

Chapter 12.54 - TOWING REGULATIONS AND FEES

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 12 (VEHICLES & TRAFFIC), CHAPTER 12.54 (TOWING REGULATIONS AND FEES) TO AMEND SECTION 12.54.040 (PENALTY) TO ADD ADDITIONAL PENALTY SECTIONS AND ADD SECTION 12.54.070 (VIOLATIONS) TO PROHIBIT SOLICITING OF TOWING BUSINESSES AT THE SCENE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS; THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 12.54.040 (PENALTY) OF THE CITY CODE.

12.54.040 - Penalty. Any person violating any provision of Sections 12.54.020, 12.54.030, or 12.54.070 of this chapter commits an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars pursuant to Section 12.84.010. Section 2. That Section 12.54.070 (Violations) be added as follows: 12.54.070 – Violations. In the interest of public safety, soliciting towing services business on public streets, public ways, other public property, or city sidewalks is prohibited; presence at the scene of a traffic accident or incident management scene is prima facie evidence of a violation.

A. A person commits an offense if:

1. The person arrives at the scene of a traffic accident or an incident management scene to perform a nonconsent or incident management tow of a motor vehicle, or motorcycle without first being contacted by the police department, vehicle owner, vehicle driver, or an insurance company for the vehicle.
2. The person directly or indirectly solicits, on public streets, public way, other public property, or city sidewalk, located in the city, towing services, including towing, removing, repairing, wrecking, storing, trading, selling, or purchasing related to a vehicle that has been damaged in an accident;
3. The person enters the scene of a traffic accident, an incident management scene, or other area under the control of a peace officer or public safety employee without the permission of the peace officer or public safety employee; or
4. The person uses a third party to approach a traffic accident or incident management scene to solicit for a towing business as prohibited under this chapter.

B. The presence of any auto tow company vehicle or employee, car dolly, towing equipment, trailer, business card, flyer, electronic picture or message, or any form of soliciting and making reference to a business, towing service, or body shop being presented to individuals at the scene of a traffic accident, or any similar service. Any employee or third party acting for the towing service that was not dispatched by the police department or requested by the vehicle owner, vehicle driver, or insurance company at the scene of a traffic accident or incident management scene in the city after the traffic accident or prior to the removal of all disabled vehicles shall be prima facie evidence of solicitation in violation of this section.

This ordinance shall take effect on June 1st, 2026.