

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. **50 21-00-1000**

DATE 28 September 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP. Director Mobility Services and Corporate Fleet Services
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJECT **TOWING OF VEHICLES INVOLVED IN COLLISIONS**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Transportation Committee recommend Council approve that Traffic and Parking By-law No. 1 of 1996 be amended, as described in this report, to prohibit a tow truck from parking within 200 m of an accident site except as directed by a constable.

BACKGROUND

The Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service recently conveyed to staff a problem that police officers are experiencing at accident sites.

The Police have a contract with a local company to haul away vehicles involved in collisions. Other towing companies are intercepting the calls for service and immediately dispatch their tow trucks to the accident site. The result of these intercepted calls is that operators of the legally contracted tow truck and the pirate tow trucks often end up arguing at the accident site over who will tow away the damaged vehicles. In some instances, the pirate towing company(s) arrives first and arranges with the motorists involved in the collision to haul away the vehicles before the responding police officer has an opportunity to investigate the accident and prepare the report.

Some time ago the City of Cumberland amended its Traffic and Parking By-law to reflect S.171 of the *Highway Traffic Act*, which prohibits a tow truck to be parked within 200 m of an accident site except as directed by a police officer. It is recommended that the Region do likewise. The remaining area municipalities have been requested to amend their Traffic and Parking By-laws.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT

To implement these new regulations it is recommended that Traffic and Parking By-law No. 1 of 1996 be amended by adding the following headings and section immediately following Section 54.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AT ACCIDENTS

Tow Truck Parking

- 54A. (1) No person shall park a tow truck or permit a tow truck to remain parked on a highway within two hundred (200 m) metres of,
- (a) the scene of an accident or apparent accident; or
 - (b) a vehicle involved in an accident,
- except as directed by a constable.

Offer Of Service

- (2) No person shall make or convey an offer of services of a tow truck while that person is within two hundred (200 m) metres, of
- (a) the scene of an accident or apparent accident; or
 - (b) a vehicle involved in an accident,
- except as directed by a constable.

CONSULTATION

No public consultation was done as this is a regulation urgently required by the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Services to properly manage accident sites.

Further, the police contract to tow vehicles was tendered and the towing companies had an equal opportunity to submit a bid. This regulation ensures that pirate towing companies don't usurp the legitimate towing company.

CONFORMITY TO OFFICIAL PLAN/TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

There is no impact on either plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

*Approved by
Doug Brousseau*

SEM/fp