DATE: April 11, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: Tow Fee Decrease

RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended that the Mayor and Council Members take the following actions:

1) Receive and file this report pertaining to the following fees:
   a. Decrease the fee for City referred tows by $5.35 from the current rate of $179.35 to $174.00; and
   b. Decrease the daily storage fee by $7.16 from the current rate of $57.00 to $49.84;

2) Include new rates in the City’s Master Fee Schedule when applicable.

BACKGROUND:
Inglewood Municipal Code Section 8-90.5 gives the Chief of Police the authority, with the consent of City Council or by resolution, to establish the maximum rates for referral of towing services for the City. The established rates shall equal the average of the maximum rates permitted by the jurisdictions served by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

The most recent tow fee adjustment was an increase authorized by City Council on April 19, 2022. At that time, the Chief of Police made a recommendation to increase tow fees to $179.35 and storage fees to $57.00. The staff report regarding this increase was received and filed without changes.

DISCUSSION:
In accordance with the Inglewood Municipal Code, the Police Department conducted a survey of the tow fees charged by the LAPD, the LASD, and CHP. The Acting Chief of Police reviewed the results and determined the rates charged by the City were more than the average maximum rates currently charged by these agencies (Attachment No. 1). Therefore, the City’s rates need to be decreased to equal the maximum average rates as follows:

1) Tow fee decreased from $179.35 to $174.00
2) Daily storage fee decreased from $57.00 to $49.84
Unless the City Council takes action to adopt a resolution to establish rates different from those determined to be appropriate for the City by the Acting Chief of Police, the fees listed will become the official rates of the City effective thirty (30) days after this report has been included on the City Council Agenda.

The new rates shall be included in the City’s Master Fee Schedule when applicable.

FINANCIAL/FUNDING ISSUES AND SOURCES:
The City receives an administrative fee from tow companies on all gross receipts derived from City-referred business. As described in Inglewood Municipal Code Section 8-90.6, the fee is seven (7) percent of the tow company’s gross receipts of all City-referred business.

DESCRIPTION OF ANY ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment No. 1 – Memo Regarding Fee Decrease

PREPARED BY:
Anna Chanyat, Administrative Analyst

COUNCIL PRESENTER:
Cardell Hurt, Acting Chief of Police
APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: 
Cardell Hurt, Acting Chief of Police

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: 
Artie Fields, City Manager
ATTACHMENT NO. 1
March 8, 2023

TO: CITY MANAGER
FROM: ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: TOW AND STORAGE FEE DECREASE

The Inglewood Municipal Code Section 8-90.5 authorizes the Chief of Police (with consent from the City Council or by resolution) to establish the City's maximum rates for tow service referrals. The established rates will equal the average of the maximum rates permitted by the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

The most recent fee increase occurred in March 2022. The fee went from $132.33 to $179.35 for towing and $45.63 to $57.00 for storage.

The Department recently surveyed the tow and storage fees charged by the law enforcement agencies and found that towing fee was higher than the average. The following is a summary of the survey results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Tow Fee</th>
<th>Storage Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAPD</td>
<td>$153.00</td>
<td>$47.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASD</td>
<td>$163.00</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHP</td>
<td>$206.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Rates
   Tow Fee - $174.00
   Storage Fee - $49.84

As a result of this survey, it is recommended that the City's tow fee be decreased to the average.

CARDELL HURT
Acting Chief of Police