



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Licenses and Consumer Services

Date: June 16, 2005

To: Public Safety & Regulatory Services
Referral to:

Subject: Signage requirements for all parking lots that engage in towing or immobilization of motor vehicles.

Recommendation: Council authorize changes to the ordinance amending Title 13, Chapter 319 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Licenses and Business Regulations: Open Air Motor Vehicle Parking

Previous Directives: Council adopted on April 29, 2005 an ordinance regarding new regulations for vehicle immobilization and towing signage requirements.

Prepared or Submitted by: Richard J. Tuffs, License Inspector, X3911

Approved by: _____

Ricardo Cervantes, Director Licenses and Consumer Services

Presenters in Committee: Ricardo Cervantes, Director Licenses and Consumer Services
and Richard J. Tuffs, License Inspector

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

___ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

___ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

___ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

___ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

___ Other financial impact (Explain):

___ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Code

Other – Notified all Immobilization, Class A Towing and Class A Parking Lot Licensees

Background/Supporting Information Attached: In order to fulfill the sign requirements of the ordinance passed on April 29, 2005 some open air parking lots may be required to post signs that are 3 feet X 5 feet. These signs would be very unsightly and because of the large size, may present safety issues.

The lot entrance sign gives the Class A tower or immobilization company the authority to tow or boot. That being the case, the information on that sign should reflect more information on the tower/booter than on the lot owner. The new proposal would still allow signs that are very visible to lot patrons but would change the information requirements.

Summary of changes:

1. Making the size of the letters on the entrance sign a minimum of 2" so all the information will fit on a 2 x 3 foot sign which will be the minimum size for that sign.

2. Eliminating the requirement for the "lot owner's name". The lot owners name should not be required because it may read as "Lot Owned by: Quality Investors Inc.". Any grievances/complaints would be filed against the tower or immobilization company and not the lot owner. In addition, the name of the business is the more important item and that would be covered in the section dealing with rules and procedures under which a vehicle may be parked on the lot.

3. Eliminating the requirement for the "license or permit number" of the lot owner on the entrance sign. Most of the lots are free lots and have no license or permit number. Class A lots already have their license number on the large sign inside the lot. The more appropriate license number displayed on the sign would be that of the Class A tower or immobilization company.

4. Establish a minimum size for the icon of the booted vehicle on the entrance sign. Recommend a minimum size of 14 1/2 X 4 1/2 inches for the vehicle booting icon.