OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
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MEMORANDUM

DATE : January 29, 2024

TO : Honorable Mayor Michael E. Duggan
Honorable Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield
Detroit Police Chief James E. White
David Bell, Director, Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department

FROM: Laura Goodspeed, CPA LG
Auditor General

RE : Request For 2024 Tow Rate Commission Appointees

C : Councilmember Gabriela-Santiago-Romero
David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
Malik Washington, Government Affairs Assistant, Mayor's Office

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On Monday, January 22, 2024, the Detroit City Council Public Health, and Safety Standing Committee (PHS), voted and approved the convening of a Tow Rate Commission.

The Detroit City Code, Section 46-2-91 sets forth the mechanism for its creation and states the following:

> Sec. 46-2-91. Tow rates for police authorized towing.
>
> (a) A Towing Rate Commission 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.

As Chair of the 2024 Tow Rate Commission, I am requesting that you provide me with the name, title (if any), contact phone number, and contact email address for your designated representative, on or before the end of business, Friday, February 2, 2024.

This will allow time for the Commission to meet prior to the line item returning to the PHS Committee Meeting, scheduled for February 12, 2024.

The same Section 46-2-91 of the Detroit City Code sets forth duties and responsibilities of the Tow Rate Commission:

> (b) Such commission shall be charged with the duty of reviewing 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. 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.
>
> (c) Any tow contract initiated after calendar year 2021 shall be evaluated to determine whether an income-based rate structure or tow hardship policy is feasible. Such findings shall be submitted to the City Council via resolution for consideration.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to and response in this matter. Do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile phone at (313) 717-4033 if there are questions or concerns.