
Vehicle Tow, Storage and Impound Hearings

504.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a procedure for the requirement to provide vehicle storage or impound hearings.

504.2 VEHICLE TOWS, STORAGE OR IMPOUNDS

When a vehicle is towed or stored by any member of the Alsip Police Department, a hearing may be conducted upon the request of the registered or legal owner of the vehicle or their agent. Hearings for vehicles that are impounded pursuant to a local impound ordinance shall follow hearing procedures provided within the ordinance. Vehicles that are impounded for the purpose of statutory seizure shall have hearings in compliance with the statute.

504.2.1 HEARING PROCEDURES

The vehicle tow or storage hearing is an informal process to evaluate the validity of the tow or storage of a vehicle. Any relevant evidence may be submitted and reviewed by the hearing officer to determine if the vehicle in question was properly towed and/or stored in accordance with the law and Alsip Police Department policies and procedures. The employee who caused the storage or removal of the vehicle does not need to be present for this hearing.

All requests for a hearing on a towed and/or stored vehicle shall be submitted in person, writing, or by telephone within ten days of the date appearing on the notice. The N/A will generally serve as the hearing officer; another agency member may be assigned by the Chief of Police or a Lieutenant. The person requesting the hearing may record the hearing at his/her own expense.

The vehicle storage/towing hearing officer shall consider all information provided and determine the validity of the towing and/or storage of the vehicle in question and then render a decision. The hearing officer shall also consider any mitigating circumstances attendant to the storage that reasonably would warrant the release of the vehicle or a modification or reduction of period the vehicle is impounded.

If a decision is made that the vehicle was properly towed and/or stored within the law and department policy, and that mitigating circumstances are not a factor, the hearing officer shall so advise the inquiring party.

A decision that the vehicle was not towed and/or stored in a lawful manner or within department policy will require that the vehicle in storage be released immediately and any or all towing and storage fees will be waived.

If mitigating circumstances are found to be relevant, the hearing officer shall make reasonable adjustments to the impound period, storage, or assessment of fees as warranted.

If a decision is made that the vehicle was not towed and/or stored in a lawful manner or within department policy, and the vehicle has been released with fees having been paid, the receipt for such fees will be forwarded with a letter to the appropriate Lieutenant. The hearing officer will

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recommend to the appropriate Lieutenant that the fees paid by the registered or legal owner of the vehicle in question or their agent be reimbursed by the Department.