



Ad Hoc Towing Committee

Summary of Special Meetings on Towing

BOPC Ad Hoc Committee on Towing ● 4 PM Wednesday, July 30, 2025 ● DPSH



Ad Hoc Towing Committee

Police Towing, City Regulations, and BOPC Oversight

PRIVATE Towing and POLICE or POLICE-AUTHORIZED Towing are different

Private Towing IS **NOT** Police or Police-Authorized Towing

Private Towing is a **CONSUMER** service

- You may choose to call a tow company for service
 - Example: Car trouble at home or at work
 - You might use AAA, or call a tow company based on a Google search or suggestion from a mechanic or friend
- Private Businesses/Owners may call a tow company
 - Signs Posted: Stores, Restaurants, Apartments, Churches



Private Towing Fees Are **NOT** Regulated in Michigan

Jason Evans Division Chief Corporate Oversight Division

Michigan Department of Attorney General | Michigan.gov/consumerprotection

- MCL Section 257.252 allows towing from public and private property
 - **“A vehicle that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner.”**
- The Michigan State Police (MSP), through its Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, regulates all towing companies Questions can be directed to 517-284-3250.

CONTACT US

To file a complaint with the Attorney General, or get additional information, contact:

Consumer Protection Team

P.O. Box 30213
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-7599
Fax: 517-241-3771
Toll-free: 877-765-8388
[Online complaint form](https://Michigan.gov/consumerprotection)
Michigan.gov/consumerprotection



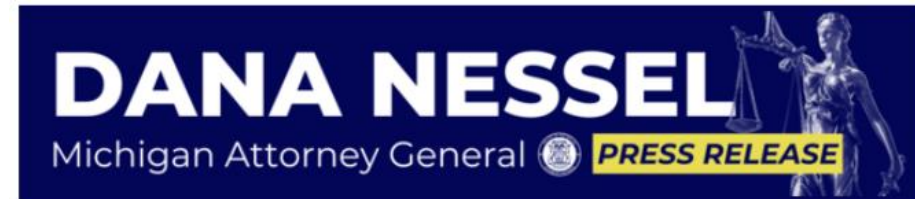
Requirement for notification from the Michigan Secretary of State

Secretary of State Notice

- The Secretary of State must notify owners by mail within seven days.
 - The mail goes to the owner listed on the title. Anyone else listed on the title receives a copy of the notice. A secured party is normally a bank or credit union.
- What's in the notice:**
- Where the vehicle was towed from.
 - Towing company name.
 - Address of where the vehicle is now.
 - How to claim the vehicle.
 - How to challenge the towing.
 - How to challenge the towing and storage fees; and
 - How to file with the court.

Public Comment & Consumer Alert

- Detroit Police Department is not the only law enforcement agency that tows.
 - June Meeting: Public Comment speaker referred to tow from a state-regulated freeway controlled by Michigan State Police



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 3, 2025

Media Contact:
Danny Wimmer

Attorney General Nessel Reissues Consumer Alert on Michigan Towing Laws

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is reissuing her consumer alert highlighting what consumers need to know if their vehicle is towed. The alert follows a presentation delivered last week by Jason Evans, chief of the Corporate Oversight Division at the Michigan Department of Attorney General, to the City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners Towing Committee. The alert and presentation focus on Michigan's towing laws and consumer protections offered to vehicle owners.

"It's important Michigan drivers understand their rights when it comes to towing," Nessel said. "This alert gives people the information they need to know how to get their vehicles back and challenge unauthorized and unreasonable fees."

Police-Authorized Towing means a police officer calls for a vehicle tow based on :

- **State Law**
- **City Ordinance**
- **DPD Policy**

Why Detroit Police Tow Vehicles

- Crime Scenes and Evidence
- Vehicles connected with an arrest, forfeiture, stolen vehicle recovery
- Critical/Serious Vehicle Crashes/Accidents
- Vehicles in locations that create a public safety hazard OR that impede regular traffic, emergency vehicles, or buses
- Stolen, flooded, and abandoned cars
- Illegally parked vehicles

Regulation of Detroit Police tows:

- City Ordinances Regulate the Process
- Detroit Towing Rate Commission Sets Fees
- DPD Internal Towing Unit – Operational/Budget oversight by BOPC
- DPD contracts with private Police-Authorized Tows
 - City Finance Department: Procurement Bids and Contract Awards
 - City Council Approval
 - No BOPC involvement

Tow Rate Commission

Laura Goodspeed, CPA – City of Detroit Auditor General

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

CITY CHARTER DIVISION 5. TOWING SUBDIVISION A. SEC. 46-2-81.



COMPOSITION

The Towing Rate Commission (TRC) shall be created, composed of the Auditor General as Chairperson, the Director of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department or designated representative, the Chief of Police or designated representative, a representative of the public appointed by the Mayor, and a representative of the towing industry appointed by City Council.



DUTY

To review the administrative, towing, service, and storage fees for police authorized towing at least once every two years and submitting its recommendation to City Council by October 1st of the year of review.



FAILURE TO ACT

If the towing rate commission fails to forward such recommendation within the time provided, City Council may adopt a resolution to set the administrative, towing, service, and storage fees without such recommendation.

MEET THE 2024 TOWING RATE COMMISSIONERS



LAURA GOODSPEED, CHAIRPERSON
Auditor General



ANDREW ANYANWU
General Manager,
Operations



CAPTAIN JASON ADAMS
Police Towing and
Impound Unit



ISAIAH "IKE" MCKINNON
Retired, City of Detroit
Chief of Police



PEGGY GOODWIN
Consultant and Public
Affairs Manager



Committee
Series Attendee

Tow Rate Increases took effect July 1st

MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Footnotes refer to
items reviewed by
TRC.

Tow Classification ^(A)	Current Fees	Current Weight Guidelines ^(B)	2024 TRC Proposed Fees ^(C)	Proposed Weight Guidelines ^(D)
Light Duty	\$ 125.00	10,000 lbs and less	\$ 225.00	10,000 lbs and less
Light Duty Second Truck	\$ 75.00	10,000 lbs and less	\$ 175.00	10,000 lbs and less
Medium Duty	\$ 175.00	10,001 lbs to 60,000 lbs	\$ 425.00	10,001 lbs to 26,000 lbs
Medium Duty Second Truck	None	10,001 lbs to 60,000 lbs	\$ 350.00	10,001 lbs to 26,000 lbs
Heavy-Duty	\$ 300.00	60,000 lbs and greater	\$ 700.00	26,001 lbs and greater
Heavy-Duty Second Truck	\$ 150.00	60,000 lbs and greater/ 6 hour cap	\$ 500.00	26,001 lbs and greater

Tow Rate Increases now in effect

BOATS, TRAILERS, AND CAMPERS

Tow Classification ^(A)	Current Fee	Current Weight Guideline ^(B)	2024 TRC Proposed Fee ^(C)	Proposed Weight Guideline ^(B)
Heavy-Duty	\$ 100.00	None/Flat Fee	\$ 700.00	None/Flat Fee

A. Heavy Duty Tows

Based on past and average tows, it was determined that boats, trailers, and campers typically require a Heavy-Duty tow.

B. Current and Proposed Weight Guideline

Remained consistent with a single flat fee for all weights.

C. Proposed Fee

The proposed fee is consistent with the proposed fee for a motorized vehicle and recreational vehicle Heavy-Duty tow.



RTC also set rates for:

MISCELLANEOUS TOWS

- Motorcycles, ATVs, jet skis, scooters, mini-bikes, 4-wheelers, lawn equipment, paddle/non-engine rowboats, etc.

OUT-OF-TOWN RETRIEVALS

- Set by contract as the most reasonable efficient route to leave and return to Detroit city limits

Tow Rate Increases now in effect

STORAGE FEES*

Category	Storage	Current Daily Fee	2024 TRC Proposed Daily Fee
Motorized Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles	Light Duty	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00
	Medium Duty	\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00
	Heavy-Duty	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Boats, Trailers, and Campers	Heavy-Duty	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Motorcycles	Light Duty	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00

*Refers to DPD policies or procedures covered by DPD presentation

**The Rate Commission
DID NOT change the
\$75 Administrative Fee**

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

General Purpose : Police-Authorized Towing with both DPD towing staff and contracted private towers



POLICE TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

The Police Towing and Impound Unit (PTIU) is the entity within the Department that is responsible for the administration of tow trucks for any tow initiated by any member of the Detroit Police Department.

- PTIU operates 24/7/365
- PTIU consists of the tow desk (tow monitoring, dispatch and support), tow truck vehicle operators, storage lots and auction teams
- Open to the public to redeem vehicles Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM (extended hours for special details and closed on Sundays)



PTIU RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain the function and security of all Department towing facilities and impounded vehicles
- Maintain towing software solution for tow rotations and vehicle inventory information and status
- Oversee compliance from authorized tow contractors
- Oversee all tow desk operations, special tow details for Department operations
- Facilitate redemptions, auctions, and scrapping of vehicles impounded by the Department
- Oversee auctions at Department impound lots, Municipal Parking Department, and police authorized towers impound lots
- Maintain inventory and financial transactions for towing/impound operations
- Investigate internal and external towing complaints

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

Staffing, Equipment and Impound Lots



PTIU CURRENT WORKING STAFF

- Lieutenants 1
- Sergeants 3
- Police Officers 21 (Includes: Administrative and Impound lots)
- Police Assistants 1
- Civilian Staff 8 (Includes: Administrative and Impound Lots)
- Vehicle Operators 21

*Human Resources is in the process of filling the three vacant Vehicle Operator positions
*Twenty-One total Vehicle Operators: Three are extended sick

*Personnel as of May 12, 2025



PTIU-CURRENT TOW TRUCK FLEET

- Seventeen (17) Total Tow Trucks
- Fourteen (14) Roll-Off Flatbed Trucks
- Three (3) Wreckers
- One (1) Hi-Lo

*Fleet as of May 12, 2025



PTIU-IMPOUND LOTS



- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 10750 Grand River: | All Vehicles |
| 11631 Mount Elliott: | Evidence Lot and Main Office |
| 9425 Grinnell: | All Vehicles |
| Lyndon (closed to public): | Boats/Trailers/Non-Motor Vehicles Only |

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

May 2025: The five companies under contract to tow for DPD as Police-Authorized Towers



POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWERS (PAT'S)

- Contracted by the City of Detroit by the Office of Contracting and Procurement using bidding process
- Fees are set by City Ordinance (cannot be higher)
- Evidence, stolen vehicle recoveries, and abandoned vehicles are towed to PTIU impound lots
- Vehicles towed for parking complaints, accidents, and proper ownership are taken to PAT lots
- Must meet the standards set by the City of Detroit including facilities, staffing, equipment, and conduct
- Oversight by the Detroit Police Department Tow Monitor (Captain Jason Adams)
- Currently, five (5) companies are contracted for the Detroit Police Department



POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWERS

CONTRACT TOWERS

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • Bobby's Towing | 10401 Lyndon Rd | (313) 290-0832 |
| • 7D's Towing | 5700 E. Nevada Rd | (313) 891-1640 |
| • Troy's Towing | 9615 Grinnell Ave. | (313) 579-1869 |
| • Wayne's Towing | 20495 Sherwood St. | (313) 368-3254 |
| • BBK Towing | 1821 Trombly St. | (313) 874-3730 |

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

DPD Efforts to Help the Public Understand Towing Options at Police/Crime Scenes



THIRD PARTY TOWERS

- No affiliation with the City of Detroit, Detroit Police Department, or contracted police authorized towers
- Fees charged are not regulated by contract, ordinance or law
- Citizens may use third party towers for consensual tows (accidents and disabled vehicles)
- DPD members are required to serve a Third Party Notice to inform citizens



THIRD PARTY NOTICE



Detroit Police Department NOTICE REGARDING TOWING FEES

D.P.D. 754

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Detroit has a list of towing companies authorized to remove vehicles to a storage yard for safekeeping according to the following rates for vehicles weighing less than 10,000 lbs.:

Tow Fee:	\$125.00
Admin Fee:	\$75.00
Storage Fee:	\$15.00 per day

As the vehicle's owner, operator, or custodian, you may have your vehicle towed by a Detroit Police Department (DPD)-authorized tower according to the foregoing fixed rates. If so, your vehicle will be towed to a designated yard and it will be the responsibility of you or your insurance carrier to pay the necessary fees and redeem your vehicle.

Should you desire further towing services – for example, to have your vehicle towed to a repair shop – you or your insurance company will be responsible for hiring a towing company to perform this additional service. However, the DPD cannot guarantee that this second tow will be performed at any particular rate.

You may also decline to use a DPD-authorized tower and instead use an unapproved tower at your own risk. The DPD cannot guarantee nor will it be responsible for how much you are charged by a non-authorized tower. Your insurance carrier may also refuse to pay excessive charges by a non-authorized tower. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your insurer and to contact multiple tow companies to ensure a fair rate before using an unauthorized tower.

Please note that towing companies are generally forbidden from soliciting their services at the scene of an accident or where vehicles are disabled. If a towing company has solicited its services at the scene or if you are unsure whether the company is a DPD-authorized tower, please contact a police officer for assistance.



Detroit Police Department NOTICE REGARDING TOWING FEES

D.P.D. 754

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____, acknowledge receipt and review of this notice, and elect to decline a tow from a DPD-approved towing company. I further certify that I have contracted the following unapproved towing company directly and that it was not at the direction or suggestion of the Detroit Police Department:

Name of Towing Company: _____

I have been informed of the approved charges for the towing services that would apply if I had elected to use a DPD approved company. I further acknowledge that my insurance carrier may only be responsible for paying reasonable charges for towing and storage services assessed by a non-authorized towing company.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

Fees set by the Detroit Tow Rate Commission apply to all Detroit Police tows. DPD exempts crime victims and may provide hardship relief in other cases.



TOW FEE COMPARISON

MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES				
TOW CLASSIFICATION	CURRENT FEES	CURRENT WEIGHT GUIDELINES	JULY 1, 2025 FEES	JULY 1, 2025 GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT
Light Duty	\$125.00	10,000 lbs and less	\$225.00	10,000 lbs and less
Light Duty Second Truck	\$75.00	10,000 lbs and less	\$175.00	10,000 lbs and less
Medium Duty	\$175.00	10,001 lbs to 60,000 lbs	\$425.00	10,001 lbs to 26,000 lbs
Medium Duty Second Truck	None	10,001 lbs to 60,000 lbs	\$350.00	10,001 lbs to 26,000 lbs
Heavy Duty	\$300.00	60,000 lbs and greater	\$700.00	26,001 lbs and greater
Heavy Duty Second Truck	\$150.00	60,000 lbs and greater (6 hour cap)	\$500.00	26,001 lbs and greater

BOATS TRAILERS AND CAMPER				
TOW CLASSIFICATION	CURRENT FEES	CURRENT WEIGHT GUIDELINES	JULY 1, 2025 FEES	JULY 1, 2025 GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT
Heavy Duty	\$100.00	None/Flat Fee	\$700.00	None/Flat Fee
Light Duty	\$100.00	None/Flat Fee	\$200.00	None/Flat Fee



STORAGE FEES AND MILEAGE COMPARISON

STORAGE FEES			
CATEGORY	STORAGE	CURRENT DAILY FEE	JULY 1, 2025 DAILY FEE
Motorized Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles	Light Duty	\$15.00	\$30.00
Motorized Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles	Medium Duty	\$20.00	\$40.00
Motorized Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles	Heavy Duty	\$25.00	\$50.00
Boats, Trailers, and Campers	Heavy Duty	\$25.00	\$50.00
Motorcycles	Light Duty	\$15.00	\$30.00

OUT-OF-TOWN RETRIEVALS			
CLASSIFICATION	CURRENT FEE PER MILE		JULY 1, 2025 FEE PER MILE
Light/Medium/Heavy	\$4.00		\$6.00
Heavy Duty	\$6.95		\$8.89

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	
CURRENT FEE	JULY 1, 2025 FEE
\$75.00	\$75.00

*No change to the Administrative Fee

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

Waivers for Detroit police-authorized tow fees: Crime Victim or Hardship



STOLEN VEHICLE WAIVER

QUALIFICATIONS

- Vehicle must be registered to an individual
- Vehicle must be stolen and recovered in the city of Detroit
(owner residency is not a factor)
- Insurance does not cover towing and storage

*Does not apply to corporate entities
*Does not apply to vehicles stolen in other jurisdictions
*Does not apply to false theft reports
*Does not apply if the impound is a result of criminal activity by the vehicle owner



VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM WAIVER

- Crime victim relating to Homicide, Sexual Assault, Armed Robbery, or Carjacking
(Owner residency is not a factor)
- Storage fees automatically waived during vehicle hold for evidence

*Does not apply if the impound is a result of criminal activity by the vehicle owner



HARDSHIP WAIVER

- Available to city of Detroit residents
 - First time tow
 - Low-income relief
 - Unable to meet basic living expenses
 - Compassionate early release
 - Student consideration
 - Medical expenses
 - Funeral expenses
 - Notarized Eviction/Foreclosure of principal residence

*Does not apply if hardship was the result of criminal charges or convictions

HARDSHIP AND STOLEN VEHICLE FEE WAIVER



STOLEN VEHICLE FEE WAIVER QUALIFICATIONS

- The vehicle must be registered to an individual
- Vehicle must be stolen and recovered in the City of Detroit
- Insurance does not cover towing and storage fees
- **Does not apply to businesses or corporate entities**
- **Does not apply to vehicles stolen in other jurisdictions**
- **Does not apply to false theft reports**
- **Does not apply if the impound is a result of criminal activity by the vehicle owner**

HARDSHIP WAIVER QUALIFICATIONS

- Available to City of Detroit residents
- First time tow
- Low-income relief
- Unable to meet basic living expenses
- Compassionate early release
- Student consideration
- Medical expenses
- Funeral expenses
- Notarized Eviction/Foreclosure of principal residence
- **Does not apply if hardship was the result of criminal charges or convictions**

APPLICATIONS

- Must be completed in their entirety
- Include valid ID
- Proof of ownership
- Supporting documentation (Hardship)
- Proof of insurance (If vehicle is driven from the impound lot)
- Driver's license (If vehicle is driven from the impound lot)
- All waivers must be reviewed for approval.
- Waiver applications must be submitted before the vehicle is redeemed
- Waiver applications are processed during regular business hours

Call the Police Towing and Impound Unit at 313-596-8832 for any questions regarding waivers
Business hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM



WAIVER PROCESS

Stolen Vehicles

1. Identification
2. Proof of ownership
3. Proof of Insurance (only if vehicle is being driven from tow lot)
4. Waiver affidavit request is completed at time of redemption

Violent Crime Victim

1. Identification
2. Proof of ownership
3. Proof of Insurance (only if vehicle is being driven from tow lot)
4. Automatic waiver of towing and storage fees from impound to notification of vehicle release

Hardship

1. Identification
2. Proof of ownership
3. Proof of Insurance (only if vehicle is being driven from tow lot)
4. Supporting documentation specific to hardship waiver reason request

May 2025 Waiver Process & New Signage for DPD tow locations

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

DPD's towing unit has steadily increased its share of the number of tows, but contracted police-authorized towers perform over 60% of tows.



POLICE TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT AND POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWS

POLICE TOWING THREE YEAR COMPARISON (YEAR TO DATE)

YEAR	2023	2024	2025
Total Number of Tows	11,270	11,131	11,765
Police Towing and Impound Unit Tows	1,871	1,793	4,319
Police Authorized Tows	9,399	9,338	7,446
Police Towing and Impound Unit Percentage	16.6%	16.1%	36.7%

*Comparison is made from January 1, through May 11, for each year



PTIU AND POLICE AUTHORIZED TOWS

2023 TOTALS		2024 TOTALS		2025 TOTALS	
• All Tows:	31,316	• All Tows:	31,060	• All Tows:	11,765
• PTIU Tows:	6,166	• PTIU Tows:	9,164	• PTIU Tows:	4,319
• Police Authorized Tows:	25,150	• Police Authorized Tows:	21,896	• Police Authorized Tows:	7,446

*Year To Date: 5/11/2025

DPD TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT

State law allows the recovery of towing and storage fees through auction



DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT AUCTIONS

ABANDONED VEHICLES

- **MCL 257.252a Defines abandoned vehicles and the authority impound as well as auction**
- **Vehicles not redeemed are auctioned for the cost recovery of Hook, Storage, and Administrative Fees**
- **The maximum starting bid on auctioned vehicles is for fees owed under Michigan Law**
- **Overages beyond the Hook, Storage, and Administrative Fees go to the Treasury to be paid to the owner**

SCRAP VEHICLES

- **Vehicles in poor condition and not redeemed that fail to be purchased at auction are sold as scrap**
- **Scrap bids are awarded through the Office of Contracting and Procurement and the Municipal Parking Department**

BOPC Oversight of DPD & Towing

- **The role of the Board of Police Commissioners under City Charter Mandate for “Supervisory Control and Oversight of the Police Department”**
 - 2012 City Charter: Chapter 8
- **Why BOPC has NOT had a direct role in private towing services used by DPD since FY 2022**
- **BOPC oversight of DPD budget or unit operations that may relate to police-authorized towing**

BOPC Oversight of DPD & Towing

Past Board Involvement in Police-Authorized Towing

○ POLICY

- 2010: the Board established rules/criteria for towing companies to tow for DPD
 - Required permits for tow companies
 - Required rotation of all towers to ensure fairness & equity

○ BUDGET

- 2018: Approved DPD request to set up and operate a towing unit and lots
 - **Police Towing & Impound Unit**

○ POLICY

- 2018: Passed a resolution to provide relief from financial hardship to recover vehicles towed by Detroit Police

BOPC Oversight of DPD & Towing

BOPC's General Role Since 2022

- Annual Budget Transmittal and Budget Reviews
 - DPD Budget includes **Police Towing & Impound Unit**
 - FY 24-25: \$4.1 Million and 28 employees
 - Proposed FY 25-26: \$5.6 Million and 28 employees
 - Capital Improvements for tow lots may provide other funds
- DPD Overall Operations
 - Weekly Chief's Report, Special Presentation at Weekly Meetings, and Precinct Reports at Community meetings
 - Precincts/Traffic Enforcement, which might include police-authorized towing of vehicles

BOPC Oversight of DPD & Towing

Board continues to handle citizen/public complaints

- City Charter: *Receive and resolve... any complaint concerning the operation of the Police Department*
 - **Operations include police-authorized towing**
- BOPC complaint investigative unit – Office of the Chief Investigator -- accepts complaints filed by phone at (313) 596-2499, online at www.detroitmi.gov/BOPC, and at DPD precincts or BOPC offices
 - BOPC **does not** investigate complaints about illegal or criminal conduct

BOPC Oversight of DPD & Towing

Summary:

- The Board had a direct role in police-authorized towing and reforms **BEFORE 2023**
- **CURRENTLY** the City Finance Department handles procurement and contracts for private towing companies used by the Police Department.
- The Board **continues** its mandate of supervisory control and oversight of the Department, including budgets and programs, but the Board does not have a direct role with private towing contractors used by DPD.

Summary: Ad Hoc Towing Committee Meeting Series Questions

BOPC Ad Hoc Committee on Towing ● Wednesday, July 30, 2025 ● DPSH