estimated value of the article is less than five dollars.

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Section 5 - The Mayor and Council or any commission or other body having authority over the police department shall sell at public auction any articles which the police department acquires as provided herein after the expiration of the time for the owner or finder to demand the same and after the time and place of such sale and a description of the articles to be sold have been advertised once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper having a circulation in the City of Groton. The net proceeds from such sales and the unclaimed net proceeds from the sales of perishable or obnoxious property or articles of a dangerous or harmful nature shall be paid to the treasurer of the City of Groton who shall deposit them in the police benefit fund, if any. If no police benefit fund exists then the treasurer shall deposit said proceeds in the City of Groton general fund.

Section 6 - Amendments or repeal of any provisions of Sections 50-10 through 50-14, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, 1958 Revision, shall operate eo instanti to amend or repeal the corresponding provisions of this Ordinance.

Initially approved: November 19, 1973

Finally approved: December 17, 1973