



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 15, 2021  
**TO:** Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Colin Tarbert, President and CEO  
**POSITION:** No Objection  
**SUBJECT:** City Council Bill No. 21-0125  
Trespass Towing – Revisions

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Tarbert".

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 21-0125 introduced by the Councilmembers Dorsey, Burnett, Ramos, Cohen, Bullock, Conway, and Torrence.

### **PURPOSE**

For the purpose of making certain substantive and technical revisions to Article 15 {"Licensing and Regulation"}, Subtitle 22 {"Towing Services – Trespass Towing"}; establishing certain maximum charges for towing services; specifying certain required information to be included on towing service receipts and on daily logs maintained by each towing service; specifying certain limitations on incomplete tows; requiring that a towing service must accept credit cards; prohibiting certain instances of patrol towing; making certain stylistic changes; conforming, clarifying, and correcting related provisions; and generally related to the regulation of trespass towing services in Baltimore City.

### **BRIEF HISTORY**

The Baltimore City Code, Article 15, Subtitle 22 regulates trespass towing in Baltimore City. City Council Bill No. 21-0125 limits the maximum charges that the Board of Licenses for Towing Services may set for towing service fees and release fees; and requires that the City Board of Estimates must approve any maximum charges set by the Board of Licenses for Towing Services. The new Section 22-13 clarifies the stages at which a tow operator must release a vehicle back to its owner/operator, and when the tow operator can charge that person a release fee. The new Section 22-14 mandates that towing services must accept at least 2 major credit cards as a form of payment. Section 22-15 (j) prohibits towing services and their personnel from patrolling properties for unauthorized vehicles except between 2:00 am and 7:00 am, or if they have exhausted all efforts to alert the owner or operator of the motor vehicle prior to attaching it.

BDC understands that this Bill aims to protect the owners and operators of vehicles from opaque towing and release fees and limits overly aggressive tow patrols. It also clarifies when a motor vehicle owner can reclaim it without paying a release fee.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**AGENCY POSITION**

The Baltimore Development Corporation **has no objection** to City Council Bill No. 21-0125.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Clark at [kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com](mailto:kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com).

cc: Nina Themelis

[JL]