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# POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWING

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DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



# MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE 257.252dC

(1) A POLICE AGENCY OR A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY DESIGNATED BY THE POLICE AGENCY MAY PROVIDE FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF A VEHICLE FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY TO A PLACE OF SAFEKEEPING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LAST TITLED OWNER IF:

- THE VEHICLE IS IN SUCH A CONDITION THAT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE VEHICLE UPON THE HIGHWAY WOULD CONSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC.
- THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE VEHICLE OR ANY PART OF THE VEHICLE IS STOLEN.
- THE VEHICLE MUST BE SEIZED TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE OF A CRIME, OR IF THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE VEHICLE WAS USED IN THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME.
- THE VEHICLE IS HAMPERING THE USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY BY THE OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF THAT PROPERTY OR IS PARKED IN A MANNER THAT IMPEDES THE MOVEMENT OF ANOTHER VEHICLE.
- IF THE VEHICLE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A TRAFFIC CRASH AND CANNOT BE SAFELY OPERATED FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRASH.

# CITY ORDINANCE

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## SEC. 55-1-5. – DEFINITIONS

Police Authorized Tow means the towing, carrying, pushing or otherwise transporting for a fee by a tower or towers summoned by the police, any motor vehicle, except trailers and truck tractors, that has been wrecked or disabled in any manner, or any vehicle subject to removal under Article II, Division 4, of this chapter, including but not limited to abandoned or illegally parked vehicles and vehicles interfering with emergency activities or impeding traffic from the traveled portion of a street, highway or freeway.

# CITY ORDINANCE

## SEC. 55-2-82. - STANDARDS FOR AUTHORIZED TOWERS

(A) The Board of Police Commissioners shall establish standards, including Insurance and bonding requirements, that must be met in order for a tower to qualify for police authorized tows, under this chapter, and the Police Department shall maintain a current list of such qualified towers. A separate list may be maintained for towers who tow abandoned vehicles in accordance with Sections 252a through 252m of The Michigan Vehicle Code, being MCL 257.252a through 257.252m, which is incorporated by reference under Article III of this Chapter. The required insurance shall indemnify and hold harmless the City for any injury, damage or loss that may result from a police authorized tow or storage under this chapter. The City shall not be liable for any such injury, damage or loss. In accordance with Section 2-111 of the Charter, The Board Of Police Commissioners shall promulgate administrative rules for the body's determination as to which towers shall be called for tows under this chapter. Such rules shall provide, as nearly as practicable, for equitable distribution of police authorized towing to all towers on the list of qualified towers.

## CITY ORDINANCE

### SEC. 55-2-82 STANDARDS FOR AUTHORIZED TOWERS \_\_\_\_\_ (CONTINUED)

(B) All Towers qualifying as police authorized towers shall be Detroit-based towers. For the purposes of this section the term "Detroit-based" shall indicate the physical and economic relationship to Detroit determined by the payment of: 1) City Income Taxes on the towers profits; and 2) City Property Taxes on the towers vehicle storage lot, yard, or garage.

(C) All towing services performed by police authorized towers under this chapter shall be rendered with tow trucks clearly marked with the tow company's name, address, and telephone number. no private tow truck shall bear words which may be reasonably construed as indicating or suggesting that it is a City, Police Department, or other Police Agency Vehicle or Police Authorized Tow Vehicle.



# CITY ORDINANCE

## TOWING RATES AND FEES

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### SEC. 55-2-81. - TOWING RATE COMMISSION.

A towing rate commission shall be created, composed of the Auditor General as Chairperson, the Director of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department or designated representative, the Chief of Police or designated representative, a representative of the public appointed by the Mayor, and a representative of the towing industry appointed by City Council. Such commission shall be charged with the duty of reviewing the towing rates at least once every two years and submitting its recommendation to City Council by October 1st of the year of review.

# City Ordinance

## Towing Rates and Fees

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### SEC. 55-2-83. - TOWING FEES.

(a) No person performing police authorized towing or storage service on such wrecked or vehicle shall charge fees in excess of the rates set by resolution of City Council. Such towing fee may consist of a flat rate hook-up fee plus an additional charge for each mile a vehicle is towed beyond one mile. Storage fees may be set on a per diem basis. The City Council may establish, by resolution, maximum fees for dolly tows, standard rates for police authorized towing to the City auto pound(s) in lieu of the normal rates, excess time spent at the scene of a tow, separate fees for accident and non-accident tows to the curb or nearest side street, "dry runs" when the tower appears at the request of the police but does not perform an otherwise compensable towing task through no fault of the tower, and other necessary services.

(b) Towing rate charges authorized by City Council resolution shall become effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year or as near thereto as the City Council finds practicable.

# TOWING RATES AND FEES



IN MAY 2013, CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A TOW RATE INCREASE, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TOW RATE COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS. THE TOW RATE OF \$ 215.00 INCLUDES:

\$ 25.00 TO THE TOW COMPANY

\$ 75.00 ADMINISTRATION FEE TO THE CITY

\$ 15.00 PER DAY STORAGE

EVIDENCE TOWS AND VICTIMS OF CARJACKING, RA, CSC, AND HOMICIDE ARE NOT CHARGED. THE FEE IS PAID BY THE CITY OF DETROIT.



# ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

THE TOW COMPANIES COLLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FROM THE CUSTOMER.

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EACH MONTH, THE TOW COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD THE COLLECTED ADMINISTRATIVE FEES DIRECTLY TO THE CITY OF DETROIT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES ARE PLACED IN THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND.

IN 2015 APPROXIMATELY 20,000 CARS WERE TOWED.

IN 2015 THE CITY COLLECTED \$1,594,375.00 IN ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.

# DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT UNITS INVOLVED IN MANAGING THE TOWING PROCESS

- FISCAL OPERATIONS
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- AUCTION DETAIL
- ABANDONED VEHICLE OFFICERS
- DISTRICT / PRECINCT PATROL OFFICERS
- TELEPHONE CRIME REPORTING UNIT
- COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS

# FISCAL OPERATIONS

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RECEIVES TOW BILLS FROM THE TOW COMPANIES (e.g. forfeiture tows, “blight” tows)

PROCESSES THE TOW BILLS

PAYS TOW BILLS

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- LIAISON WITH TOWERS
- MONITORS TOWERS
- INVESTIGATE TOW COMPLAINTS
- SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS
- INSPECTS TOW LOTS AND RECORDS

## AUCTION DETAIL

- SCHEDULE AND CONDUCT AUCTIONS AND TAXI CAB INSPECTIONS
- CONVERT UNCLAIMED, IMPOUNDED VEHICLES TO ABANDONED
- RUN LEIN CHECKS ON CONVERTED VEHICLES



## ABANDONED VEHICLE OFFICERS

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PATROLS THE NEIGHBORHOODS LOOKING FOR ABANDONED VEHICLES

RECEIVES COMPLAINTS FROM CITIZENS ABOUT ABANDONED, STOLEN AND ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES

CHECK THE LOCATIONS OF THE COMPLAINTS

REMOVES ABANDONED AND STOLEN VEHICLES

## PRECINCT PARTOL OFFICERS

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PATROL THE NEIGHBORHOODS TOWING  
ABANDONED AND STOLEN VEHICLES

IMPOUNDS VEHICLES INVOLVED IN CRIMES, TRAFFIC  
CRASHES, AND IMPROPERLY PARKED VEHICLES



## TELEPHONE CRIME REPORTING UNIT

- RECEIVES VEHICLE INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS IN THE FIELD
- POST DATA INTO L.E.I.N. SYSTEM
- ENTER AND CANCEL STOLEN VEHICLE INFORMATION
- NOTIFY OWNERS OF RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLES

## COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS

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When an officer requires a tow, officer calls Communication Operations and obtains a control number and the name of the next tower in rotation within the precinct.

## POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWS

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- EVIDENCE VEHICLES
- ABANDONED VEHICLES
- STOLEN RECOVERED VEHICLES
- FORFEITED VEHICLES
- ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES





# WHO ARE THE POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWERS?

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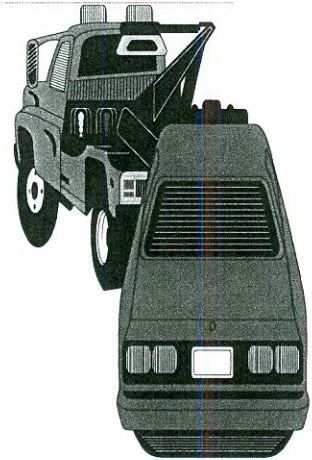


- CURRENTLY THERE ARE 24 DETROIT BASED POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWERS
  
- THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 4 TOWERS PER PRECINCT  
SIX (6) HEAVY DUTY TOWERS (ROLLOVERS, SEMI- TRAILERS,  
ETC.)
  
- IN 2011, 5-YEAR PERMITS WERE ISSUED TO POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWERS PURSUANT TO THE  
BOPC TOWING RULES
  
- CURRENT PERMITS EXPIRE MAY 31, 2016. NEW PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED ON JUNE 1, 2016
  
- TO DATE, 21 TOW COMPANIES HAVE APPLIED FOR A TOW PERMIT DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:  
MAY 2, 2016

## TOWER APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

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- BACKGROUND CHECK
- POSSESS PROPER INSURANCE
- 24 HOUR / 7 DAY SERVICE  
REQUIRED FOR ALL TOWERS
- SECURE PROPER ZONING



## TOW PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

TO ACQUIRE A TOW PERMIT THE TOW COMPANIES MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- PROOF OF INDEMNIFICATION
- APPLICATION FOR DETROIT BASED BUSINESS
- ZONING APPROVED BY THE CITY
- INCOME TAX CLEARANCE
- PROPERTY TAX CLEARANCE
- OWNER AND EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS
- THE NUMBER OF TRUCKS OWNED OR LEASED ALONG WITH THE REGISTRATIONS
- INFORMATION OF THE IMPOUND FACILITY
- PROOF OF INSURANCE

# INSPECTIONS

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ALL TOW COMPANIES MUST PASS AN INSPECTION WHICH INCLUDES:

- AN ORGANIZED IMPOUND CARD FILE
- A POSTED SIGN WITH TOW FEES
- THE TOWING PERMIT POSTED
- PROPER SIGNAGE ON TRUCKS AND BUSINESS
- A LOBBY AREA FOR THE CITIZENS
- INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR CAMERAS
- VEHICLES ORGANIZED IN THE LOT
- EXTERIOR FENCING / SECURED LOT

# MAINTAINING A TOW PERMIT

ONCE A TOW COMPANY IS GRANTED A TOW PERMIT  
THE COMPANY MUST:

KEEP PROPER INSURANCE

KEEP THE BUSINESS OPEN FROM 7AM TO 7 PM EVERYDAY SO THAT  
VEHICLES CAN BE RELEASED PROMPTLY TO CITIZENS

TREAT CITIZENS WITH RESPECT

RESPOND TO CALLS FROM DISPATCH WITHIN 20 MINUTES AND ONLY  
TOW IN THE PRECINCTS FOR WHICH IT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED

MAINTAIN 24 HOUR SERVICE, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

PAY MONTHLY ADMIN FEES REQUIRED BY RESOLUTION



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# QUESTIONS

Officer Kenyatta Myers

Badge 3893

Resource Management

(313) 596-2081