INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

July 19, 2017
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TO: All Commanding Officers

FROM: Executive Director, Board of Police Commissioners

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF HEAVY DUTY TOWING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDIUM DUTY OFFICIAL POLICE GARAGES

Effective July 25, 2017, the Department will resume heavy duty towing throughout the City and establish Medium Duty Official Police Garages (OPGs). The Medium Duty Official Police Garages will be responsible for the towing and storage of vehicles that have a gross vehicle weight rating between 10,001 pounds and 26,000 pounds. It is my understanding that the primary responsibility for impounding motor homes will be delegated to the HOPE details and senior lead officers at each area. However, the following guidelines shall apply to all officers requesting heavy or medium duty towing. The gross vehicle weight rating may be found on the identification label on the vehicle's driver's side door frame or by utilizing the Department's VIN assist program which is located on the LAPD Applications site. All requests for heavy duty and medium duty towing services shall be requested through Communications Division. Routine requests for heavy duty and medium duty towing services will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 0700 and 1900 hours. In addition, emergency heavy duty and medium duty towing services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but are limited to the following circumstances:

1. Vehicles blocking the roadway
2. Vehicles blocking the immediate ingress or egress of any facility
3. Vehicles that constitute an imminent threat to public safety or property
4. Vehicles used in a crime and are being seized as evidence
5. Vehicles that have been stolen and/or recovered

(All other towing is considered routine and should be requested between 0700 and 1900 hours.)

In an effort to ensure the availability of these towing services, Commanding Officers should coordinate with the affected official OPGs when conducting task force operations or when it is anticipated that a situation will include impounding more than two vehicles at a time.

When an Officer responds to a situation which requires a heavy or medium duty tow which contains health hazards such as leaking sewage or significant vermin, lice, fleas, roaches, or uncontained hazardous waste, **officers shall immediately contact Communications Division. The Communications operator will contact Sanitation at (800) 974-9794, and a Sanitation supervisor will respond prior to requesting an OPG to the location.**

In these circumstances, the Department of Sanitation is responsible for mitigating these hazards prior to the request for service from an OPG.

List of Medium and Heavy Duty Official Police Garages

AREA	Medium Duty OPG	Heavy Duty OPG
Central	Viertel's Rampart	LA Tow
Rampart	Viertel's Rampart	LA Tow
Southwest	Swanney & McDonald	LA Tow
Hollenbeck	Absolute Towing	LA Tow
Harbor	Kelmark Tow	LA Tow
Hollywood	LA Tow	LA Tow
Wilshire	LA Tow	LA Tow
West Los Angeles	LA Tow	LA Tow
Van Nuys	Keystone Tow	LA Tow
West Valley	Ross Baker Tow	LA Tow
Northeast	LA Tow	LA Tow
77th	LA Tow	LA Tow
Newton	US Tow	LA Tow
Pacific	Bruffy's Tow	LA Tow
North Hollywood	Keystone Tow	LA Tow
Foothill	Keystone Tow	LA Tow
Devonshire	Ross Baker	LA Tow
Southeast	Kelmark	LA Tow
Mission	Keystone Tow	LA Tow
Olympic	LA Tow	LA Tow
Topanga	Ross Baker	LA Tow

Once the Department of Sanitation has mitigated the hazardous waste or health hazard situation and the vehicle is deemed ready to tow, Officers shall contact Communications Division and provide a description of the vehicle, license plate number and the gross vehicle weight rating and request that the Communications Division operator notify the appropriate official OPG to be dispatched to the requested location. Only the above listed tow companies shall be contacted for medium and heavy duty tow requests.

All other aspects of the Official Police Garage program remain unchanged. Should you have any additional questions or need further please contact myself or the Commanding Officer, Commission Investigation Division, Lieutenant Dino Caldera, at (213) 996-1230.

RICHARD M. TEFANK, Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

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