



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Common Council

UPDATED AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEE: Public Safety and Licensing **LEGISLATION ITEM #:** Ord 0010-22

Update as of 2/8/23: The draft of the ordinance and towing rates under section 22-838 have been updated and attached herein, pursuant to the committee's instructions/discussion during its 1/30/23 meeting.

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

Prepared By: Nhu H. Arn

SUBJECT: Amendment of Section 22-838 of the Municipal Code – Towing Rates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The current towing rates under Section 22-838 of the Municipal Code were last updated in 2017. Since then, the cost of towing services has risen due to inflation. The Racine Police Department is recommending that the rates be modified to more accurately reflect the current costs of towing services, but is not recommending any specific amount. The final draft of the ordinance dated February 8, 2023, reflects changes to the towing rates schedule as discussed/instructed by the committee at its January 30, 2023 meeting.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The City of Racine requires a license for all towing companies that want to be placed on a rotation list to perform on-call services when requested by the Racine Police Department ("RPD"). Most often, towing services are required in response to vehicle accidents, abandoned vehicles, illegally parked vehicles, and immobile vehicles. Licensees perform towing services for both privately owned and city owned vehicles at the request of RPD. Oftentimes, these towing services are performed without the consent or knowledge of the owners, who subsequently have to pay for these services in order to get their vehicles released. In order to protect members of the public, the City sets maximum rates and fees that may be charged by each licensee, for the performance of such services.

31 The committee met on January 30, 2023 to discuss specific rate increases for each time, as well as
32 changes to simplify the entire towing rate schedule. The attached final draft of the ordinance (regular and
33 redline version) reflects this discussion.

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35 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:** N/A

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37 **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:**

- 38 1) Defer the item for further research and consideration.
39 2) Amend the proposed rate increases overall by using a specific percentage for all services listed,
40 rather than deciding a different amount increase for each service.
41 3) Deny any proposed rate increases.

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43 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** This is a policy decision best left up to the Committee and Council.

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45 **ATTACHMENT(S):** Ordinance 0010-22 Towing Rates