

Baltimore City Board of Licensing for Towing Services
12.15.23 Meeting 10AM
Held on Webex

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Tavon Braxton, Chair, DOT Representative
Lt. Charles James, BPD Representative
Ms. Carla Nealy, DOF Representative

Support- James Turner, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

1. Introduction of Members
2. Updates
 - a. Trespass Towing Regulations
 - i. Lag to getting regulations updated was because of change in process by Law Department and Department of Legislative Reference, which has now been completed.
 - ii. Will work to complete full board before completing regulations
 - iii. Will release a timeline early next year.
 - b. Drop Fees and Receipts.
 - i. There has been an increase in complaints around drop fees.
 - ii. Chair reiterates Title 21 Subtitle 10A Section 5 of Maryland Law

“Repossession by owner prior to removal to storage facility. -- Before a vehicle is removed from a parking lot, a tower who possesses the vehicle shall release the vehicle to the owner or an agent of the owner:
 - (1) If the owner or agent requests that the tower release the vehicle;
 - (2) If the vehicle can be driven under its own power;
 - (3) Whether or not the vehicle has been lifted off the ground; and
 - (4) If the owner or agent pays a drop fee to the tower in an amount not exceeding 50% of the cost of a full tow”
 - iii. Chair Braxton reiterates the importance of receipts.
 - c. Membership
 - i. There will be an application that should be released early next year for Tow Board Membership
 - ii. Looking to fill membership for Industry, Citizen at Large, and Property Management Members
 - iii. All new members will be required to live or operate a business in the City.
 - iv. All new members will have to go through executive nomination process and complete annual financial disclosures.
3. Voting Period

- a. List of Business Approved for 2024 License:
 - i. Auto Barn (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - ii. C&S Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - iii. Greenwood Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - iv. Quick Response Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - v. Paladin Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - vi. Universal Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - vii. Vision Wrecker (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - viii. Pollards Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - b. List of Business's Tentatively Approved for Extension of License
 - i. Ted's Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - ii. Mel's Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
 - iii. Frankford Towing (Motioned by Lt. James, Second by Ms. Nealy 3-0)
4. Open Business
 - a. Participant commented regarding more clarity on the relationship between state law, local law, and local regulations. The participant asserted that the Tow Board Rules and Regulations have been the "guiding light" for trespass towing in Baltimore City Trespass Towing and needs clarity on why there is a need for the Board to pursue any additional laws at the state and local level
 - b. Participant inquired about Police-Requested Towing Contract
 5. Adjournment (Motioned by Chair Braxton, Seconded by Ms. Nealy)