

Ordinance No. 124655

Council Bill No. 118266

AN ORDINANCE relating to the towing and storage of vehicles; increasing the maximum fee that towing companies may charge for storage of a privately impounded vehicle, and amending Section 6.214.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Related Legislation File:

Date Introduced and Referred: <u>11/17/14</u>	To: (committee): <u>Full Council</u>
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: <u>11/24/14</u>	Date Presented to Mayor: <u>11/26/14</u>
Date Signed by Mayor: <u>12/2/14</u>	Date Returned to City Clerk: <u>12/2/14</u>
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Vetoed by Mayor:
Published in Full Text	
Date Veto Published:	Date Passed Over Veto:
Date Veto Sustained:	Date Returned Without Signature:

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by:

*Richard Lewis*

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
<u>Nov. 24, 2014</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>9-0</u>

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 124655

COUNCIL BILL 118266

AN ORDINANCE relating to the towing and storage of vehicles; increasing the maximum fee that towing companies may charge for storage of a privately impounded vehicle, and amending Section 6.214.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to raise the maximum storage fee for private impounds to a rate that is reasonable and compensable to allow tow companies to cover their costs and to allow for a reasonable profit margin; and

WHEREAS, a maximum storage rate of \$30.37 for each 12-hour period is reasonable and compensable; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection 6.214.220.C of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 123997, is amended as follows:

**6.214.220 Maximum private impound fees for towing service, uncompleted tow, storage, and after-hours release**

\* \* \*

C. Storage fee: The maximum storage fee that tow companies may charge for storing a private impound vehicle shall be no more than (~~(\$15.50 for each 12-hour increment)~~) \$30.37 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



1 ~~46.55.118(1)(b). ((The Director shall revise by rule the maximum storage fee for private~~  
2 ~~property impounds to match the maximum storage fee allowed under the City towing contracts~~  
3 ~~relating to public impounds performed for the Seattle Police Department made pursuant to~~  
4 ~~Chapter 11.30, whenever there is a change to the storage rates under those contracts.))~~

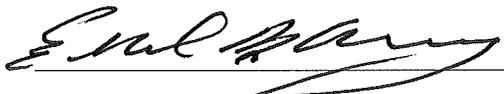
5 \* \* \*

6 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
7 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
8 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

9 Passed by the City Council the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nov., 2014, and  
10 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
11 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nov., 2014.

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14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

16 Approved by me this 7 day of December, 2014.

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

21 Filed by me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2014.

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23   
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

26 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Tony Kilduff/4-3580	N/A

**Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the towing and storage of vehicles; increasing the maximum fee that towing companies may charge for storage of a privately impounded vehicle, and amending Section 6.214.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation would increase the storage fee for privately impounded vehicles from \$15.50 per 12-hour period to \$30.37 and provides for the fee to increase at the rate of inflation annually.

**Background:**

The City regulates the towing and impounding of vehicles removed from private property by private towing companies. The current impound rate of \$15.50 per 12-hour period is essentially half the rate set by Washington state and effective elsewhere in state, despite Seattle having among the state's most expensive real estate. This legislation corrects the anomaly.

**This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

**This legislation has financial implications.**

**Other Implications:**

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**  
No.
- b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**  
N/A.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
Yes, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services enforces the fees and regulations related to private impounds.
- d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**



None.

**e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

**f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

**g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

**h) Other Issues:**

None.

**List attachments to the fiscal note below:** None.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

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318502

No. 124655, 124656

CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

**Affidavit of Publication**

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

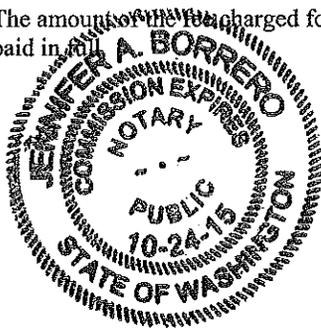
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

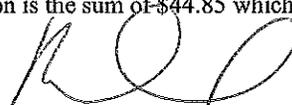
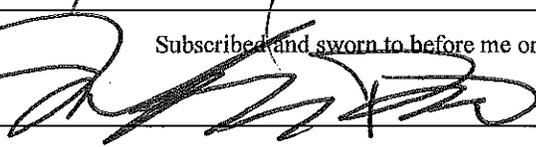
CT: TITLE ONLY ORDINANCES

was published on

12/17/14

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$44.85 which amount has been paid in full.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
12/17/2014 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

## State of Washington, King County

### City of Seattle

#### Title Only Ordinances

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on November 24, 2014, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>.

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-3344.

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#### ORDINANCE NO. 124656

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain audited claims and ordering the payment thereof.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, December 17, 2014.  
12/17(318502)