

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
ORDINANCE NO. 20-1997

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 407-12 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH
OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR
BASIC TOWING SERVICE AND STORAGE FEES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Highland Park Borough Council, Middlesex County as follows:

§ 407-12 of the "Code of the Borough of Highland Park, 2010" concerning the establishment of basic towing service and storage fees is amended to read as follows:

([] material deleted, underlined material new)

§407-12. Fee schedule.

A. No person shall be liable to any tow operator who tows or stores an automobile for any fees in excess of the following:

	Basic Towing Service Fees		Maximum Fee	
	[2017]	[2018]	[2019]	
Days:				
1 mile or less	[\$65]	[\$90]		\$115
Each additional mile	[\$2.25]	[\$2.75]		\$3.50
Nights, weekends and New Jersey State holidays:				
1 mile or less	[\$75]	[\$100]		\$125
Each additional mile	[\$2.50]	[\$3.25]		\$4
Vehicles over 12,500 pounds, straight truck				\$120 plus \$5 per mile
Vehicles in excess of 12,500 pounds, tractor trailer				\$325 plus \$7 per mile
Storage Fees				
Inside building				\$50 per day
Outside secured storage				\$35 per day
Accident Fees				
Clean up depending on severity				\$50 plus cost of material(s)
Labor				\$75 per hour/per man/half hour rate applied
Administrative fees/yard fees				\$35
Wait times				\$25 per 15 minutes
Road service calls (tire repair/lockouts, etc.)				\$75

[The above fees are set by the Commissioner of Insurance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:3-38.1 et seq., and shall be superseded by any fee changes implemented by the Commissioner. It shall be the responsibility of the tow operators to comply with all applicable Department of Insurance rules and fee regulations.]

(1) All tow operators or storage facilities shall comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 56:13-7 et seq. and any and all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Law, Division of Consumer Affairs. As required by N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.54.b. all complaints and disputes arising from the towing and storage of motor vehicles without the consent of the owner shall be called to the attention of the Chief of Police in writing to be investigated and resolved.

(2) Applicability of rates.

(a) When towing services are required at the scene of an automobile accident, the day rate shall apply when the time of the accident is between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except New Jersey State holidays. The night, weekend and holiday rate shall otherwise apply.

(b) When towing services are otherwise required, the day rate shall apply when the vehicle is transported (pickup to delivery) entirely between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except New Jersey State holidays. The night, weekend and holiday rate shall otherwise apply.

(3) Storage fees are for each twenty-four-hour period or fraction thereof. A new twenty-four-hour period begins at 12:01 a.m.

(4) For the storage of motor vehicles at all times other than those instances involving theft or accident the fee shall be \$20 per diem.

B. No person shall be liable to any tow operator for any other towing or storage services for any fee in excess of the licensee's approved fee schedule. Current fee schedules shall be submitted for approval of an annual basis at the time of application for license renewal.

C. When basic towing services are rendered, there shall be no additional charges other than those provided for in Subsection A above, including but not limited to flatbedding, waiting time, winching, cleanup costs and additional labor.

D. Towing rates shall be calculated based on the total distance traveled from the tow vehicle's base of operations to the job site and return, by way of the shortest available route. Fractions shall be rounded to the nearest whole.

E. Tow vehicles transporting multiple vehicles at one time may charge the applicable fee for each vehicle transported.

F. Prior to hookup or flatbedding of a motor vehicle, the tow operator shall present a copy of its fee schedule to the owner or operator of the vehicle. The fee schedule shall also contain the name, address and telephone number of the tow operator and a statement of the hours when the motor vehicle may be claimed.

This ordinance will take effect upon its passage and publication as provided for by law.

Introduced and passed on first
reading: February 4, 2020

ADOPTED:
ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk

Gayle Brill Mittler, Mayor