



Public Safety Committee Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**
FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE **WARDS: ALL**
**SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT TOWING PROGRAM MEDIATION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

ISSUES:

Review and discuss the Riverside Police Department towing program mediation recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Consider recommendations for changes to the Riverside Police Department's Towing Service Program; and
2. Advise staff on the next steps for changes to the Riverside Police Department's Towing Service Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Safety Committee met on May 15, 2019, with Chair Perry, Member Adams, and Council Member Soubrious substituting for Member Adams, to consider items regarding nuisance abatement actions against abandoned, wrecked or inoperative vehicles and the Official Police Tow Truck Service Regulations. Following the discussion, the committee voted unanimously requesting: 1) the City Manager assign staff who are not involved to mediate the tow service regulation concerns between the Police Department and the tow contractors; and 2) for staff to research funding sources to potentially offset the cost of towing large nuisance vehicles and return to the City Council's Public Safety Committee in 30-45 days.

DISCUSSION:

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.

Additionally, there were several internal meetings with Riverside Police Department staff responsible for the management and operation of the Official Police Tow Truck Service program.

Through the conversations with all stakeholders, it was evident that there are several areas of opportunity to create a more efficient Police Towing program for the City, the contractors and our residents. The attached presentation details the multiple mediation recommendations for the Public Safety Committee's consideration and discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Carlie Myers, Deputy City Manager
Certified as to
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