



DETROIT POLICE TOWING AND IMPOUND UNIT



BOPC PRESENTATION



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



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**



PTIU-CURRENT TOW TRUCK FLEET

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



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



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 |



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: _____



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 CAMPERS

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
Motorcylces		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**



POLICE TOWING AND IMOUND 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

- All Tows: 31,316
- PTIU Tows: 6,166
- Police Authorized Tows: 25,150

2024 TOTALS

- All Tows: 31,060
- PTIU Tows: 9,164
- Police Authorized Tows: 21,896

2025 TOTALS

- All Tows: 11,765
- PTIU Tows: 4,319
- Police Authorized Tows: 7,446

***Year To Date: 5/11/2025**



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**



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**



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**



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**



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



INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Applications and instructions are available at:

11631 Mt. Elliott

9425 Grinnell

10750 Grand River

(Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)

*Closed on Sundays

Call the **Police Towing and Impound Unit** at (313) 596-8832 for any questions regarding vehicles impounded at DPD lots and waivers

(Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)

*Closed on Sundays