



Sacramento City Council

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MINUTES

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON LAW & LEGISLATION

TERRY KASTANIS
CHAIRMAN
DOUGLAS N. POPE
DAVID M. SHORE
WILLIAM A. SMALLMAN

LAW AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

October 30, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Councilman and Committee Chairman Terry Kastanis. Also present were Councilmembers Bill Smallman and Dave Shore. Councilmember Doug Pope was absent.

1. Revision of City Towing Policy. Monika Hudson, Sr. Administrative Services Officer, was present to answer questions regarding this matter.

Mr. Smallman had some questions about procedures for the towing of cars on privately owned property, i.e., are there requirements that the Police Department be notified before the towing occurs or after and if so, is it regulated in the proposed ordinance?

Mr. Shore and Mr. Smallman had concerns about the location of signs in tow away sites. There were questions whether the requirements are clear as to the visibility of the tow away signs.

Mr. Kastanis had concerns about how to differentiate which laws regulate public property versus private property. Mr. Kastanis suggested that the general public be educated regarding the regulations of the state law in reference to the location of posted signs.

Michael Medema, City Revenue Officer, suggested that flyers be sent to utility customers explaining the requirements of state law regarding private property tows and describing the new regulatory ordinance.

There was discussion whether the hours of the tow companies and storage yards are posted clearly for public view and if there are extra charges for after hour services.

Dan Robinson of the Board of California Towing Association and Sacramento Valley Tow Association spoke on behalf of the Association and other tow companies. Mr. Robinson spoke to the methods in which Sacramento County Sheriff's Department accepts early notification of private property tows via a card system, the pros and cons of personal checks and credit card usage and the use of a "Form 180."

Doc Wisham, Assistant City Manager, spoke to the difference between City and County fee schedule. It was discussed that the County and CHP strongly support City regulation of tow operators. The ordi-

nance will regulate all tow companies who have their principal place of business in the City and not just those who tow for the Police Department.

Joy Patterson of the Planning Department spoke to effects of the zoning ordinance which creates a new land use category and site requirements for new tow storage yards.

Wayne Kellog of Kellog's Tow Company addressed the Committee. He is also a member of California Tow Truck Association and a member of the City Task Force. He spoke on the issue of 180 Forms and asphaltic paving which he stated would be very expensive, suggesting that another type of carbonite rock be used. Dave Hunt of Central Valley Towing assisted Mr. Kellog with details.

Ron Andrews of Andrews Towing, also Secretary/Treasurer for California Tow Truck Association spoke on the paving issue. He commented on the possibility of hazards from leaking automobiles to people walking through the lots.

Mr. Smallman suggested the use of separate spaces for damaged cars and for those that aren't damaged.

Dan Robinson also spoke on the issue of paving. He spoke about problems for licensing and complaints regarding the costs of having the paving and other work done. He stated he would like to see the portion of the zoning ordinance taken away from the Planning Department.

Terry Kastanis made three requests for reports back to the Committee:

1. A study and review done on the card system which the County uses;
2. Review done on Form 180; and
3. Study and review done on the paving issue.

Dave Shore requested that a six-month report back to the Law and Legislation Committee be done from the date of implementation of the ordinance.

There was Committee and staff concurrence to address the Council with regards to the following issues:

1. A communication plan to constituents on the changes in the towing ordinance; and
2. An information program on when a call is made to the Police Department to tow a vehicle.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

/rmm