

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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September 23, 2025

BPC #25-236

The Honorable City Council
of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-0887 – FEASIBILITY OF WAIVING
VEHICLE TOWING AND IMPOUND STORAGE FEES FOR INDIVIDUALS DETAINED
BY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, the Board APPROVED the Department's report regarding the above-referenced matter.

Accordingly, this report is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS


REBECCA MUNOZ

Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 12, 2025

1.0

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Executive Director, Board of Police Commissioners

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-0887- FEASIBILITY OF
WAIVING VEHICLE TOWING AND IMPOUND STORAGE FEES FOR
INDIVIDUALS DETAINED BY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) APPROVE the attached Executive Director's report.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT the Executive Director's report to City Council.

DISCUSSION

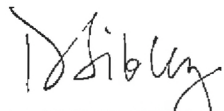
On September 3, 2025, the City Council adopted Motion 25-0887 directing the following:

- An analysis of whether towing and impound storage fees charged by Official Police Garages (OPGs) could be waived for individuals detained by federal immigration enforcement authorities.
- A review of the feasibility of allowing third parties—such as family, friends, or neighbors—to reclaim impounded vehicles at no cost on behalf of individuals in federal immigration custody.

Attached for the Board's consideration is Commission Investigation Division's review which provides background, analysis, and recommendations on this matter.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 236-1400.

Respectfully,



DJANGO SIBLEY, Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *September 16, 2025*
Secretary *Rebecca Munk*

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September 12, 2025

CF # 25-0887

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-0887 - FEASIBILITY OF WAIVING
TOWING AND STORAGE FEES INCURRED BY INDIVIDUALS SUBJECTED TO
DETENTION BY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

Dear Honorable Members:

Every day, hundreds of vehicles are towed throughout the City of Los Angeles by City officials in coordination with 17 Official Police Garages (OPGs). Understandably, the unanticipated removal of a vehicle can cause significant distress and inconvenience for vehicle owners. These tows may involve vehicles recently involved in traffic collisions, those obstructing driveways or red zones, or those that have been stolen or used in the commission of a crime. Regardless of the circumstances, the outcome for most Angelenos is the same: potential inconvenience and the requirement to pay towing and storage fees to the OPGs.

OPGs provide a critical public service. The ability to quickly, safely, and professionally remove vehicles obstructing roadways or involved in accidents is essential to maintaining the flow and safety of our city's transportation network. This service comes with ever-increasing operational costs. OPGs must employ a substantial workforce, maintain modern and safe equipment, carry high-cost insurance, and respond promptly to hundreds of service requests across the city daily. Given the costs associated with operating their businesses, it would not be reasonable to create an expectation that OPGs provide their services free of charge.

Recommendations:

Commission Investigation Division (CID), in collaboration with the LADOT, convened to develop recommendations for the City Council to proactively address challenges arising from vehicle impounds associated with immigration enforcement actions.

It is respectfully suggested that the Council adopt a case-by-case review process for incidents in which a local Council District becomes aware, or has reason to believe, that a vehicle was towed by a City agency in connection with an immigration enforcement action. In such cases, it is advised that a properly-interested party promptly respond to the OPG to pay the required fees and secure the immediate release of the vehicle. This step is critical, as it halts the accrual of additional storage fees. However, establishing one's status as a properly-interested party can present challenges. Tow companies are only authorized to release vehicles to the registered or legal owner, or to an individual in possession of the vehicle's ignition key. In the absence of these items, a notarized letter from the owner or a court order would be required. Obviously, these requirements may be difficult to meet if the vehicle owner is in federal custody. Therefore, it is further recommended that the City Attorney be consulted to explore alternative legal mechanisms that would allow for the release of vehicles in such circumstances.

Should the City Council wish to alleviate the expense of vehicle towing and storage fees associated with immigration enforcement, it is recommended that funding be made available to provide impacted individuals with re-imbursement. Once the vehicle is released and fees paid, the properly-interested party could be invited to report the incident to the appropriate Council District for reimbursement.

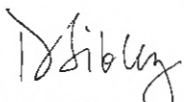
The Council District could then initiate a review and investigation into the circumstances of the tow. The OPG Section, CID, could be requested to assist in this process by conducting a factual review of the impound. However, the Council District would need to independently verify that the individual was, in fact, the subject of a civil immigration enforcement action, or otherwise meets standards established for reimbursement, using a method to be determined by the Council.

At the discretion and with the approval of the Council District, reimbursement of towing and storage fees, as well as payment of any associated parking citations, could be authorized using Neighborhood Service Enhancement / Discretionary Funds or another appropriate funding source.

This reimbursement option would need to take account of the possibility of situations where a vehicle remains in impound indefinitely under the assumption that the Council District will cover the associated costs. In such cases, the vehicle will continue to accrue storage-related fees. Moreover, a vehicle that remains unclaimed (within specified timeframes) may lawfully be sold by the OPG to recover fees. In such cases, the council must contemplate whether to reimburse impacted individuals for the full cost of such vehicles.

Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Lieutenant Scott Moffitt, Commanding Officer, CID, at (213) 996-1230.

Very truly yours,



DJANGO SIBLEY, Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners