

Amendments to Vehicles for Hire By-law - Private impoundment towing rates

Council Meeting, September 15, 2020
RTS 12094



The intent of this report is to review the fee structure and rates, and make recommendations to update and amend the by-law accordingly.

- The City of Vancouver regulates the rates and fees tow truck operators can charge for vehicles impounded from private property under Section 17 of the Vehicles for Hire By-law.
- This is done in support of consumer protection for motorists and the economic viability of Vancouver's tow truck industry.
- The rates were last updated in 2016 when Council approved a 22 per cent increase to account for inflation between 2007 and 2016.

Staff evaluated the following:

1. Level and structure of rates set by RoadSafety BC and ICBC for the tow industry.
2. Level and structure of rates set by cities in Metro Vancouver and other cities in Canada and US for private impoundment.
3. Consultation with local towing companies.
4. Rates and fees set by the City for vehicles impounded from city streets and parks (public tows).

- RoadSafety BC and ICBC share the same rates and rate structure.
- Other major cities in Metro Vancouver use the rates and rate structure set by RoadSafety BC or ICBC.
- The rates and fees for vehicles impounded on city streets and parks are based on the ICBC rates and rate structure.
- Tow truck companies want flexibility to layer additional charges depending on the type of tow.

- Align private impoundment rate schedule with the vehicle weight categories and associated rates set by:
 - ICBC
 - City's public tow rates
 - Neighbouring jurisdictions in Metro Vancouver
- Add fee options to increase compensation for complex tows.
- Provide rates and fees to the public upon request to ensure transparency.
- Consolidate all rates and fees into one schedule in the Vehicles for Hire By-law.

Current and proposed rates



	Current	Recommended
Base tow rate	<p>\$91.42 for vehicles 3,682 kg or less</p> <p>\$98.31 for vehicles more than 3,682 kg</p>	<p>\$77.46 for vehicles up to 3,000 kg</p> <p>\$81.80 for vehicles 3,000 kg to 6,300 kg</p> <p>\$129.67 for vehicles 6,300 kg to 9,072 kg</p> <p>\$172.47 for vehicles above 9,072 kg</p>
Charge for distance travelled exceeding 6km	None	Yes – depending on weight and distance travelled
Fuel surcharge	None	Yes – 13.5% on base tow rate and charge for distance travelled exceeding 6km
Dolly fee	None	Yes - \$25
Multi-level parkade fee	None	Yes - \$10
Release fee	Yes – half of base tow rate	Yes – half of base tow rate, plus fuel surcharge, and any applicable dolly or multi-level parkade fee
Storage fee (daily)	Yes – \$22.87 to \$68.61 (depending on vehicle type and length)	Yes – \$23.28 to \$69.84 (depending on vehicle type and length)

- Staff are asking Council to approve a new rate and fee structure for private impoundment.
- Changes align with ICBC, neighbouring jurisdictions, public tow rates and ensure public transparency and accountability from tow truck industry.
- Decision today helps tow industry which has cited rising costs to operate in Vancouver, aligns with Council's priority to protect and build a resilient local economy and for local business and local jobs recovery during COVID-19.
- Should ICBC make any changes to their tow rate structure, the City will review its own rates to determine if further changes are warranted.

Thank you

Questions and Answers

