

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

ORDER REQUESTING CERTAIN INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 17F RELATIVE TO TOWING CONTRACTS FOR DISTRICT 1

WHEREAS, Residents in District 1, particularly in East Boston and Downtown, reach out often requesting more transparency regarding towing practices in the City of Boston. Whenever towing occurs, residents are required to pay not only violation fines but also substantial towing and storage fees, often to private companies operating under city-awarded contracts.

WHEREAS, In cases where improper towing occurs, due to insufficient notice, abrupt event signage, or administrative error, the City lacks a clear and accessible process for reimbursement or appeal to the private towing company. Additionally, the criteria and oversight mechanisms for determining how towing contracts are awarded, how rates are set, and how public-authority directed tows are initiated remain opaque.

WHEREAS, Boston residents deserve a fair, transparent, and consistent towing system, which accountability built into every level of contract administration and enforcement;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other application provision of law, the City of Boston, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

1. A list and copy of all executed contracts and agreements (active and expired) pertaining to towing services, issued by any City department, agency, or public authority including but not limited to: the Boston Police Department, Boston Transportation Department, Boston Public Works Department, Boston Planning and Development Agency, and the Boston Housing Authority from 2015 through 2025 within the zones or applicable geographic areas assigned to the neighborhoods of East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and the Downtown Wharf District;
2. For each contract provided, include all associated:

- a. Amendments, renewals, or addendums with a detailed scope of services including, but not limited to, service areas, response time requirements, storage and impoundment;
 - b. Fee structures and schedules including, but not limited to, base towing fees, mileage charges, storage fees, after-hours or holiday surcharges, and administrative fees;
 - c. Legal and compliance requirements including, but not limited, to licensing and insurance, indemnification;
 - d. Enforcement and oversight including, but not limited to, reporting requirements, city-issued performance reviews or applicable audits, penalties for noncompliance, complaint resolutions procedures; and
 - e. Information on contract duration and renewal processes including, but not limited to, initial terms, renewal options, and termination clauses.
3. For each contract, provide all documents related to the procurement and vendor selection process, including, but not limited to:
- a. Applicable procurement laws or processes utilized under M.G.L c. 30B;
 - b. Bid solicitations, Request For Proposals (RFPs), or Invitations for Bids (IFBs);
 - c. Responses submitted by vendors; evaluation criteria, scoring sheets, and rankings;
 - d. Names of all vendors who submitted bids or proposals;
 - e. Selection memos or documentation explaining final award decisions; and
 - f. Dates of bid openings, contract awards, and notices to proceed.

Filed on: April 9, 2025