



Proposed Changes to Chapter 5.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code

RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Committee
November 21, 2018

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BACKGROUND

1. Work with tow contractors to remove vehicles
 - A. Evidence to a crime
 - B. Abandoned
 - C. Involved in collision
 - D. Obstruct traffic
2. 14 towing companies currently in agreement for services
3. Proposed changes to RMC Chapter 5.15 will:
 - A. Maximize service to community
 - B. Provide fair process to uphold RMC regulations



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RMC SECTION 5.15.020-DEFINITIONS

1. Add definition of "*Tow Board*"
 - A. Investigate violations of Official Police Tow Truck Service Agreements
 - B. Due process for Tow Contractors
2. Add definition of "*Passing*"
 - A. Refusing, for any reason, any tow assignment or call for service from the City or from the Riverside Police Department



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RMC SECTION 5.15.020-DEFINITIONS

3. Add definition of "*Complaint*"
 - A. A Documented allegation against an official police tow service company which will be investigated.



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RMC SECTION 5.15.095-FRANCHISE FEE

1. Establish Franchise Fee Credit:

- A. If a vehicle is towed to a police station on an evidence hold and the vehicle is released from the station and not returned to the original police tow service the contractor will receive (2) franchise fee credits (one credit is currently \$65)



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RMC SECTION 5.15.110 STANDARD RULES OF OPERATION

1. Section 5.15.110 B.4. – No longer allow Tow Service Contractors to release a vehicle with verbal authorization from Police employee
 - A. Must have written authorization
 - B. Prevents miscommunication
2. Section 5.15.110 J – Tow Service Contractors to leave 3 feet between stored vehicles instead of 2 feet
 - A. More room to collect and process evidence



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RMC SECTION 5.15.120 RESPONSE TIME

1. Tow Service Contractor must respond to a call for service in a time not to exceed 30 minutes
 - A. Current requirement is 20 minute average response time in a 30 day period



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RMC SECTION 5.15.140 GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION, REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION

1. Eliminate requirement for Tow Service Contractor to appear before Traffic Bureau Commander within five days to appeal a contract cancellation, revocation or suspension
2. Revised process outlined in Section 5.15.145 –
Procedure for action against official police tow service



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RMC SECTION 5.15.145

PROCEDURE FOR ACTION AGAINST OFFICIAL POLICE TOW SERVICE

1. Creates a "Tow Board" as defined in 5.15.020
2. Board consists of Traffic Division Commander, or designee, and 2 sergeants.
3. Provides due process for tow contractors
4. Provides City ability to impose disciplinary action up to and including termination of agreement



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RMC SECTION 5.15.150-LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

1. Change title to "Penalties for passing on a call for tow service"
2. Remove liquidated damages
 - A. \$500 for each liquidated damage
 - B. \$200 every time contractor fails to meet response time
3. Impose new penalties for passing on calls for service:
 - A. 1st offense: 3 day suspension from tow rotation
 - B. 2nd offense: 7 day suspension from tow rotation
 - C. 3rd offense(and any pass thereafter): 30 day suspension from tow rotation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Receive the proposed changes to Chapter 5.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code regarding Regulation of Riverside Police Official Police Tow Service; and
2. Recommend that the City Council approve the proposed changes to Chapter 5.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code regarding Regulation of Riverside Police Official Police Tow Service, including amendments to Sections 5.15.020, 5.15.095, 5.15.110, 5.15.120, 5.15.140, 5.15.145, and 5.15.150.



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