



Police Towing and Impound



The Detroit Police Department is a model of sustained policing excellence that places our neighborhoods and people first.



DPD Towing — Pre-September 2018

Some Issues in DPD Towing — Pre-September 2018

Oct. 18, 2016 | **The Detroit News**

Six Detroit police officers suspended in towing probe by FBI

May 21, 2018 | **The Detroit News**

Detroit towing battle flares anew

The long-running battle over Detroit's police towing operations rekindled this month after the city suspended three companies that allegedly have ties to towing magnate Gasper Fiore.

Feb. 15, 2019 | **The Detroit News**

Judge rips sheriff's deputies, bars Detroit towing firm from impounding stolen vehicles

April 16, 2019 | **The Detroit News**

Detroit City Council upholds tow company bans

June 4, 2018 | **The Detroit News**

Detroit towing fight ties up crime victims' cars



DPD Towing — Pre-September 2018

DPD seeks to reform towing, suspends private companies, and Searches for “Best Practices” in other police agencies

- Beginning in 2018, DPD began contacting other police agencies and municipalities to assess their respective towing practices.
- DPD learned that many large police agencies had begun towing and / or storing vehicles ordered towed by City agents (the police agency, parking department, etc.)

But . . . While DPD is examining practices, Lansing is authoring legislation *to prevent Detroit from setting its own policies.*

In July 2018, Governor Snyder signs HB 4360 Into law

Introduced by Rep. Lucido

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4360

Sec. 2. Except as otherwise provided in section 3 or 3a, beginning on the effective date of this act, a local government or law enforcement agency shall not do any of the following:

(a) Operate a motor vehicle storage facility or towing operation.

(b) Accept any consideration, financial or other, from an authorized vendor that operates a motor vehicle storage facility.

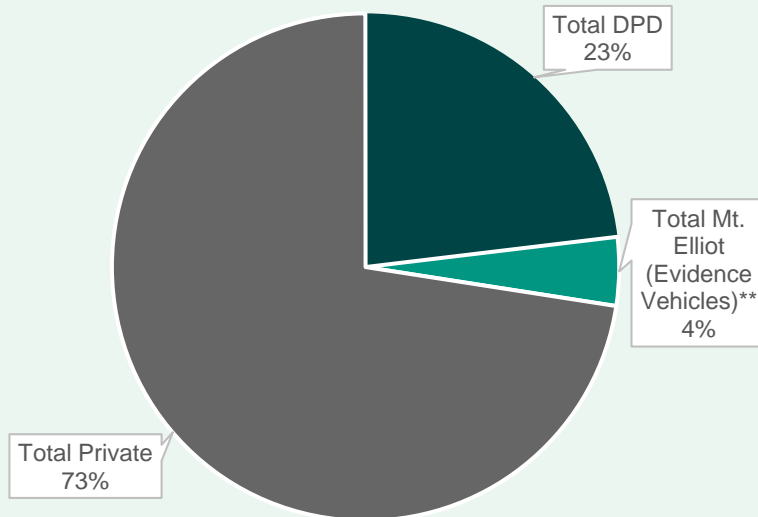
(c) Require an authorized vendor to deliver a motor vehicle to a motor vehicle storage facility operated by a different authorized vendor.

August 2018: DPD acts to preserve the City’s right to tow and store vehicles.



Overview of DPD Towing

Number of Tows by Tower



DPD has **towed 23%** of all tows since 9/23/2018.*

Storage Facilities

- 11631 Mt. Elliott (Evidence Lot)
- 5997 Caniff
- 9465 Grinnell
- 10750 Grand River

Towing Operations

DPD only tows **23%** of “Police-Ordered Tows”

Remaining tows are distributed between DPD’s **16 Police Authorized Towers.**

DPD does NOT tow —

- Owner-authorized tows (“AAA” tows)
- Private property impounds

**Data all from RMS and updated as of 2/27/20 at 4:00 AM.*

***Please note that the Mount Elliot Lot Tows can be conducted by DPD or a Private tower.*



DPD Towing



Employment Opportunities

- DPD has 15 budgeted “vehicle operator” positions (FY 2020).
- DPD employs returning citizens and offers training for those who wish to learn a new trade.
- Approximately—
 - One-half of all DPD tow truck drivers are women.
 - 80% of all tow truck drivers are Detroiters.
 - 95% are minority.
- DPD also employs returning citizens.

Fee Waivers / Hardship Claims

- DPD has waived and / or reduced fees for more than 500 individuals.

Revenue

- DPD towing has generated more than \$3.7 million since commencing operations and approximately \$2 million since July 1, 2019.



Appendix

Detroit City Code

Sec. 46-2-61. - Authority to create vehicle pounds; hours of operation of same.



The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to create vehicle pounds, where automobiles and other vehicles may be moved by police officers in the manner provided by this division. Such pounds shall be located and operated at such places as may be designated by the Chief of Police and a police officer shall be in charge of each pound. The Chief of Police shall designate an officer to remain in attendance at each pound from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day, except Sunday, for the purpose of receiving, safeguarding and discharging vehicles, and for collecting the fees provided by this division.

(Code 1984, §§ 55-2-61, 55-14-1; Ord. No. 09-14, § 1(55-2-61), eff. 7-1-2014)

Sec. 46-2-63. - Impoundment—Authority of police when vehicle in violation of parking regulations.



The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to remove, or cause the removal and impounding of, any vehicle found parked in violation of this Code. Such vehicle may be removed and conveyed by or under the direction of a member of the Police Department, by means of towing the same or otherwise to a vehicle pound or to a point or place where parking is permitted. Whenever available police facilities are insufficient, the Chief of Police is authorized to engage the services of any private operator of towing cars to remove vehicles under the direction of a member of the Police Department where the same are found in violation of this Code and under the provisions of [Section 46-2-69](#) of this Code.

2012 Charter of the City of Detroit

Sec. 7-803. Duties of the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Board shall:

1. In consultation with the Chief of Police, and with the approval of the Mayor establish policies, rules and regulations;

Sec. 7-806. Duties of the Chief of Police.

1. The Chief of Police is the Chief Executive Officer of the police department and shall administer the department consistent with the policies, rules, and regulations established by the Board and shall organize the department with the approval of the Board;

5. Except as otherwise provided by the Board, keep and control all property, books, records, and equipment belonging to the department or held by the department as evidence;

In accordance with the Charter of the City of Detroit and the Detroit City Code, on September 20, 2018, the Mayor and Chief of Police issued a Joint Directive authorizing DPD towing and motor vehicle storage. The Joint Directive was adopted by the Board of Police Commissioners the same day. DPD towing commenced on September 21, 2018.