

TOWING WITHOUT THE VEHICLE OWNER'S CONSENT BY-LAW

Council Meeting
December 16, 2024

Council's Direction

1. That Option #3 included in the report from Municipal Enforcement Services dated July 2, 2024 regarding towing from private parking lots be adopted and report back to Council by the end of 2024.
2. That after further discussions with the Halton Regional Police Service, Municipal Enforcement Services prepare a by-law to override the private parking lot owner's ability to tow unauthorized vehicles parked on their lot.
3. That Municipal Enforcement Services report back to Council by year end with the results of the discussions with the Halton Regional Police Service, the by-law pursuant to Recommendation 2, and a report to address how towing will occur in the future, as well as Municipal Enforcement Services' resourcing requirements to administer and enforce the by-law.

Towing & Impounding Without the Vehicle Owner's Consent

Towing & impounding without the vehicle owner's consent only in accordance with:

- Proposed By-law 2024-187; or
- The Trespass to Property Act



Proposed By-law 2024-187

Towing/impounding without the vehicle owner's consent may only be authorized by MLEOs, MCOs, the Director of MES or designate or police officers.

Requirements before towing/impounding is authorized:

➤ Vehicle is contravening a town by-law	➤ MLEO get prior approval from Director or designate
➤ Boundaries of the land clearly defined	➤ 1 hour waiting period has expired, with exceptions
➤ Signs are posted in accordance with the By-law	➤ HRPS to be notified prior to towing or impounding
➤ Issue a penalty notice	➤ Initiate tow

Exceptions to the 1 Hour Waiting Period

The 1 hour waiting period does not apply to vehicles parked, stopped, standing or left:

- in signed fire routes
- in construction zones
- that interfere with snow clearing on municipal land
- that block laneways, loading docks, ingress or egress points of driveways
- on municipal rights-of-way
- on municipal land for community or special events
- in emergency situations

Signage

- Installed at all entrances and within the land
- Visible and legible
- Contrasting colours for letters and background
- Existing signage to comply by December 31, 2027



Maximum Rates

Charges cannot exceed maximum rate schedule provided to MTO

Maximum lifting charge of \$150

No charge for waiting period

Must accept usual methods of payment

Vehicle owner pays for cost of towing/impounding or for lifting charges

Administrative Penalties

\$300 for the first offence

\$400 for the second offence

\$500 for the third or subsequent offences



Operational & Resource Considerations

- Director or designate to authorize tow
- MCOs arrange tow if MLEO not appointed for parking lot
- Might be increase in private parking lot owners requesting appointment of MLEOs
- Signage impacts on various departments
- Assess operational impacts in the first half of 2025 and as part of the Municipal Enforcement Services review planned for 2025

Questions?