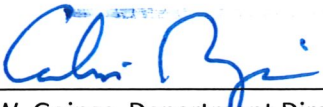




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Applicant: City of Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services	Page: 1 of 2	Supersedes: <u>Rule CPU-04-2015</u> <u>Effective 3/18/2015</u>
	Publication: 9/18/2018	Effective: 10/01/2018
Directors Rule: CPU-04-2018 Maximum Private Impound Fees	Code and Section Reference: SMC 6.214.220 Type of Rule: Code Interpretation Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.02.060	
<p>Approved:</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Calvin W. Goings, Department Director</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>9/28/18</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date</p>		

City of Seattle Tow Company Rules

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Background

Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 6.214.220 requires the City of Seattle to adjust the maximum private impound fees during the first quarter of each year. It further specifies that the fees shall be adjusted based upon the preceding years' percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton consumer price index or successor index thereto.

Director's Rule CPU-04-2015 outlines the means and methods used to calculate and update the maximum private impound fees. This rule updates the maximum private impound fees for 2018 by utilizing the Federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics index fund to calculate the consumer price index rate increases since February 2015.

Maximum Private Impound Fees Rule

1. The maximum private impound fees shall be as specified by SMC 6.214.220 and shall be adjusted by rule, during the first quarter of each calendar year, as follows:
 - (a) **Towing service fee and uncompleted tow fee.** These fees shall be adjusted annually based upon the preceding year's percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Transportation, or a successor index hereto, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
 - (b) **Storage fee.** The maximum storage fee that tow companies may charge for storing a private impound vehicle shall be no more than ~~\$30.37~~ **\$30.38** for each 12-hour period that the car remains in storage charged to the nearest half day. The Director shall adjust the maximum storage fee for private property impounds by rule for inflation on an annual basis following publication of the preceding year's percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Transportation, or a successor index thereto, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided that any such adjustment in the storage rate shall not result in a storage rate that exceeds the maximum daily storage rate allowed under RCW 46.55.118(1)(b) .
 - (c) **After hours release fee.** This fee may be adjusted by the Director upon written findings that reasons to do so exist. The Director shall consider the number and frequency of after-hours releases, the effect of the fee on consumers, the costs to tow companies, and any other factors related to after-hours releases.
2. The current maximum private impound fees are shown in the following table:

Fee	Maximum	Comments
Towing service fee	\$186.84 <u>\$203.96</u> first hour ⁱ	\$133.34 <u>\$145.56</u> per subsequent hour billed at \$33.34 <u>\$36.39</u> for each 15 minutes.
Storage fee	\$30.37 <u>\$30.38</u> per 12-hour period	\$30.37 per subsequent 12-hour period charged to the nearest 12-hour period. (ie 1 min 12 hours storage= \$30.37 12 hours 1 min - 24 hours= \$60.74) <u>\$30.38</u> per subsequent 12-hour period charged to the nearest 12-hour period (i.e., 1 min to 12 hours storage= <u>\$30.38</u> ; 12 hours, 1 min to 24 hours = <u>\$60.75</u>)
Uncompleted tow fee	\$46.71 per <u>\$50.99</u> per 15 minute period	Time computed from time of dispatch of tow vehicle to time of release
After hours release	\$100	For releases outside of normal business hours

ⁱ Towing service fee is a flat hourly rate which includes winching, dolly service, drive line removal, installation of chains on the tow truck, installation of portable lights, vehicle hookup for towing or transporting, tire replacement and standby time [SMC 6.214.220.A.2]. Towing service fee is the only basis for computing charges for private impound towing services other than uncompleted tow, storage, and after-hours release fees [SMC 6.214.220.A.1].



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City of Seattle

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The City of Seattle's Director of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, acting under the authority of Seattle Municipal Code Chapters 3.02 and 6.214, proposes to adopt one rule relating to the maximum private impound fees that tow companies may charge.

Paper copies of the draft rules are available at the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave., 42nd Floor, Seattle, WA) from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Electronic copies are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/finance-and-administrative-services/directors-rules>.

All interested persons are invited to present data, views or arguments regarding the proposed rule in writing. Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2018. Written comments may be emailed, mailed or delivered to:

City of Seattle

Department of Finance and Administrative Services

Attention: Beth Gappert

700 Fifth Ave., Floor 42

P.O. Box 94785

Seattle, WA 98124-4785

beth.gappert@seattle.gov

Calvin W. Goings

Director, Department of Finance and Administrative Services

Date of first publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, September 18, 2018.

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