



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL REVAMPS COUNTY TOWING REGULATIONS

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The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved changes to the County's towing regulations to improve the ability of County Police to assure safety and minimize traffic congestion owing to vehicle breakdowns, while protecting drivers from towing abuses.

The new executive regulation would abolish the so-called "consent form," which has sometimes resulted in drivers unwittingly signing away their protections and paying excessive towing fees. It would also increase the towing fee from the current \$75, established in 1997, to \$110 and indexes future rates to inflation.

The changes affect only police-regulated tows, since the County has no jurisdiction over other towing rates.

"These changes give County police a more efficient way to deal with disabled vehicles," said Councilmember Phil Andrews, who chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee. "That's, first, a plus for safety and, second, should help with traffic congestion. It's estimated that half the traffic congestion in our region today is caused by disabled vehicles."

"The changes strike the right balance. We've done away with the consent form, which ensures that drivers won't get gouged. We've insured that towing companies can make a living. We've helped 'mom and pop' companies by making sure companies with only one truck can stay on the police list of approved companies. Everybody gets treated fairly." # # #