

**Legislative Department
Seattle City Council
Memorandum**

To: Government Performance & Finance
From: Christa Valles, Central Staff
Subject: Amendments to C.B. 117568, tow company regulations
Date: September 19, 2012

On September 4th, the City Council introduced C.B. 117568, establishing maximum rates for private impounds tows. Members of the Government Performance and Finance Committee (GPFC) discussed the bill for the first time on September 9th. GPFC members are scheduled to discuss and possibly vote on C.B. 117568 at the upcoming GPFC meeting on September 19th.

A revised version of C.B. 117568, Version 10, will be included in committee notebooks. This revised version contains several proposed changes, primarily consisting of clarifications, minor corrections, and at least one substantive change. These changes are described in general below; actual wording changes will be noted in the bill contained in Council notebooks.

Summary of proposed amendments to C.B. 117568

Section 6.214.200 (p.3)

- a) Modifies definition of “tow truck operator” (and also changes “operator” to “driver” for clarification purposes.
- b) Changes definition of “uncompleted tow” for clarification purposes.

Section 6.214.220 (p.4)

- c) Changes annual index used to adjust towing service rate from general CPI for region to transportation CPI for region. (Transportation CPI includes changes in gas prices.)
- d) Reduces 1st hour towing service fee from \$209 per hour (200% of SPD’s public impound fee of \$104.5) to \$183 for the first hour (175% of SPD’s public impound fee).

Section 6.214.240 (p.7)

- e) Specifies that receipts should be recorded for uncompleted tow payments.
- f) Clarifies that if a service fee is calculated by time, the tow company needs to indicate on the receipt the actual time spent for each service.
- g) Requires that a person paying a fee for an uncompleted tow should also receive a receipt.

Section 6.214.260 (pp. 8-9)

h) Clarifies the conditions/mechanics for handling an uncompleted tow.

Misc.

i) Change tow “truck operator” to “tow truck driver” though out document.

j) Last whereas clause on p.1: change tow truck operators to tow truck companies.

Assuming committee members are amenable to these proposed amendments, Council will want to move to substitute Version 10 of C.B. 115768 for Version 9b prior to voting on the legislation.