



City and County of San Francisco

Board of Supervisors – District 6
JANE KIM

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Supervisors’ Proposal to Reform Towing Fees to Be Considered by MTA Board

MTA’s \$65.4M contract with tow company must be revised to consider hardship

San Francisco, CA – An investigative hearing led by Supervisors Avalos and Kim, concerning steep towing fees charged in San Francisco late last month, revealed a shocking increase of 432% in the administrative fees charged by the Municipal Transportation Agency over the last five years. This increase results in a cost of nearly \$500 to retrieve a vehicle, with the majority of the fee comprised of the administrative fee at \$266. The disproportionate impact of what can amount to a ruinous choice between retrieving a family vehicle and paying for basic necessities, such as food and rent, compelled members of the Board to propose a modified fee schedule that takes into consideration economic hardship.

	<i>Current Fees</i>	<i>Proposed Fees</i>	<i>Proposed Hardship Fees</i>
<i>Towing Fee</i>	\$225.25	\$208.00	\$208.00
<i>SF Administrative Fee</i>	\$266.00	\$172.00	\$86.00
<i>Storage Fee</i>	Free first 4 hours \$58.50 (1 st day); \$68.25 per day thereafter	Free first 4 hours \$58.50 (1 st day); \$68.25 per day thereafter	Free for first 48 hours
<i>Total:</i>	\$549.25 - \$559.25 + any accrued storage fees	\$380 + any accrued storage fees	\$294.00 + any accrued storage fees after first 48 hours

“In a city with some of the worst income inequality in the nation, too many families in San Francisco find themselves one missed rent payment away from eviction and displacement. Essentially we have created a highly regressive tax system, with basic services like parking control funded by punitive fines. If a high-end luxury car is towed, it is a very bad day for the owner. But if that pick-up truck or mini-van is towed and is absolutely crucial for a working family to get the kids to school and the parents to work, that fine can be the difference between making a rent payment and missing it,” explained Supervisor Jane Kim.



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“Personally, I’ve been in the situation where if I got towed, with the current fees, I’d have to cut back on groceries and the food that I’m feeding my children. If you’re living paycheck to paycheck, \$500 isn’t a fine. It’s excessive punishment for one mistake and it’s keeping too many San Franciscans down,” said Supervisor Avalos.

Supervisor Peskin stated, “The hardship from these fees is compounded by what follows after your car is towed. It’s a minimum of almost \$500 to retrieve your car, if you’re lucky enough to get there on the same day. But if you cannot pay that much on the same day, you’re unlikely to be able to pay the additional \$68 for storage every day afterwards. And then here come the debt collectors. Those unpaid debts can tar a person’s credit history for years to come.”

The criteria for proving that the fees are an economic hardship could be based on a similar scheme as the eligibility structure for Healthy SF, San Francisco’s health access program designed to make health care services available and affordable to uninsured San Francisco residents.

Next Tuesday, the proposal will go before the Board of the MTA. If approved, the new fee schedules could go into effect as soon as within the next few months.