

ITEMS BROUGHT UP ON THE 12/14/17 MEETING



- Should Roam Tow Companies be made to be open 24/7 except for on government holidays
- Address the language in the ordinance that deals with the type of payments that can be accepted
- Prohibiting spotters that are paid for by towing companies
- Banning roam towing from properties that sell alcohol from 9pm to noon the next day
- Recommendation on signs (bigger, colors, clearer)
- Lots with multiple businesses must list all businesses on all signs
- Having signs posted entering a lot as well as exiting the same lot
- What can be done with properties that have a high number of tows
- Looking at the fee schedule after the 24 hour period for roam towing
- Look at remove options for roam towing

SHOULD TOWING OFFICES BE OPEN 24/7



- Roam Tow Companies currently are required to maintain normal business hours from Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 11:00 pm, excluding State of Florida holidays. The company must be open from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm on State of Florida holidays and Sundays, if the immobilization service immobilizes any vehicles on those days. (see attachment)
- State Statute and City Ordinance currently requires the return of a towed vehicle within 1 hour of the request
- GPD is unaware of any complaints made in reference to the tow companies not complying to the 1 hour requirement.

ADDRESS THE LANGUAGE IN THE ORDINANCE THAT DEALS WITH THE TYPE OF PAYMENTS THAT CAN
BE ACCEPTED



- The current City Ordinance states:

“A trespass towing service that provides trespass towing and storage services pursuant to Article III, [section 14.5-25](#) et seq. of this Code shall accept payment for charges from the registered vehicle owner or authorized representative in any of the following forms: Cash, Major credit card, and/or Debit card.”

- We can not dictate what type of payment has to be accepted for vehicles towed outside the city limits of Gainesville.
- Recommendation : The ordinance has been amended to reflect the change “ shall accept payment for charges from the registered vehicle owner or authorized representative in all of the following forms: (1) Cash; (2) Major credit card; (3) Debit card



PROHIBITING SPOTTERS THAT ARE PAID FOR BY TOWING COMPANIES

- “Spotters”, whose primary task is to report the presence of unauthorized parked vehicles for the purpose of towing or removal and impounding
- The use of “spotters” is a option that is offered by the towing company to the property owner to enforce parking restrictions in the absence of the property owner;
- Currently there are some property owners who employ their own staff to monitor their parking lots;
- Recommendation is to leave the practice of using “spotters” as is

BANNING ROAM TOWING FROM PROPERTIES THAT SELL ALCOHOL FROM 9PM TO NOON THE NEXT DAY



- A large majority of the alcohol establishments within Gainesville do not have their own designated parking lots for their customers;
- Parking for the areas that high concentrations of alcohol establishments are widespread over a large geographical area;
- If roam towing is banned for a geographical area, the rights of property owners that are not connected with the alcohol establishment will be infringed upon since they will not have the right to have vehicles removed that are parked illegally on their private property.
- **Recommendation:** If adopted, only those parking lots for alcohol establishments that have a clearly defined parking lot for their patrons should be included.



RECOMMENDATION ON SIGNS (BIGGER, COLORS, CLEARER)

- The Towing Ordinance does not specifically address signs, this is addressed in the sign ordinance;
- In the past it was believed that current signs had to be black and white in color because of the restrictions spelled out for signs appearing in the City's Historic District. Clarification was given by Mrs. Cleary Larkin with the office of Historic Preservation, who advised that the black and white signs were not a requirement for roam towing signs appearing within the district.
- **Recommendation:** To have roam towing signs appear in contrasting colors of red and white to maximize visibility.



LOTS WITH MULTIPLE BUSINESSES MUST LIST ALL BUSINESSES ON ALL SIGNS

- This is already taking place at some parking lots: Target Copy, 1400 West University Ave. and University Plaza, 1640 West University Avenue
- This requirement will require larger signs for properties with multiple businesses
- A referral should be made to the Office of Code Enforcement to make sure this is not in conflict with the current sign ordinance.

HAVING SIGNS POSTED ENTERING A LOT AS WELL AS EXITING THE SAME LOT



- 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 for parking lots that are connected.

WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH PROPERTIES THAT HAVE A HIGH NUMBER OF TOWS



- **Recommendation:** No action
- There are numerous events that are held in Gainesville such as football games and the homecoming parade that will consistently yield higher amount of tows recorded for locations.
- Due to their proximity to the University, some private business also experience higher amounts of towing incidents with students attempting to park as close to the University as possible.
- The private business owners need to have the ability to continue to enforce the parking restrictions they have in place for their property.

LOOKING AT THE FEE SCHEDULE AFTER THE 24 HOUR PERIOD FOR ROAM TOWING



- The City currently limits the amount to \$100 for a tow during the first 24 hour period.
- After the 24 hour period passes, Tow Company's are allowed to assess business related fees such as storage, lean, other administrative fees at their own rates.
- **Recommendation:** To take no action or regulate the fees to mirror the rates that are outlined in the wrecker service fees for rotational wrecker services. Title 10 Article 4 Sec 10-1-62

LOOK AT REMOVE OPTIONS FOR ROAM TOWING



- The City requires businesses wishing to participate in roam towing to enter into a Trespass and Immobilization agreement with the City. For each property that the business owns, they have to pay the City an administration fee of \$62.75 for this year. This fee increases annually on October 1st.
- Without the Trespass and Immobilization agreement requirement, property owners could still participate in trespass towing as described in State Statute. This would require the owner of the property to be present in order to call a request for tow.