

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 26, Offenses of the Joplin City Code by the enactment of a new Section 26-39, Failure to Return Rented Property.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 26, Offenses, of the Joplin City Code, be amended by the enactment of a new Section 26-39, Failure to return rented property, to read as follows:

"Section 26-39. Failure to return rented property.

(a) Any person who, with the intent to deprive the owner thereof, purposely fails to return leased or rented personal property of less than \$150.00 in value to the place and within the time specified in agreement in writing providing for the leasing or renting of such personal property shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who has leased or rented personal property of another and who conceals the property from the owner, or who otherwise sells, pawns, loans, abandons, or gives away the leased or rented property of less than \$150.00 in value, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) It shall be prima facie evidence of the violation failing to return leased or rented property when a person who has leased or rented personal property of another willfully fails to return or make arrangements acceptable with the lessor to return the personal property to its owner at the owner's place of business within ten (10) days after proper notice following the expiration of the lease or rental agreement.

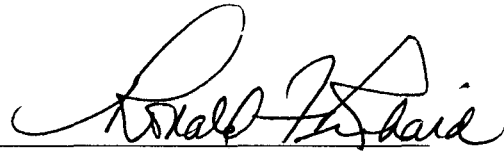
(d) For the purpose of this section, proper notice by the lessor shall consist of a written demand addressed and mailed by Certified or Registered Mail to the lessee at the address given at the time of making the lease or rental agreement. The notice shall contain

a statement that the failure to return the property may subject the lessee to criminal prosecution.

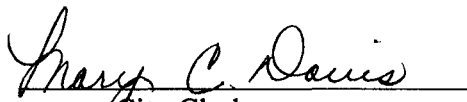
(e) For the purposes of this section, "value" shall be determined by market value of the property when it is due to be returned, or, if such cannot be satisfactorily ascertained, the cost of replacement of the property when it is due to be returned.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this

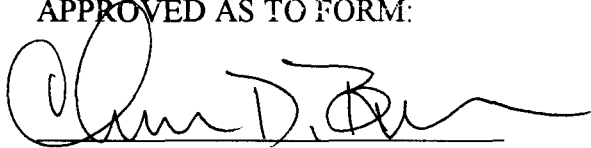
21st day of April, 1997.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**EFFECTIVE 20 DAYS FROM DATE**