

CITY OF RICHMOND

**VEHICLE FOR HIRE REGULATION BYLAW NO. 6900,
AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 7219**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. Clause (a) of subsection 6.1.1 of Bylaw No. 6900 is amended by deleting the words "to the door".
2. Section 6.3 (Towing of Vehicles from Private Parking Lots) of Bylaw No. 6900 is deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the following:

6.3 Towing of Vehicles from Private Parking Lots

6.3.1 A vehicle must not be towed from any private **parking lot** at any time without the consent of the vehicle owner unless:

- (a) at the time such vehicle is towed:
 - (i) towing company information signs; and
 - (ii) tow-away warning signs

complying with the provisions of subsections 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 respectively, are clearly displayed on the said **parking lot**; and

- (b) a completed Part A of a Tow-away Notice, as shown in Schedule 2, which is attached and forms a part of this bylaw, on which the name of the person authorizing the vehicle tow must be clearly printed, has been placed on the vehicle by the private **parking lot** owner, business tenant, employee or agent, none of whom may be in the employ of a towing company.

6.3.2 A vehicle must not be towed from any **no parking area** at any time, without the consent of the vehicle owner, unless at the time such vehicle is towed:

- (a) the **no parking area** is clearly marked with yellow paint on the curb and/or roadway or by other clearly visible means;
- (b) a tow-away warning sign is clearly displayed adjacent to the **no parking area** which:
 - (i) has minimum dimensions of 30.5 centimetres (12 inches) by 45.7 centimetres (18 inches), with letters and numbers of not less than 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) in height;
 - (ii) is clearly visible from the **no parking area** being towed from;

- (iii) indicates that vehicles **parked in the no parking area** will be towed; and
 - (iv) contains the name and telephone number of the towing company which will remove unauthorized vehicles from the property, and the location to which towed vehicles will be taken; and
- (c) a completed Part A of a Tow-away Notice, as shown in Schedule 2, on which the name of the person authorizing the vehicle tow must be clearly printed, has been placed on the vehicle by the property owner, business tenant, employee or agent, none of whom may be in the employ of a towing company.

6.3.3 The provisions of:

- (a) subsections 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 do not apply for the towing of any vehicle which is improperly **parked** for a period of 24 hours, or longer; and
- (b) clause (b) of subsection 6.3.1 and clause (c) of subsection 6.3.2 do not apply to the towing of a vehicle between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. from property which is primarily used for multi-family residential purposes.

6.3.4 The towing company information signs stipulated in clause (a)(i) of subsection 6.3.1 must:

- (a) be erected and maintained by the owner or occupier of the property on which the private **parking lot** is located; and
- (b) meet the following requirements:
 - (i) have minimum dimensions of 30.5 centimetres (12 inches) by 45.7 centimetres (18 inches), with letters and numbers of not less than 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) in height;
 - (ii) be clearly visible at all times;
 - (iii) be conspicuously posted at all entrances and exits to the property;
 - (iv) be located no further than 30 metres (98.4 feet) from any area of the private **parking lot** being controlled; and
 - (v) clearly display the name and telephone number of the towing company which will be removing unauthorized vehicles from the property, and the location to which towed vehicles will be taken.

6.3.5 The tow-away warning signs stipulated in clause (a)(ii) of subsection 6.3.1 must:

- (a) be erected and maintained by the owner or occupier of the property on which the private **parking lot** is located; and

(b) meet the following requirements:

- (i) have minimum dimensions of 61 centimetres (24 inches) by 76.2 centimetres (30 inches), with letters and numbers of not less than 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) in height;
- (ii) be clearly visible at all times;
- (iii) be conspicuously posted at all entrances and exits to the property;
- (iv) be located no further than 30 metres (98.4 feet) from any area of the private **parking lot** being controlled;
- (v) use wording which must be approved by the **Licence Inspector**, to indicate the circumstances under which vehicles will be towed; and
- (vi) clearly state whether or not vehicles are subject to being towed after business hours.

6.3.6 The requirements of clause (iv) of subsection 6.3.5(b) may be reduced where deemed appropriate by the **Licence Inspector**.

6.3.7 Before any vehicles may be towed from a private **parking lot**, the property owner must submit a detailed site plan showing the proposed placement and the means of visibility in non-daylight hours, of:

- (a) the towing company information signs; and
- (b) the tow-away warning signs required under subsections 6.3.4 and 6.3.5,

to the **Licence Inspector** for approval, accompanied by a non-refundable towing permit fee of \$50.

6.3.8 Before a towing permit will be issued, the **Licence Inspector** must conduct a site inspection of the private **parking lot** and where more than two inspections are necessary, the non-refundable fee for each inspection after the second inspection is \$25.

6.3.9 An incomplete towing permit application automatically expires six months after the date the application was first submitted.

6.3.10 Every tow-truck driver must:

- (a) where a vehicle is to be removed from a private **parking lot** or **no parking area** pursuant to a Tow-away Notice:
 - (i) complete Part B of the Tow-away Notice; and must, at the time of removal of the vehicle, sign both copies, print his name, and leave both on the windshield of the towed vehicle; and
 - (ii) retain the triplicate copy for a period of 30 days for inspection upon request, by the **Licence Inspector**;

- (b) release a vehicle immediately if it becomes occupied after it has been **attached** to a tow-truck, but before it has been removed from a private **parking lot** or **no parking area**, in which case a vehicle release fee in the amount shown in section 2 of Schedule 1 may be charged.

6.3.11 The vehicle release fee referred to in clause (b) of subsection 6.3.10 may either be paid at the time the vehicle is released or, if unpaid, may be recovered by the towing company by civil means.

6.3.12 In addition to the restrictions in subsection 6.2.2, a tow-truck driver must not:

- (a) obstruct or **attach** the tow-truck to a vehicle on a private **parking lot** on which **parking** is time-regulated, until 30 minutes have elapsed from the expiration of the regulated time limit;
- (b) tow a vehicle from a private **parking lot** or **no parking area**, unless it is taken directly to the licenced Vehicle Impound Lot;
- (c) obstruct or **attach** a vehicle to a tow-truck until after 10 minutes have elapsed from the time indicated in Part A of the Tow-away Notice, where such vehicle is **parked** in an unauthorized space by reason only of its location in an area specifically reserved for a tenant other than the tenant on the same multi-tenant commercial property with whom the driver is conducting business; or
- (d) obstruct or **attach** to a tow-truck, a vehicle which is occupied.

3. Subsection 6.4.1 of Bylaw No. 6900 is amended by re-naming clause (b) as clause (c) and inserting the following as clause (b):

“(b) be located at the address shown on the business licence of the tow-truck **licencee** or **operator**; and”

4. Section 6.6 of Bylaw No. 6900 is amended by adding the following subsection:

“6.6.3 A tow truck **licencee** or **operator** must not charge a vehicle owner any fee for the services of any agent of the owner of the property from which the vehicle was towed, or any other fees or charges other than those set out in Schedule 1.”

5. Part 10 is amended by adding in alphabetical order, the following:

PARK/PARKED/PARKING means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than up to 5 minutes for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, loading or unloading of property, goods, or the discharging or taking on of passengers, or in compliance with the directions of:

- (a) a police officer, a bylaw enforcement officer, or a person contracted by the **City** for traffic regulation purposes, or
- (b) a traffic control device.

NO PARKING AREA

means an area of land which must be kept clear for the following purposes:

- (a) emergency vehicle access;
- (b) emergency exit route for pedestrians; or
- (c) garbage disposal vehicle access;

and which has been designated by the owner, in accordance with this bylaw, as an area where **parking** of vehicles is not permitted.

6. This bylaw is cited as "**Vehicle For Hire Regulation Bylaw No. 6900, Amendment Bylaw No. 7219**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

MAY 28 2001

MAY 28 2001

MAY 28 2001

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

MAYOR

CITY CLERK