



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: James White, Chief of Police, DPD
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: October 4, 2024
RE: Police Authorized Towing

The recent discussion concerning police-authorized tow companies highlighted community concerns about the implementation of this program, such as some nonpolice-authorized tow companies charging insurance companies astronomical rates for the tow and storage and essentially holding the vehicles hostage until the exorbitant fees are paid. This results in higher rates for the car owner and limits the pool of insurance companies willing to insure cars in Detroit. Please provide answers to the following questions:

- What is the average response time for automobile accidents in Detroit?
- What are the DPD protocols for notifying drivers of their right to be towed by a police-authorized tow company?
- If there is a form drivers must sign, can DPD provide a copy and share the training/direction given officers surrounding the issue?
- What are the rates police authorized tow companies are allowed to charge for a tow and storage?
- Does the City have the ability to implement an ordinance requiring that DPD and non-police authorized tow companies provide notice of their right to be towed by a police authorized tow company?

Please contact Ari Ruttenberg from my office at ruttenberga@detroitmi.gov if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk