

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 4, 2011

TITLE: An Ordinance amending Article IX of Chapter 8 of the Carrboro Town Code dealing with the towing of motor vehicles from private property

DEPARTMENT: Town Attorney	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Proposed Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Brough, 929-3905

PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is requested to adopt the proposed ordinance amending Article IX of the Carrboro Town Code dealing with the towing of motor vehicles from private property.

INFORMATION

At the September 6, 2011 Board of Aldermen meeting, the Board directed staff to investigate amending the Town's ordinance dealing with the towing of motor vehicles from private property. Specifically, the Board wanted to ensure that towing companies who violate the Town's ordinance will be subjected to civil penalties as well as the suspension of their privilege license. The Board also directed staff to address the posting of signs informing those whose vehicles have been towed that the Town requires towing companies to accept payment by cash or major credit/debit cards.

The Town's current ordinance already makes it a misdemeanor and authorizes a civil penalty if a towing operator who tows from private property refuses to accept credit or debit cards.

This proposed ordinance addresses the other changes requested by the Board of Aldermen. It amends Subsection 8-17(c) of the Town Code to allow the Town Manager to revoke the privilege license of a towing company if the licensee has violated the provisions of Article IX of the ordinance and stipulates that a new or renewal license may not be issued for three months after the effective date of the revocation.

Section 8-78.4 of the proposed ordinance requires that signs that warn that vehicles may be towed must also state that the Town requires that towers accept payment by cash or major credit/debit cards. This requirement applies if more than ten vehicles are towed from a property in a twelve month period.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal staff time will be associated with implementing and enforcing the proposed ordinance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the proposed ordinance.