

Pinellas County Commissioner Meeting: 05/19/2026

Who here knows someone who wakes up and says, “I wish my rent were higher?”

But higher rents and higher consumer costs are exactly what happen when essential industries like towing are pushed to the breaking point.

You have all been bad stewards to our industry!

We help keep apartment communities, HOAs, and rental properties compliant with Fair Housing laws. We remove unauthorized vehicles tied to lease violations, abandoned cars, criminal activity, fire code violations, and code enforcement issues that can expose property owners — and ultimately residents — to major costs and lawsuits.

We help protect Pinellas County residents from unsafe communities, illegal activity, and rising housing costs caused by compliance failures.

When a stolen vehicle is dumped in a neighborhood, we handle it.

When a property faces violations or lawsuits, we help prevent it.

We are not a luxury service. We are part of this county’s public safety infrastructure.

For years, our industry has been treated like an afterthought.

Some of you may remember I stood before you in 2019 asking for help. Since then, I’ve attended every roundtable, every Consumer Compliance discussion, and every meeting where we were told solutions were coming.

But after years of discussions, promises, and recommendations, meaningful relief still has not happened. Last week alone, my company had a \$15,000 fuel bill. Insurance premiums in this industry have increased 30 to 50 percent. Equipment costs are up. Labor costs are up. Every operational expense has increased dramatically.

Yet, towing companies in Pinellas County are expected to wait years for rate adjustments while every other industry adapts to inflation in real time.

If food costs rise, restaurants adjust prices. If construction costs rise, contractors adjust pricing. But towing companies are forced to fight through years of bureaucracy just to survive.

That is not sustainable.

Small operators are already shutting down because they cannot absorb rising costs, regulatory scrutiny, legal exposure, and constant delays any longer.

And the consequences will not just hurt towing companies. They will hurt consumers.

Longer response times. Fewer available operators. Reduced service coverage. More strain on law enforcement, property managers, and ultimately Pinellas County residents.

During the pandemic, towing professionals were classified as essential workers because society depends on us functioning.

Our employees are Pinellas County residents, too. They deserve raises, homes, and futures just like workers in every other industry.

We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair treatment.

We are asking this Commission to stop delaying, stop ignoring prior recommendations, and finally support the small businesses that help keep this county functioning every single day.