

OMB Granicus Review

Granicus Title	Ordinance amending the Pinellas County Code, Chapter 122, related to the County Towing Ordinance.				
Granicus ID#	23-1105A	Reference #		Date	7/13/23

Mark all Applicable Boxes:

Type of Review									
CIP		Grant		Other	X	Revenue		Project	

Fiscal Information:

New Contract (Y/N)	N	Original Amount	NA
Fund(s)	NA	Amount of Change (+/-)	NA
Cost Center(s)	NA	Total Amount	NA
Program(s)	NA	Amount Available	Total: \$NA
Account(s)	NA	Included in Applicable Budget? (Y/N)	There is no fiscal financial impact to the County.
Fiscal Year(s)	FY23, FY24, FY25		

Description & Comments

(What is it, any issues found, is there a financial impact to current/next FY, does this contract vary from previous FY, etc.)

In 2019, Pinellas County reviewed and adopted several adjustments to the towing ordinance, including initial increases to towing rates. As part of the update, CP proposed a three-year review cycle for the towing ordinance to help maintain a competitive marketplace and to work with the industry to meet community needs.

CP has completed the current ordinance review and is proposing items for clarification, operational improvements, and increases to current towing rates as part of this agenda item. As part of the review, CP has explored towing fees across other regional and urbanized Florida counties, while reaching out to industry partners and law enforcement for input on operations and fees. CP specifically met with the Professional Wreckers of Florida, Inc. (PWOFF) and hosted an industry meeting with towing representatives to directly obtain feedback on local trends, operations, and rates.

While performing the review, it is important to note that, since the previous towing rate adjustment in 2019, industry representatives indicated that they have experienced significant increases in staffing and operational costs and indicated growing difficulties in maintaining competitive operations without the proposed fee increases. Specifically, the group highlighted significant increases in costs for vehicle acquisition, maintenance, insurance, and fuel costs, as well as employee retention challenges and needed pay increases.

The fees proposed in this amendment are PWOFF recommended increases submitted for consideration and are in line with adjustments and rates found for comparable counties during review. Based on the proposed rates, the typical trespass-related tow would increase by approximately 19%. Two example scenarios are shown below for reference.

Scenario 1:

Current Rates:

Tow, 10 mile max, no storage. \$125 + \$40 = \$165

PWOF Recommended Rates:

Tow, 10 mile max, no storage. $\$147 + \$50 = \$197$

Scenario 2:

Current Rates:

Two, 10 mile max, 1 day storage. $\$125 + \$40 \text{ distance} + \$25 = \190

PWOF Recommended Rates:

Tow, 10 mile max, 1 day storage. $\$147 + \$50 \text{ distance} + \$30 = \227

Consumer Protection recommends conducting a review of industry trends and associated fees every three years.

Fiscal Impact:

Human Services anticipates that this proposed ordinance changes will require no additional staff time or fiscal impact. This ordinance brings in **NO** revenue to the County.

Analyst: **Toni Merrill**

Ok to Sign: ☒
