


Towing Policies of Some Neighboring Law Enforcement Agencies

Presented to Government Services Committee

June 20, 2013



To: Legislator Vetter, Chairperson

cc: Government Services Committee

Fr: S. Yasgur

Date: June 20, 2013

Re: Information Concerning Policies for
Evidentiary Towing



At your request I have gathered information concerning policies employed by law enforcement agencies in the region (Delaware County, Ulster County, Orange County, City of Middletown and New York State Police) with respect to so-called evidentiary tows.



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- I spoke with Chief Onarati. He described the detailed policy the Orange County Sheriff's Office adopted some years ago in response to issues about towing. Chief Onorati indicated he would try to assemble the bidding documents which are the essence of their towing policy. Chief Onorati described their policy as follows:
- A few years ago the Orange County Sheriff's Office divided their County into nine sectors.
- Their goal was to have designated towing companies in each sector who could be at the scene of an incident within twenty minutes from the time of a call.
- The Sheriff's Office sought bids for "light", "medium" and "heavy" tows in each of the nine sectors.
- The bids specified all of the charges for various services: recovery, towing, storage and special services.



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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- As a result the Orange County Sheriff's Office has a list of the winning "light", "medium" and "heavy" towing companies to be employed in each of the nine sectors.
- The Sheriff's Office uses that list of winning bidders not only for evidentiary tows but also for calls made to assist someone who needs a tow and doesn't know who to call.
- In all cases the Deputy calls the tow company who was the winning bidder ("light", "medium" or "heavy") for that sector. They do not use Tow of the Day or a Rotational List. In all cases the charges are as specified in the winning bid.
- "Evidentiary Tows" also include stolen vehicles and vehicles seized by their civil division in addition to vehicles seized for evidentiary purposes.
- Storage of Evidentiary vehicles is in a secure County impound.

ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- I spoke with Undersheriff Frank P. Faluotico Jr. He provided a copy of their Towing Policy which has been in effect since 1987.
- Other than in the Town of Esopus, the Ulster County Policy requires that the Deputy on Scene request that “Communications” contact the nearest available tow truck to be sent to the scene.
- Cruising tow trucks or tow trucks which arrive on scene without being called are not considered the nearest available. Nearest available is based on the location of the towing company’s garage or yard.
- In the Town of Esopus a specified rotational list is to be used.
- Deputies are prohibited from suggesting a towing service to a vehicle owner/operator.
- Vehicles which must be impounded due to an equipment problem but not for Evidentiary reasons are taken to the towing company’s location.
- When Evidentiary Tows are made pursuant to an arrest and the Sheriff’s Office has to pay for the tow, a copy of the bill is sent to the Court and the Judge is requested to order restitution for the expense.
- The Sheriff’s Office maintains an impound area.



DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- I spoke with Lt. Tim Buckley. He sent me a copy of their written Towing Policy. It was put into effect in 2007.
- The current Delaware County Towing Policy does not specify the means for selecting a towing company for Evidentiary Tows.
- Where a vehicle is damaged in an accident the Deputy has discretion to have the vehicle towed by the nearest available company, if necessary due to existing hazards or dangerous conditions.
- The Delaware County Sheriff's Office maintains its own impound locations; the Evidence Vehicle Bay at the Sheriff's Office garage and the Sheriff's yard.
- Vehicles are impounded only if absolutely necessary.
- The policy contains a detailed procedure for conducting an inventory of impounded vehicles.



CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

- I spoke with Chief of Police R. Bethencourt and Sgt. Mark Doty. Sgt. Doty provided a copy of their written policies and the applicable provisions of the City Code.
- Towing in the City of Middletown is controlled by Common Council of the City pursuant to their Charter. (PLEASE NOTE: Cities and towns have the authority to license and regulate towing companies. The County does not appear have such authority.)
- The City issues Two Classes of permits to towing companies: Restricted and Unrestricted.
- Daytime and nighttime towing rates and storage rates are set by Common Council.
- For evidentiary tows the City Police Department uses companies on the Police Department's list of those with Unrestricted Permits.

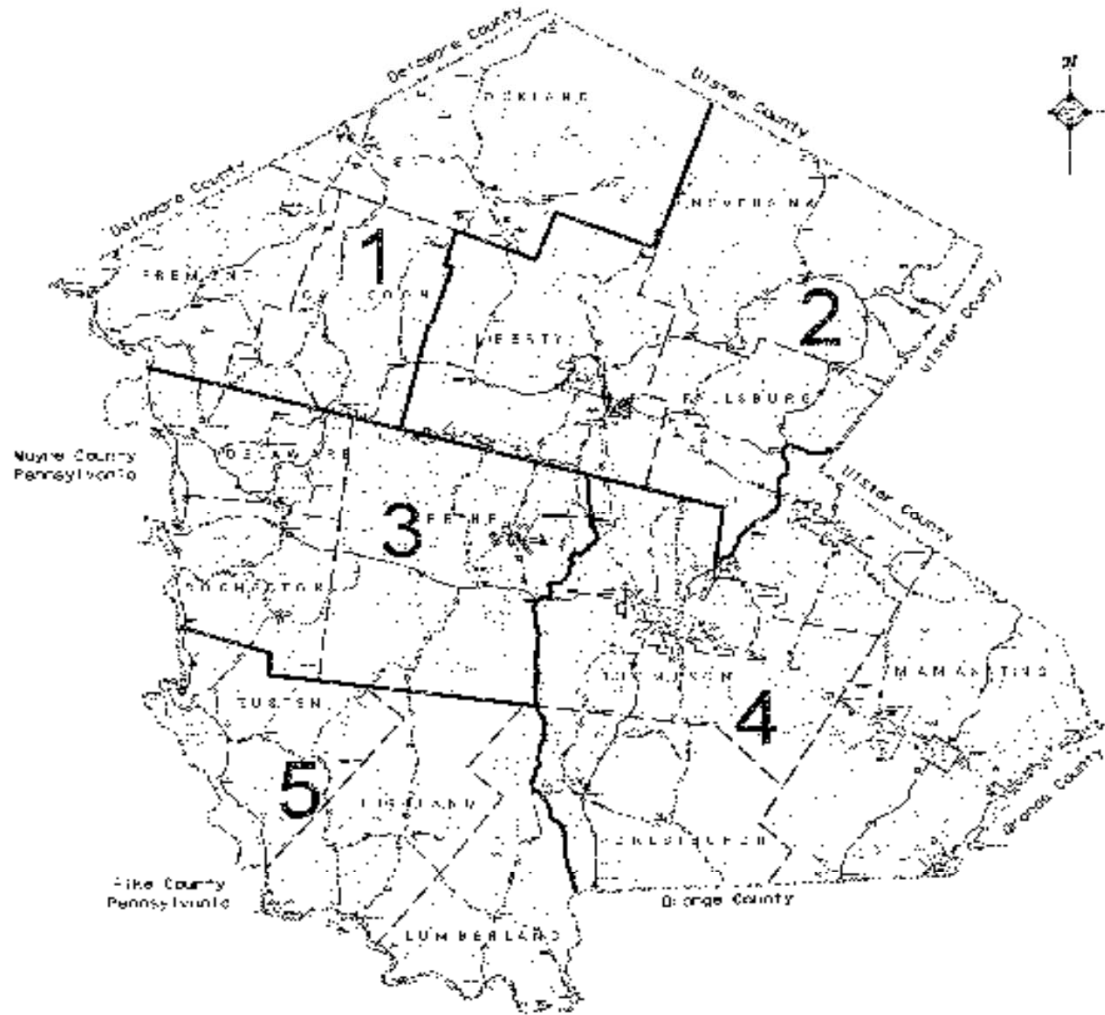
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- The towing companies are utilized by the Police Department on a rotating basis.
- The Police Department may skip a towing company which is next on the list for a particular Evidentiary Tow if that company does not have secure storage and if the Police Department requires secure storage with respect to that vehicle. Otherwise, Evidentiary Tows are all done from the City's list of companies with Unrestricted Permits, on a rotating basis. If the case is potentially very serious and higher security is required the vehicle may be taken to the Police Department garage.
- The Police Department pays for evidentiary tows and then seeks reimbursement from the District Attorney.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE / FERNDALE

- I spoke with Captain Kaminski and Zone Sergeant Hafele. The Zone Sergeant provided a copy of their towing policy. It is extensive and detailed.
- The State Police use rotational lists in each Town. For example, if the incident occurs in the Town of Thompson the Trooper would use the list of towing companies for the Town of Rockland and would call the next company on the list.
- With respect to Evidentiary Tows the State Police maintain the necessary chain of custody by having a Trooper follow the tow from the scene to the storage location.
- Because the Troopers maintain visual custody of the vehicles during Evidentiary Tows there is no need to have specially approved companies to do such tows.
- In Sullivan County some evidentiary tows are taken to S.P. Ferndale. The storage area is behind a State Police station which is occupied 24/7.
- If there is a need for more security the vehicle is towed to the Troop F Headquarters in Middletown where they maintain a secure impound.



COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

DEPARTMENT OF PURCHASING AND CENTRAL SERVICES

BIDDER'S REQUEST FOR QUOTE PROPOSALS

Quote Item: Towing Services for Evidentiary Vehicles for SC Sheriff's Department

Quote No.: Q-12-20

Requisitioning Department: Sheriff's Department

Issue Date: June 15, 2012

Opening Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Catskill Tow & Recovery

Attn: Jim
55 Foss Road
Monticello, NY 12701
T: 845-791-8710
C: 845-798-8626 **ZONE 4**
F: 845-794-5880
E: jamescontrys@yahoo.com

Maplewood Auto

Attn: Sue **ZONE 4**
414 New York 17B
Monticello, NY 12701
T: 845-794-6940
F: 845-794-1309

Prestige Towing & Rec.

Attn: Sean
947 Old Route 17
Harris, NY 12742 **ZONE 4**
T: 845-794-8522
F: 845-794-0593

Al's Auto

T: 845-791-4722 **ZONE 4**
E: acaycho@hvc.rr.com

Robert Green Truck Div.

PO Box 8002
Rock Hill NY 12775 **ZONE 4**
T: 845-794-6161
E: rsgreen_rgtruck@hotmail.com

Marty's Service

354 Old Route 17
Monticello, NY 12701
T: 845-794-5025 **ZONE 4**
F: 845-794-0593 or 845-794-5071

Truck Pro

T: 845-707-4342 **ZONE 4**
E: truckpro@hvc.rr.com

Interstate

T: 845-866-1516
F: 845-794-0330 **ZONE 4**

M&R Towing-Mamakating

P.O. Box 216
Wurtsboro, NY 12790
T: 845-888-4013 **ZONE 4**
Night: 845-754-8758
Cell: 845-313-2798

Contry's Automotive

T: 845-791-8710
F: 845-794-5880 **ZONE 4**

Better Service

T: 845-794-7639
F: 845-794-0593 **ZONE 4**

Jim's Auto

T: 845-794-3466 **ZONE 4**
E: cbcra@aol.com

Welton Tire & Auto-Callicoon

P.O. Box 46 **ZONE 1**
North Branch, NY 12766
T: 845-482-4569

Youngsville Garage-Callicoon

Attn: Scott **ZONE 1**
T: 845-482-5151
Night: 845-482-5245
Home: 845-482-5151
Fax: 845-482-9310

Russells Day-Fallsburg

T: 845-436-0037
Night: 845-434-4487
Home: 845-434-8876 **ZONE 2**
F: 845-436-1457

Rock Hill Service Center

T: 845-794-5949
F: 845-796-1033 **ZONE 4**

Sedlack's

T: 845-794-0648 **ZONE 4**
E: wmsedlack@yahoo.com

Dicks-Delaware

T: 845-482-4460 then o
F: 845-482-5516 **ZONE 1**

Roches-Delaware

Mickey Not Interested

Kantrowitz Day-Fallsburg

Left Message 6/15
T: 845-434-5170
N: 845-434-5109

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
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Fallsburg Service-Fallsburg

Attn: George
T: 845-434-1400 **ZONE 2**
C: 845-798-4693/798-7393
F: 845-434-7689

Shermans Garage-Fallsburg

T: 845-434-8089 **ZONE 2**
E: psmd52@hotmail.com

Behans-Fallsburg

T: 845-434-7650 **ZONE 2**
Night: 845-798-2869/866-4432
F: 845-434-7185

Brothers II-Fallsburg

T: 845-434-7397/434-5889
Night: 845-434-4693
C: 845-798-7397 **ZONE 2**
E: georgebmw4@yahoo.com

White Sulphur Auto & Truck-Liberty

T: 845-292-1600
C: 845-866-2782 **ZONE 2**
Home: 845-747-4594
E: Kevin@whitesulphurgarage.com

D&R-Highland

T: 845-557-8881 **ZONE 5**
Night: 570-559-7696
F: 845-557-0320

Eldred Service-Highland

T: 845-557-0303 **ZONE 5**
F: 888-482-1931

Baums-Liberty

T: 845-807-1936 N: 292-0155
F: 845-292-2307 **ZONE 2**
E: jbtowing1978@yahoo.com

Brookside-Highland

T: 845-557-6424 **ZONE 5**
Night: 845-701-9306
E: brookside535@yahoo.com

Mikes Tires-Liberty ZONE 2

T: 845-292-1837, 701-7046
E: motires@live.com

Sams Towing-Liberty

T: 845-292-7720 **ZONE 2**
E: jeff@samstowingworld.com

NY Truck Parts-Mamakating

T: 845-888-8088 **ZONE 4**
E: truckmann@gmail.com

M&R Towing-Mamakating

P.O. Box 216 **ZONE 4**
Wurtsboro, NY 12790
T: 845-888-4013
Night: 845-754-8758
Cell: 845-313-2798

Summit Auto-Mamakating

T: 845-888-2500 **ZONE 4**
Night: 845-436-5028/888-5418
E: Robert_blakesley@yahoo.com

Pantore's Garage-Rockland

T: 607-498-5118 **ZONE 1**
E: depantore@citlink.net

MCJ's Auto-Liberty ZONE 2

T: 845-292-0332, 747-4478
E: mcjsales@msn.com

Zannettis-Neversink

T: 845-985-7786 **ZONE 2**
E: kzsercen@hotmail.com

Fred Emery-Rockland

T: 845-439-5635 **ZONE 1**
C: 845-798-5635
F: 845-439-4913

Lava Towing-Tusten

Attn: Bruce Gettel
T: 845-252-7200 **ZONE 5**
C: 845-665-9827

Bud Big Bend-Tusten

T: 845-252-3972 **ZONE 5**
N: 845-887-4086
F: 845-252-3972

