

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 10/29/2002

Reference No.: CB-85-2002

Proposer: County Executive

Draft No.: 1

Sponsors: Shapiro, Wilson

Item Title: An Act amending various provisions of the County Code relating to the notification process on private property tows, impoundments and abandoned vehicle impoundments, transferring certain responsibilities for towing regulations to DER and updating the Code to make it consistent with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws

Drafter: Colette R. Gresham
Office of Law

Resource G. Lea Reed
Personnel: DER

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__

Committee Referral: 10/7/2002 C.O.W.

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action:1 10/16/2002 HELD

Committee Action:2 10/22/2002 FAV

Date Introduced: 10/7/2002

Public Hearing: 10/29/2002 10:00 A.M.

Council Action: __/__/__

Council Votes: PS:__, DB:__, TD:__, JE:__, TH:__, TK:__, RVR:__, AS:__, MW:__

Pass/Fail: __

Remarks: _____

10/29/2002: Public hearing held on CB-85-2002; no action was taken.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE REPORT

DATE: 10/22/02

Committee Vote: Favorable with recommended amendments, 8-0 (In favor: Council Members Hendershot, Wilson, Bailey, Shapiro, Russell, Scott, Dernoga and Knotts)

CB-85-2002 was again considered in Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) on October 22, 2002. The Legislative Officer stated that desired amendments to CB-85-2002 could be made after the public hearing. The Public Hearing is scheduled for October 29, 2002. Staff will provide proposed amendments addressing the definition of abandoned vehicles and how towing

companies are to be reimbursed for costs associated with towing and storage. DER staff indicated that little proceeds remain after expenses are paid.

The Office of Audits and Investigation has determined that there should not be any negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-85-2002.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE REPORT

DATE: 10/16/02

No action was taken

The enclosed legislation modifies the County's existing ordinance concerning automobile towing. These modifications are necessary to settle pending litigation, the transfer of towing licensing functions from the Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs (OBRA) to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and the transfer of certain towing responsibilities from the Prince George's County Police to DER.

DER staff indicated that due to cost constraints, they can no longer afford to send out notifications for vehicles towed from private property. In the past, as much as \$60,000 was spent on sending out notifications for private property towing. Private property owners that have contracts with towing services would be required to post the name and phone number of the towing service on signs posted on the property. This would serve to provide a contact for anyone whose car was towed.

CB-85-2002 was held in Committee on October 16, 2002, to allow appropriate staff to develop propose language to alleviate concerns regarding the requirements for owner notification for vehicles towed from private property

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation will amend various provisions of the County Code relating to the notification process on private property tows, impoundments, and abandoned vehicle impoundments, transfer certain responsibilities regarding towing regulations from the Prince George's County Police Department to the Department of Environmental Resources and update the County Code to make it consistent with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: