

Hello:

I write to you today to voice my strong support for the above noted legislative proposal as introduced before the Baltimore City Council.

Patrol or predatory towing from private property has become a serious problem in many municipalities across the country. The people of Baltimore are being adversely effected by this prejudicial practice, even with the existence of laws and regulations to the contrary.

CB21-0125 has been drafted to correct some of the shortcomings in the existing regulations. This measure will clearly define when an actual "towing" is to be considered "in progress"; set fixed charges tow operators may charge for the "let down" of a vehicle or the cancelation of a towing in progress; and set limitations on who and when private properties can be surveilled for the purpose of patrol towing actions.

The legislation also outlines new and specific records that must be completed by the towing operator when initiating a tow and what information is required be provided on all receipts that must be presented to vehicle owners when a vehicle is "let down" prior to towing, or claimed from a storage facility. It also allows for any towing or storage charges incurred by a vehicle owner to be paid with a credit card, making it significantly easier for people to claim their vehicle after a towing occurrence.

This legislation clarifies the responsibilities and obligations of tow operators, and more importantly, the rights of vehicle owners to proper disclosure of fees/charges and the issuance of completed receipts from the towing operator. I believe it deserves positive consideration before the council and signature by the Mayor.

If you have questions or require clarification of my support or my remarks here in please reach out to me.

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