

CHAPTER 16

DISPOSITION OF LOST, FOUND, OR ABANDONED PROPERTY

SECTION:

6-16-1: Purpose

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6-16-1: PURPOSE: The purpose of this chapter is for the orderly disposition of lost, found, or abandoned property within the custody of the Village of East Alton Police Department.

6-16-2: DEFINITIONS: The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

ABANDONED PROPERTY: Includes property found by an employee or citizen that appears to be intentionally left or discarded by the owner.

EXEMPTED PROPERTY: Firearms that have been confiscated as a result of having been abandoned or illegally possessed.

LOST OR FOUND PROPERTY: Property found or confiscated by an employee or citizen that has no apparent criminal evidentiary value and where the owner cannot be readily identified or contacted.

6-16-3: DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

A. **Return To Owner:** The East Alton Police Department shall make every reasonable inquiry and effort to identify and notify the owner or other person entitled to possession of the lost, found, or abandoned property and shall return the property after such person provides reasonable and satisfactory proof of his ownership or right to possession and reimburse the agency for all reasonable expenses of such custody, if any.

B. **Sale:** If the identity or location of the owner or other person entitled to possession of the property has not been ascertained within six (6) months after the East Alton Police Department obtains such possession, the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, shall effectuate the sale of the property for cash to the highest bidder at public auction. Notice of the public auction, including time, place, and a brief description of the property, shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the Village of East Alton at least ten (10) days prior to such auction. Property offered but not sold at such public auction may be offered and sold at a subsequent public auction without the notice requirement.

C. Donate: If the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, believes that the value of the property is less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and the donation is approved by the Village of East Alton Board, the property may be donated to a charitable organization which is currently registered in the State of Illinois.

D. Destruction: If no legitimate or lawful claim is made for the property, or the property is deemed unsuitable for sale at public auction or donation, then it may be destroyed. In determining whether to destroy lost, found, or abandoned property, the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, shall consider the value, hazardousness, state of repair/disrepair, functionality, and/or soiled state of the property. The Chief of Police, or his/her designee, shall carry out the destruction of the property not otherwise returned, sold, or donated.

6-16-4: PROCEEDS:

Proceeds of the sale of the property at public auction, less reimbursement to the Village of East Alton Police Department for reasonable expenses of custody thereof shall be deposited with the Village of East Alton Treasurer.