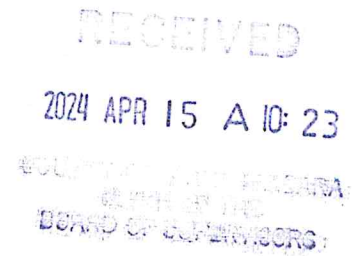


General Public Comment - Group 1



St. Vincents de Paul Society
325 Argonne Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

April 2, 2024



Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
104 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara. Ca 93101

Re: Towing charges for Vehicles on private property

Honorable Supervisors:

We are a Christian based charity which assists people at the low end of the economic scale and often homeless living in their cars. We frequently are contacted by such people after their cars (which are their homes) are towed to a storage yard and impounded. The charges mount rapidly and often result in the owner's loss of his car and home. He is then homeless.

Since our meeting a few weeks ago with Supervisor Williams, I have researched the legal basis for towing companies taking vehicles from private property and note the following:

California Vehicle Code Section 22658(1)(A) provides:

(A) A charge for towing or storage, or both, of a vehicle under this section is excessive if the charge exceeds the greater of the following:

(i) That which would have been charged for that towing or storage, or both, made at the request of a law enforcement agency under an agreement between a towing company and the law enforcement agency that exercises primary jurisdiction in the city in which is located the private property from which the vehicle was, or was attempted to be, removed, or if the private property is not located within a city, then the law enforcement agency that exercises primary jurisdiction in the county in which the private property is located.

Supervisor Williams provided us with the current Tow Service Agreement between the County and the towing companies and to which the above Section refers. Section 16A2 provides that the rate charged for such towing shall not exceed that charged for other routine towing. We have seen cases when twice the normal rate is charged to such towing. Regardless, the rate is not to exceed that specified in SBSO 234A. We do not have that schedule and request a copy of that.

We feel strongly that there should be a special rate for vehicles in which the owner resides as his/her home. Furthermore, the towing companies should not charge for Saturday and Sunday storage, for they are not open for owners to bail out their vehicles on those days and neither are the DMV and

police departments open on those days to provide the releases . To that end we strongly recommend that when the Towing Service Agreement is renewed this June, that it include the following subsection to Section 16, Rates:

K. The foregoing notwithstanding in all cases when the vehicle towed is the home of the owner, as verified by a public agency or private charity providing services to low income persons, the maximum fees charged cannot exceed one half of the normal scheduled rate. Furthermore, there can not be daily charges for Saturdays and Sundays since the owners cannot get their cars released on those days.

This would greatly reduce the homelessness now caused by the current system.

Please let us know if there will be a public hearing on the renewal of the Tow Service Agreement, for we would like to appear and explain this problem and get a response as to what the County will do about it.

Yours very truly,

St. Vincents de Paul Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Mateo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Frank Mateo, President

cc: Ms. Kimberlee Albers

RECEIVED

2024 APR 17 P 2:37

SANTA MARIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APR. 14. 2024

TOPIC: PROTEST SEWER RATES INCREASE

OWNERS NAME: THOMAS V & TERESA A PAWL

ADDRESS : 214. ST. ANDREWS WAY

SANTA MARIA CA 93455-1612

PARCEL N. : APN 103-481-014

28' OF 23101
FOR EQUAL VOTING
ORDER OF THE BOARD

WE PROTEST THE PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASES.

IF INFLATION GOES DOWN, DOES THE SEWER RATE DECREASE?

SINCERELY
Tom Pawl