

2 **ORDINANCE: Create Section 9.30 of the General Code of**  
3 **Winnebago County: Authorize Charges for**  
4 **Unnecessary Rescue Efforts**

5  
6  
7 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, there have been a number of incidents in recent years wherein the Winnebago County Sheriff  
10 has initiated rescue efforts regarding the abandonment of motor vehicles, boats, watercraft, snowmobiles, or all  
11 terrain vehicles discovered on the waterways of Winnebago County, only later to learn that such rescue efforts were  
12 unnecessary and precipitated by a failure of the owners or occupants to notify the Winnebago County Sheriff's  
13 Department, in a timely manner, that the occupants had exited the vehicle, boat, watercraft, snowmobile, or all terrain  
14 vehicle and found safe shelter; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors  
17 hereby recommends the adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department to bill the  
18 owners or occupants of said motor vehicles, boats, watercraft, snowmobiles, or all terrain vehicles for the cost of  
19 such unnecessary rescue attempts so as to deter individuals from failing to notify the Winnebago County Sheriff's  
20 Department in a timely manner that such rescue efforts are unnecessary.

21  
22  
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that Section  
24 9.30 of the General Code of Winnebago County is hereby adopted so as to read as follows:

25  
26 **9.30 AUTHORIZE CHARGES FOR UNNECESSARY WATER RESCUE EFFORTS**

27  
28 (1) The Winnebago County Sheriff is hereby authorized to charge any owner or occupant of an abandoned  
29 motor vehicle, boat, watercraft, snowmobile, or all terrain vehicle, discovered on the waterways of Winnebago County, for  
30 the costs of any search and rescue effort precipitated by the owner's or occupant's failure to notify the Winnebago County  
31 Sheriff's Department in a timely manner that the owner or occupants have exited the vehicle, boat, watercraft, snowmobile,  
32 or all terrain vehicle and have found safe shelter. "Costs" shall include, but shall not be limited to, gross pay and benefits  
33 actually paid to Winnebago County Sheriff's Department personnel who participated in said search and rescue efforts;  
34 capital costs for the use of rescue and other vehicles and equipment; and fuel costs associated with said search and  
35 rescue efforts. Total costs billed regarding a single incident shall not exceed \$1,000.00 in aggregate.

36  
37  
38 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that said Ordinance shall  
39 take effect as of the date following the date of its publication.

40  
41 Submitted by:

42 **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

43 \_\_\_\_\_  
44 \_\_\_\_\_  
45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 \_\_\_\_\_  
47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 \_\_\_\_\_  
49 \_\_\_\_\_

50 Committee Vote: **5-0**

51 Vote Required for Passage:  
52 **Majority of Those Present**

53  
54  
55  
56 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2011.

57  
58  
59 \_\_\_\_\_  
60 Mark L Harris  
61 Winnebago County Executive