

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO. 3372 ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. _____

COUNCIL SPONSOR MR. CANULETTE PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY _____ SECONDED BY _____

ON THE 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2006

ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE XIV, AND ALL SECTIONS THEREOF, PROHIBITING COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL AIRBOATS FROM TRESPASSING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN UNINCORPORATED ST. TAMMANY PARISH WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LAND OWNERS, AND TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the unauthorized operation of Airboats on private and public property creates an unnecessary risk of damages to the property of area residents and hazards to public health and safety. Additionally, Airboats can generate excessive noise, vibrations, and exhaust detrimental to migratory birds, marine life, wildlife habitats and wetlands preservation in environmentally sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to eliminate the hazards of improper Airboat uses within St. Tammany Parish and is designed to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the citizens, and to protect private and public property.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that it amends and reenacts the Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Article XIV, Airboats, as follows:

CHAPTER 15 - OFFENSES - MISCELLANEOUS

ARTICLE XIV - AIRBOATS

SECTION 15-950.00 UNAUTHORIZED AIRBOATS PROHIBITED

It is recognized that the use of Airboats on real property without the express written permission of land owners poses eminent hazards within the Parish of St. Tammany; therefore, it shall be unlawful for any commercial or recreational Airboat to commit a trespass on private or public real property without the express written permission of the landowner.

SECTION 15-951.00 AIR BOAT DEFINED.

An Airboat shall be defined as any water craft propelled by means of an air propeller powered by an engine of at least twenty five (25) horsepower, and 'idle' speed shall mean the minimum possible speed that the water craft can travel and still maintain safe steerage. It shall be unlawful for any Airboat to operate at more than idle speed within one-half (1/2) mile of any residence within the boundaries of unincorporated St. Tammany Parish.

SECTION 15-952.00 OPERATION OF AIRBOATS

A. Airboats shall not be launched or operated within the boundaries of unincorporated St. Tammany Parish within one (1) mile of any residence between 9:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m.

B. The operation of Airboats shall be conducted in such a manner so as not to be a violation of the applicable Nuisance provisions of Chapter 14 of this Code of Ordinances. In addition, the exhaust of any internal combustion engine used on any Airboat shall be muffled in such a manner so as not to be in violation of noise and sound provisions of Article IV of Chapter 14.

C. Airboats shall at all times be operated in compliance with all parish, state and federal laws and regulations, and any restrictions placed on the use of the Airboats in a letter of no objection or other use-specific written permission issued by any affected property owner(s).

D. No person shall without express written authority go into or remain in or upon or attempt to go into or upon any immovable real property which belongs to another, for the purpose of operating or using an Airboat, after having been forbidden to do so, either orally or in writing, including by means of any sign as hereinafter described, by any owner, lessee, or custodian of the property or by any other person authorized by any such persons.

E. For the purposes of this section, "sign" means any sign or signs posted on the immovable real property in such place or places where the sign(s) may reasonably be expected to be seen. A sign forbidding entry on the property shall be conspicuously posted or exhibited at the entrances of said property regulated by this section. No person shall be convicted of violating this Ordinance if such sign was not in place at the time of the alleged violation. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, without the permission of the landowner, any properly posted "No Trespass" sign posted or exhibited at the entrances of any property in accordance with this Ordinance.

F. All Airboats operated within the unincorporated portion of St. Tammany Parish shall be registered with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and shall at all times have the registration number issued by said Department displayed on both sides of the rudder in figures of contrasting colors at least twelve (12) inches high and one (1) inch in width. In addition, the registration numbers shall be displayed in the same color and size on the deck of decked Airboats or on the floor of the bow of air boats without decks in a manner so as to be visible from the air at all times.

SECTION 15-953.00 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this Article is authorized, directed, and empowered to state and local law enforcement agencies, and duly commissioned officers with state or federal wildlife and fisheries agencies.

SECTION 15-954.00 EXEMPTIONS

This Ordinance shall not apply to any emergency, police, fire, ambulance, or other government vessels, Airboats or other water craft when same is being operated in an official capacity. In addition, no person shall be found in violation of this Article by reason of being upon property without authorization when the reason for such is a maritime or other emergency.

SECTION 15-955.00 PENALTY

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Article; or who violates or fail to comply with any order made hereunder, within the time fixed therein, shall severally for each and every violation and noncompliance, respectively, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS nor more than FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS, or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fines and imprisonment. Each day that any violation of this Article continues shall constitute a separate offense.

REPEAL: All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby and henceforth repealed.

SEVERABILITY: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses, or sentences.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after final adoption.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____, SECONDED BY: _____

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN
THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2006; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. _____.

STEVE STEFANCIK, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

DIANE HUESCHEN, COUNCIL CLERK

KEVIN C. DAVIS, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published introduction _____, 2006
Published adoption _____, 2006

Delivered to the Parish President _____, 2006 at _____
Returned to the Council Clerk on _____, 2006 at _____

**ARTICLE XIV
AIRBOATS**

~~SEC. 15-950.00 Airboats Prohibited Areas Adjacent to Penn Chapel Acres,
Hidden Acres and Pineland Park Subdivisions~~

~~EDITORIAL NOTE: The Police Jury recognizes the eminent hazards created by the use and operation of airboats in the marshland areas adjacent to residential subdivisions in Ward 4. To protect area residents' health, safety and property, the animals, fowl, marine/plant life, natural habitats, wetlands and local environment, it is necessary to prohibit airboats in marshland areas adjacent to Penn chapel Acres, Hidden Acres and Pineland Park Subdivisions.~~

~~It shall be unlawful for any person to use or operate an airboat or similarly propelled craft over, across, around or through the marshlands near Penn chapel Acres, Hidden Acres and Pineland Park Subdivisions; more particularly the area bounded on the north by Highway 190 and on the south of Lake Pontchartrain. (Ord. 94-1941, adopted 03/17/94)~~

~~SEC. 15-950.01 Airboat Defined~~

~~An airboat is any boat, sled, sea skiff or swamp craft pushed, pulled or propelled by airpower generated by a non-detachable motor, including any vessel, vehicle or craft with a propulsion mechanism similar to that of an airplane which propels out of water. (Ord. 94-1941, adopted 03/17/94)~~

~~SEC. 15-950.02 Enforcement~~

~~Enforcement of this Article is authorized, directed and empowered to the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff, the Louisiana State Police, and duly commissioned officers with the State or Federal Wildlife and Fisheries Agencies. (Ord. 94-1941, adopted 03/17/94)~~

~~SEC. 15-950.03 Exemption~~

~~Exempt herefrom are all law enforcement, Wildlife and Fisheries, rescue and emergency watercraft on bona fide assignments, life-saving missions or enforcement patrols. (Ord. 94-1941, adopted 03/17/94)~~

~~SEC. 15-950.04 Violations; Penalty~~

~~Any person violating provisions of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable in accordance with Sec. 1-800.00 of the Code of Ordinances for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. (Ord. 94-1941, adopted 03/17/94)~~

~~SECS. 15-950.05 - 15-974.99 Reserved~~