

Recommendations for Roam Towing issues

1. Towing offices open 24/7

Broward county-8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office may be closed only to observe holidays observed by Broward County government

Daytona – 8:00am-6:00pm, Monday-Friday

Jacksonville- 7:00am-8:00pm 7 days per week

Montgomery County MD- open 24/7

Orange County- Office open 8:00am-6:00pm whenever open for towing purposes

St. Johns County- office open 8:00am-5:00pm Mon-Fri

Tallahassee - Normal business hours shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

2. Accept major credit cards including American Express

Montgomery County MD- 2 most widely used credit cards

Orange County- The acceptable methods of payment, which shall include cash, money order, cashier's check, and valid major debit and credit cards, including but not limited to Visa and MasterCard;

Savannah- Master Card and VISA credit card payments

Tallahassee- *Major credit card* means a Visa or MasterCard.

3. All cars picked up in Gainesville for roam towing must accept all forms of payments

It is the opinion of our legal advisor that the city cannot regulate the type of payments for tows that occurred outside of the city limits of Gainesville.

4. Look into prohibiting spotters that are paid for by the towing company

Montgomery County MD- no tow company spotters from 9:00am-2:00am

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Orange County- No towing or immobilization service shall employ or otherwise compensate individuals, commonly referred to as "spotters," who report the presence of unauthorized parked vehicles for purposes of immobilization or towing.

5. Look into banning roam towing from properties that sell alcohol from 9PM-noon the next day

Hillsborough County-No property owner or lessee of a property licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises, or an authorized employee thereof, may cause any vehicle parked on such property without his or her permission to be removed by a towing service, from 9:00 p.m. until 12:00 noon, unless said property owner, lessee, or authorized employee thereof has signed an order authorizing the removal of a particular vehicle.

- (b) No towing service or driver may tow such vehicle from 9:00 p.m. until 12:00 noon, unless in receipt of a signed order referenced herein containing all the information identified below.
- (c) Such order may only be signed prior to vehicle removal and must include:
 - (1) Vehicle make, model, color, and license plate number;
 - (2) Address of vehicle location; date and time of order;
 - (3) Date and time of removal; name of person issuing order and their employer;
 - (4) Name of towing service to which order is issued;
 - (5) Name of driver; and
 - (6) Address of storage site.

Tallahassee - It shall be unlawful for a property owner, lessee or an authorized employee of a property licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises, which also provides on-site parking on said property, to cause any vehicle parked on such property to be removed by a wrecker operation, from 2:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., unless said property owner, lessee, or authorized employee thereof has signed an towing invoice or order authorizing the removal of a particular vehicle or unless the vehicle is illegally parked in a handicap space or blocking ingress or egress to the licensed establishment, a fire hydrant, or a sanitation receptacle. Said towing invoice or order must include: vehicle make, model, color, and license plate number; address of vehicle location; date and time of towing invoice or order; date and time of removal; name of person issuing towing ticket or order and their employer; name of the towing service to which such towing invoice or order is issued; name of towing operator and/or driver; and address of storage site. In no instance shall an employee of any tow company be listed as an authorized representative of an owner authorized to request a nonconsensual tow.

6. Look at better signs

Montgomery County MD- 1 sign is clearly readable from each parking area and each vehicle entrance; in a parking lot with more than 45 parking spaces, at least 1 sign must be posted in a conspicuous place for each 45 parking spaces; sign must summarize all parking restrictions on the property

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Orange County- A Quick Response (QR) code, provided by the county, must be included on the bottom of the sign or on a second sign placed on the same signpost, facing the same direction as the tow-away sign, alongside the words, "For more information, go to www.ocfl.net/parking or scan this code" in letters not less than one-half (½) inch high. The QR code shall be not less than one (1) inch by one (1) inch in size.

7. Lots that have multiple businesses to list all businesses on signs

Already exists at some location within the city

8. In and out signs

Signs are already required at all driveway access points by FSS 715.07

A sign facing outgoing traffic may confuse drivers which property is actually the tow-away zone

9. What can be done to address properties that have a high number of tows

No regulation;

Require owner/management to sign tow ticket for any tows in excess of determined amount

10. Fee schedule for 24 hours after towing

Daytona- storage \$20/day

Jacksonville- storage \$19.65 day, administrative fee not to exceed \$60(actual documented costs) after 72 hours

Orange County – storage \$25/day, administrative fee of \$45 plus any actual costs...only after 48 hours

St. Johns County – storage \$25/day, an administrative fee (based on actual costs) after 48 hours

Tallahassee- storage \$25/day

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11. Remove options for roam towing

Montgomery County MD- roam towing only between 2:00am-9:00am

Orange County- *Roam towing* . Where private real property is designated for student housing parking, property owners may elect to authorize a towing or immobilization service to tow away or immobilize vehicles without the express written authorization required in subsection (f) between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m., provided the property owner first complies with the following requirements:

- (1) The following language shall be added to each of the existing tow away signs or included as an additional sign, in letters not less than one and one-half (1½)-inches high: "Roam Towing In Effect, 12:00 midnight - 7:00 a.m. Vehicles and vessels may be towed without prior authorization from property management."
- (5) At the entrance or entrances to the residential property, a sign shall be posted stating where the parking rules can be read by residents and guests. Property owners and towing or immobilization services are prohibited from engaging in towing or immobilization from or on any private property where the notice or sign structure is not in compliance with this section.
- (6) *Exceptions to roam towing* . Roam towing is not allowed for the sole reason that a vehicle's registration has expired unless the registration has been expired for a period greater than one (1) month, or unless the property owner or the towing or immobilization service first notifies the vehicle owner by affixing upon the window adjacent to the driver's seat of the vehicle, a sticker with a completely removable adhesive containing a warning that the vehicle will be towed unless the registration is renewed within three (3) business days. A photograph shall be taken documenting that such notice has been provided.

Tallahassee- 4) Owners of properties used for residential purposes may elect to authorize the towing service to tow away or remove vehicles without a verified request to remove a specific vehicle between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m. provided that the owner first comply with the following requirements:

a. Signage shall be added to each of the existing tow away signs with letters of the same size as the "tow away" language, which provides the following words: "Roam Towing, 12:00 midnight — 7:00 a.m."

At the entrance or entrances a sign shall be posted stating where the parking rules can be read by residents and guests. The parking rules shall be posted in a public area at the complex. The management, to ensure that they have not been altered, should regularly inspect them; any sign that is removed or defaced shall be replaced within 30 days.