

# Memorandum



DATE October 8, 2009

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair),  
Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Sheffie Kadane,  
David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

SUBJECT Towing Allegations Briefing

On Monday, October 12, 2009, you will be briefed on the coordinated efforts of the Dallas Police Department, Parking Enforcement and Transportation Regulation to minimize the illegal towing that surrounded the 2008 Texas – Oklahoma Football game. The briefing will be presented by Rick Galceran, P.E., Director of Public Works and Transportation. The briefing material is attached for your review.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.



Jill A. Jordan, P.E.  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Libro, Public Information Office  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager  
Rick Galceran, P.E., Director, Public Works and Transportation

# Motor Vehicle Tow Plan for the State Fair of Texas

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Quality of Life Committee

Prepared by

Transportation Regulation Program

Public Works and Transportation

October 12, 2009





# Purpose

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- Brief the Committee on plans to minimize illegal parking lot operations and nonconsent motor vehicle towing issues during the State Fair



# Background

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- City of Dallas received in excess of sixty complaints after the 2008 Texas/Oklahoma football game
- Majority of complaints were against one motor vehicle tow service
- Investigation found that the tow service was in violation of one or more sections of the Dallas City Code
- Operating authority of the tow service was revoked and upheld upon appeal



# State Fair of Texas 2009

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- State Fair runs from Friday, 9/25/09 through Sunday, 10/18/09
- Major Cotton Bowl Events
  - FC Dallas-New England and Mexico-Columbia Soccer game: Wednesday, 9/30/09 at 6:00 pm
  - Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic – Prairie View-Grambling Football: Saturday, 10/3/09 at 6:00 pm
  - Columbus Day, Public School Holiday, Oprah Winfrey Show filming and Honor Society: Monday, 10/12/09 at 5:30 pm
  - AT&T Red River Rivalry – Texas-Oklahoma Football: Saturday, 10/17/09 at 11:00 am



# Description of Problem

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- Demand for parking is high, especially on days when there is a special event like the Texas-OU football game
- Individuals might illegally direct vehicles to park on an open lot whether it is paved or unpaved; then take the parking fees collected and leave
- Motor vehicle tow companies will use aggressive tactics to tow vehicles



# Coordinated Strategy

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- Interdepartmental coordination is critical to minimizing illegal parking and towing activities:
  - Dallas Police Department (DPD)
  - DPD Parking Management
  - PWT Transportation Regulation
- Departments coordinated for the January 2009 Cotton Bowl game and were successful in minimizing any illegal parking and towing issues



# PWT Parking Management

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- Coordination strategies:
  - Parking Enforcement Officer assigned to DPD Command Center to answer questions from officers on patrol around Fair Park
  - Parking Enforcement Officers patrols Fair Park area to ensure adequate support for enforcement of parking regulations
- Monitor State Fair parking permits issued by the City:
  - Proactively conduct field inspections of issued permits; check for fraudulent permits
  - Inspect lots accepting vehicles for parking that have no visible parking permit
- Monitor for all parking violations including:
  - Too close to a fire hydrant
  - On an unapproved surface
  - On a sidewalk

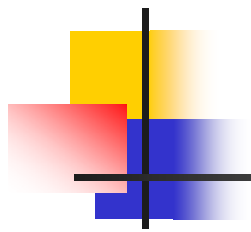




# PWT Transportation Regulation

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- Coordination strategies:
  - Regulation Inspector assigned to DPD Command Center to answer questions from officers on patrol around Fair Park
  - Regulation Inspector patrols Fair Park area to ensure adequate support for enforcement of towing regulations
- Letter hand carried to all licensed motor vehicle tow operators warning them that the City will be monitoring their activities closely around Fair Park and zero tolerance will be exercised in regard to their activities (attached)



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# Discussion



City of Dallas

September 21, 2009

To: All Vehicle Tow Service Licensee Holders

Hand delivered

Re: 2009 State Fair of Texas

The City of Dallas wants the 2009 State Fair of Texas to be an enjoyable experience for everyone attending from Dallas and around the State. Last year there were significant violations related to illegal motor vehicle tows during the Texas-OU football game at Fair Park. Illegal towing reflects badly on your industry and the City of Dallas.

The Dallas Police Department and Transportation Regulation Division of Public Works and Transportation Department will be coordinating our efforts to monitor parking and towing activities throughout the 2009 State Fair. It is critical that all vehicle tow service license holders review City Code requirements with all employees to ensure that any activity is consistent with our regulations. Violations will result in immediate enforcement action that could include any of the following actions:

1. Ticket(s) – Class C misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to \$1,000.00
2. Suspension – Loss of operating authority for up to 10 days
3. Revocation – Loss of operating authority for 2 years

This letter is to remind you that violations of the City Code will not be tolerated. Please ensure that your staff is made aware of the consequences of violations.

We all want the 2009 State Fair of Texas to be a great event. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Transportation Regulation Office at (214) 670-3161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Galceran".

Rick Galceran, P.E., Director  
Public Works and Transportation

c: Gary Titlow, Program Manager, PWT Transportation Regulation