

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is well-documented that vulnerable accident victims and stranded motorists in Chicago are often taken advantage of by tow truck companies and operators quickly arriving at the site unsolicited, interfering with police operations, and engaging in predatory and potentially dangerous business practices, including:

- (1) Lying to automobile owners that the tow truck has been dispatched to the scene of an accident or vehicular breakdown by the police, insurance company or motor club;
- (2) Failing to disclose in advance all towing, storage, and miscellaneous fees necessary to secure release of the towed vehicle;
- (3) Charging persons for work that was not performed;
- (4) Towing vehicles without first having obtained authorization to tow from the vehicle's owner or operator, or telling a stranded motorist or accident victim that they must sign an authorization-to-tow form; and
- (5) Towing vehicles to locations other than the agreed-upon location; and

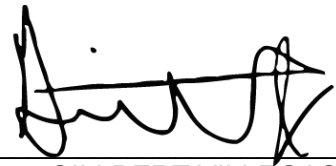
WHEREAS, Such business practices frequently result in potentially violent confrontations, strand motorists without their vehicle in unfamiliar areas of the City, impede expedited vehicle recovery, and waste local law enforcement's limited resources; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of how the dangers such practices pose to motorists and public safety generally, the Illinois General Assembly amended the section of the Illinois Vehicle Code requiring local law enforcement agencies to establish tow rotation lists (625 ILCS 5/4-203.5) to remove the carveout that applied to the City, effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a tow rotation list in accordance with State law will better enable the City to ensure that our roads are kept safe and ensure that motorists are not taken advantage of by tow truck companies and operators who repeatedly engage in these dangerous business practices and other deceptive and dangerous practices that endanger public safety; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council, do hereby call upon the Committee on Public Safety to convene a subject matter hearing to discuss the Chicago Police Department's current system of contacting tow companies in connection with damaged or disabled vehicles on the public way, and the steps necessary for the implementation of a tow rotation list in accordance with State law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon representatives of the Chicago Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management and Control, the Department of Streets and Sanitation, and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, and others invited by the Committee, to testify at such hearing.



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