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City of Gainesville City Commission:

This is a request to DENY the increase in towing charges requested by wrecker companies doing business in the City of Gainesville.

The following is a summary of my recent experience with one of these companies. The name of the business is Ultimate Towing.

This event occurred on Saturday, the 18th of September 1999, the evening of the Florida/Tennessee football game. My sons and I arrived at a legally marked parking space in front of a residence at 20 SW 23rd Street, at 6:00 PM. This space is on the West Side of the street. A copy of the plat showing the location as well as photos taken the next day with my car in the exact location are included.

Upon parking my vehicle, I was approached by a girl who demanded \$20.00 from me to park there. I then called her attention to the sign directly in front of my vehicle which said "Decal Parking Only Mon.-Fri. 8AM-4PM." I told her that she could not collect money for parking on City property, and pointed to the sign. We then proceeded to go to the football game.

After the game had ended, approximately 12:30 AM, we returned to find my car gone. I had no idea what happened to the car. No one was home at the house to the rear of where we had parked. We then had to walk to NW 34th Street to get to a phone and call home to have my wife get us.

It was 2:30 AM before the police could find the vehicle. I was told that Ultimate Towing had the car. Upon calling Ultimate towing, I was told that in order to get my car back I had to bring cash money of \$70.00. I then went to Ultimate towing.

Knowing that I had parked on City right-a-way and in a legal parking space, I asked to speak to the manager. The attendant was belligerent and disrespectful. I was told there was no manager. I asked for the name of the tow truck driver. I was told #212. I asked to speak to the owner and was told to call back Monday, if I want my car, it will cost \$70.00 cash. I reluctantly paid the \$70.00.

I contacted the police department on Monday and was assisted in getting the name of the manager and tow truck driver. I was also told that the City has a current EXCLUSIVE contract with one of the tow companies to be called when vehicles are being towed from city property and the police department must call them. The police department never called Ultimate Towing, and Ultimate Towing is NOT the contracted company with the City.

Also included are copies of a letter from Mr. Philip R. Mann Traffic Engineer, City of Gainesville stating that my car was legally parked in the city right-a-way.

When I called Ultimate towing, I spoke to Mr. Andy Ross, the Manager. I told him that I had been illegally towed by his company from public right-a-way and in a legal parking space. He said that the homeowner called and requested my car to be towed and that he had every right to tow the car. Please take notice that the parking sign designating this to be a legal parking space was directly in front of my car! To this date this issue has not been resolved.

This is just one of many cases where these tow companies break the law in favor of a buck. (no..wrong \$70.00 bucks!!) Now these tow companies are asking for a raise to \$100.00? A 43 per-cent increase so they can get paid more money to take advantage of people like myself—NO WAY.

What Ultimate Towing did in my case was to flat out STEAL my car from the City of Gainesville public right-a-way and hold my car up for RANSOM. This was nothing less than EXTORTION.

December 7th, 2000



**Benjamin D. Tecler
3961 SW 6th Place**

Andy Ross - mgr currently

Stacy
Shannon

ULTIMATE TOWING & RECOVERY



3424 SW Williston Rd.
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32608
(352) 376-5829

GPL 5615

UNIT # 08

DATE 9-18-99 TIME 6:30 AM REQUESTED BY Prop owner

LOCATION OF VEHICLE 20 SW 23rd ST

NAME Ben Taylor Teacher

ADDRESS 3461 SW 16th Pl Gainesville FL 32608

PHONE

EXTRA PERSON

SERVICE TIME

MILEAGE

FINISH	FINISH
START	START
TOTAL	TOTAL

YEAR MAKE / MODEL / COLOR Dodge Colt Blue

STATE LIC NO. FL 72FMWJPCU24X5K008482

OPERATOR 24609942

- SLING/HOIST TOW
- WHEEL LIFT
- FLAT BED/RAMP
- START
- LOCK OUT

- FLAT TIRE
- OUT OF GAS
- WRECK
- RECOVERY
- Unauthorized

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

- SINGLE LINE WINCHING
- DUAL LINE WINCHING
- SNATCH BLOCKS
- SCOTCH BLOCKS
- DOLLY
- Parking

VEHICLE TOWED TO 121-93

REMARKS

- Charged On Account
- Paid In Full
- Other

Notice: Towing from private property is regulated by the provision of §715.07 Florida Statutes, and Chapter 14.5, Article III City of Gainesville Code of Ordinance

David 70 Cash

MILEAGE CHARGE

TOWING CHARGE 70

LABOR CHARGE

STORAGE CHARGE

Authorized Signature

OPERATOR SIGNATURE

TOTAL 70.00

Road Service

37447

To Reorder Call 1-800-225-6380

PRODUCT 613



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Public Works Department

September 21, 1999

Mr. Ben Tecler
3961 S.W. 6th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32607

Subject: Parking in College Park Neighborhood

Dear Mr. Tecler:

On-street parking is allowed in the right-of-way on S.W. 23rd Street. It is in the City's Residential Decal Parking Area. This requires vehicles to have a decal to park Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parking is allowed all other times without the requirement of a decal. Parked vehicles must be legally parked and must not be on private property.

Since I do not know exactly where your car was parked, I cannot determine if your vehicle was legally parked. The total right-of-way width is 50' along S.W. 23rd Street and based upon the sketch that you have provided (a copy of which is attached), it appears that your vehicle would have been legally parked in the City right-of-way.

I hope this addresses your concern. Please contact me at 334-5074 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Philip R. Mann

Philip R. Mann, P.E.
Traffic Engineer II

Attachment (1)

STATE RD, 26-A

DECAL PARKING ONLY
8AM-4PM
MON-FRI

CITY DECAL REQUIRED

OFF-STREET PARKING SIGN

CITY RIGHT AWAY

TELEPHONE POLE

-HOUSE -
20 SW 23 ST.

US MAIL BOX

GY WIRE

CAR

OAK TREE

CITY RIGHT AWAY

SW. 23 STREET

DRIVE 20
20

DECAL PARKING SIGN
(SAME AS ABOVE)

