

In June 2019, all 14 contractors with the Official Police Tow Truck Service were invited to meet with the City Manager's Office between June 17, 2019, and July 28, 2019 as a group or individually to discuss concerns with the current towing program. There were four meetings, representing five companies, held at City Hall.

In June 2019, a phone conference was conducted with the California Highway Patrol, Riverside Area, to learn about their program.

The Public Safety Committee met on September 18, 2019, to review and discuss the Riverside Police Department towing program mediation recommendations. The Committee unanimously directing staff to continue negotiations with representatives from the Police Department and towing companies regarding Riverside Police Department Towing Service Program and return in November to the Public Safety Committee with a recommendation or forward the matter to the City Council for further discussion.

DISCUSSION:

On October 10, 2019, City Manager Al Zelinka met with 13 of 14 towing contractors and staff to identify the outstanding concerns with the Riverside Police Department Towing Program. This meeting resulted in identifying approximately 20 concerns that were narrowed down to 9 topical categories that were partly or wholly resolved:

1. How to be an Authorized Tow Company
2. Rotation List
3. Passing
4. Removal and destruction of no/low value motorhomes
5. Tow Referral Fee
6. Outside Storage
7. Tow Board
8. Authorized Drivers
9. Procedure for action against a contract

On October 13, 2019, City Manager Al Zelinka met with 10 of 14 towing contractors and staff to discuss solutions for outstanding concerns pertaining to some of the above topical categories. The meetings were very collaborative and solution-oriented. The participants discussed openly: a range of issues with the provisions of the municipal code versus practice; the relationship between the municipal code, vendor contracts, and requests for qualifications/proposals; and, the role of City staff in setting forth recommendations that advance public interest for consideration by the City Council and its committees in arriving at policy direction.

The attached redlined version of Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 5.15 and the presentation include several recommendations for resolving concerns. However, staff would like further direction on the following items that would best be served by additional analysis and consideration at a future Public Safety Committee:

1. Request for Qualification details for the selection of Authorized Tow Company

2. Funding source for the removal and destruction of no/low value motorhomes
3. Tow Referral Fee & the Towing Rate Schedule

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Al Zelinka, City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Redlined version of RMC 5.15
2. Presentation