



**LEGISLATIVE AND COURT
SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

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TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: T. BANTING, MANAGER OF ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
W. COOKE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES

WARD: ALL

NOTED: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: REMOVAL OF TOWING INDUSTRY LICENSING AND REGULATIONS IN THE CITY OF BARRIE. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2023

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with details related to the Ministry of Transportation assuming all regulatory and licensing responsibility for the Towing Industry effective January 1, 2024.

The Ministry has been working with municipal stakeholders, industry stakeholders, and various other groups linked to the Towing Industry over the past three (3) years to review successes and challenges with licensing the towing industry, including what, if any, concerns or obstacles various municipal partners found while licensing the industry.

As a result of these discussions, the Ministry recognized that provincial oversight and regulations were needed. This is due in large part to an industry that is so fluid in their operations with the operators crossing municipal boundaries as well as the links to other criminal activities that have become apparent over the years that are tied to a small portion of the industry. As these matters are beyond the scope of municipal licensing and enforcement capabilities, the Province decided to take over regulating and licensing of this industry as of January 1, 2024.

On July 4, 2023, the Ministry opened up its registration portal allowing Towing Companies, Storage Operators and the Tow Truck Drivers to begin the registration process ensuring they are able to operate seamlessly as of January 1, 2024. The Province has recognized that current operators continue to have costs associated with the municipal requirements until the end of the year therefore the Ministry has waived and/or reduced all registration fees during the transition period.

All municipal regulations remain in effect until December 31, 2023. As of January 1, 2024, all authority under the Municipal Act is removed and municipalities will no longer be permitted to license any aspect of the Towing Industry. All facets of the industry will be licensed and regulated by the Province under the new Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act (TSSEA).

Should the community have concerns after January 1, 2024, the Ministry is implementing a complaints portal where concerns can be submitted for review or enforcement as may be appropriate.

Staff will continue to process all applications for those operating towing businesses in the City of Barrie until December 31, 2023, at which time all of the City's current licences will be archived. All operators in the City of Barrie continue to be required to adhere to the existing regulations until the end of the year.



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These changes will have an impact on licensing revenues of approximately \$30,000 annually. However this industry is better suited to be licensed and regulated at the Provincial level.

As a result of this legislative change, By-law 2006-265 (Business Licensing - Transportation Industry) will be amended to remove all references to the licensing or regulating of Tow Truck Companies, Tow Truck Drivers and all Tow Trucks effective January 1, 2024. The amending By-law will be presented to City Council before the end of the year.