



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Lourdes Benedict, Assistant County Administrator  
Daisy Rodriguez, Director, Human Services

**FROM:** Doug Templeton, Consumer Protection Operations Manager

**SUBJECT:** Towing Fee Rate Recommendations

**DATE:** March 29, 2019

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Currently there is no tow operator licensing or registration in place within Pinellas County, however, ordinance regulation is conducted by Pinellas Consumer Protection (CP). Towing fees are set by local ordinance and have remained static since the ordinance inception in 2000. With a goal of ensuring fair operator revenues while balancing the needs and protections of consumers, CP examined the fee structures of other regional and urbanized counties in Florida, reviewed possible Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments, and sought industry feedback on the fees.

#### **Recommendation**

Staff recommendations include an increase to per mile transport fees (from \$3.00 to \$4.00 with a maximum of 10 miles) on Class A, B, C, and D vehicles due to increases in fuel cost over time. Additionally, staff recommends an increase to the base towing fee and vehicle storage fees for Class A vehicles to better align with comparison jurisdictions. These recommendations would coincide with a proposed review by the Department every three years to assess market changes and fee status.

#### **Class A Vehicles (GVW under 10,000 lbs.):**

- Per Mile Transport Fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$3.00 to a proposed fee of **\$4.00** per mile up to 10 miles. (33% increase, maximum \$10.00 impact)
- Base Towing Fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$100.00 to a proposed fee of **\$110.00** per tow. (10% increase, maximum \$10.00 impact)
- Vehicle Storage Fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$20.00 to a proposed fee of **\$25.00** per day. (25% increase, maximum \$5.00 impact)

#### **Class B Vehicles (GVW from 10,000 lbs. to 19,499 lbs.):**

- Per Mile Transport Fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$3.00 to a proposed fee of **\$4.00** per mile up to 10 miles. (33% increase, maximum \$10.00 impact)

Class C Vehicles (GVW from 19,500 lbs. to 24,999 lbs.):

- Per Mile Transport fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$3.00 to a proposed fee of **\$4.00** per mile up to 10 miles. (33% increase, maximum \$10.00 impact)

Class D Vehicles GVW 25,000 lbs. or more):

- Per Mile Transport fees: adjusted from the current fee of \$3.00 to a proposed fee of **\$4.00** per mile up to 10 miles. (33% increase, maximum \$10.00 impact)

**Cost Impact**

With the recommended changes, a typical towing event would increase by approximately \$20 to \$25, or 15.3% to 16.6%. The scenario below shows a typical tow with transport at the maximum of 10 miles and 1 day of storage:

Current Rates:

- Tow (\$100) + 10 mile max (\$30) + 1 day storage (\$20) = \$150

Draft Recommended Rates:

- Tow (\$110) + 10 mile max (\$40) + 1 day storage (\$25) = **\$175**

**Chart 1 – Current/Proposed fees for towing, mileage, storage fees of Class A Vehicles**

FEE - Class A Vehicles (or equivalent) Towing Fees	Pinellas	<i>Pinellas Proposed</i>	Hillsborough	Pasco	Manatee	Polk	Orange	Broward	Miami	Palm Beach
Current Tow Fee	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>(\$110.00)</b>	\$125.00	115.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$126.72	\$101.00	\$123.00
Current Mileage Fee	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>(\$4.00)</b>	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	n/c	\$3.00	n/c	n/c	n/c
Current Storage Fees	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>(\$25.00)</b>	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.35	\$25.00	\$25.00