



# Public Safety Committee Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** **DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 5.15 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING REGULATION OF RIVERSIDE POLICE OFFICIAL POLICE TOW TRUCK SERVICE, AMENDING SECTIONS 5.15.020, 5.15.030, 5.15.080, 5.15.095, 5.15.100, 5.15.110, 5.15.120, 5.15.130, 5.15.145, 5.15.150**

## **ISSUES:**

Review and discuss proposed changes to Chapter 5.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code regarding Regulation of Riverside Police Official Police Tow Truck Service, including amendments to Sections 5.15.020, 5.15.030, 5.15.080, 5.15.095, 5.15.100, 5.15.110, 5.15.120, 5.15.130, 5.15.145, 5.15.150.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Public Safety Committee:

1. Review and discuss the proposed recommendations for changes to the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 5.15 regarding Regulation of Riverside Police Official Police Tow Truck Service, including amendments to Sections 5.15.020, 5.15.030, 5.15.080, 5.15.095, 5.15.100, 5.15.110, 5.15.120, 5.15.130, 5.15.145, 5.15.150; and
2. Request staff return to the Public Safety Committee to provide additional analysis or recommendations for other policy changes requested for Riverside Municipal Code 5.15 – Regulation of Riverside Police Official Police Tow Truck Service.

## **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.

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.

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

**Attachments:**

1. Redlined version of RMC 5.15
2. Presentation