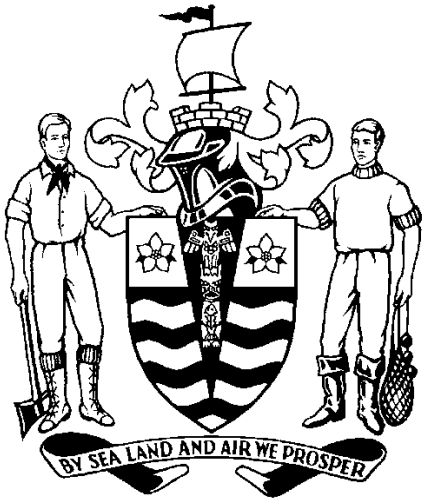
CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA



IMPOUNDING BY-LAW NO. 13709

This By-law is printed under and by authority of the Council of the City of Vancouver

(Consolidated for convenience only to July 14, 2026)

IMPOUNDING BY-LAW

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BY-LAW NO. 13709

A By-law regarding the impounding of vehicles and other chattels from streets

[Consolidated for convenience only, amended to include By-law 14755 effective July 14, 2026]

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

PART 1
INTERPRETATION

1.1 Name of by-law

This by-law may be cited as the “Impounding By-law”.

1.2 Definitions

In this by-law:

“chattel” means any object or thing other than a vehicle;

“City Engineer” means the City Engineer appointed as such by Council, the Deputy Engineer and any person authorized to act on behalf of the City Engineer;

“impound” includes the towing, removing, detention and storage of a vehicle or other chattel from a street pursuant to this by-law;

“impounding expenses” includes all applicable towing, removal, storage and other charges; and

“vehicle” means vehicle as defined in the BC *Motor Vehicle Act*.

PART 2
AUTHORITIES

2.1 Application

The provisions of this by-law apply to all vehicles and other chattels impounded from a street, except that this by-law does not apply to a vehicle or other chattel that is seized from a highway as abandoned pursuant to the BC *Transportation Act*, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

2.2 Authority of the Park Board

Council delegates to the Park Board the powers of Council with respect to the impounding of vehicles or other chattels from streets in parks, as set out in section 317(1)(cc) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

2.3 Authority to impound

The City Engineer may impound, or cause to be impounded, any vehicle, whether being driven or not, or other chattel that is unlawfully placed, left, kept, or driven on a street and may enforce the provisions of this by-law with regard to the impounding of vehicles and chattels.

2.4 Impound lots or storage facilities

The City Engineer may designate premises for the storage of impounded vehicles or other chattels.

2.5 Authority to sell or dispose of impounded vehicles or chattels

The City Engineer is authorized to sell or otherwise dispose of impounded vehicles or other chattels, in accordance with the provisions of this by-law.

PART 3
IMPOUNDING OF VEHICLES

3.1 Vehicle unlawfully on a street

A vehicle that is unlawfully placed, left, kept or driven on a street may be impounded.

3.2 Record of impoundment

The City Engineer must keep a record, or cause a record to be kept, of every vehicle impounded in accordance with this by-law, and the record must include the following information:

(a) a description of the vehicle, including the colour, make and licence plate number;

(b) the time, date and place where the vehicle was impounded;

(c) impounding expenses calculated to the date that the vehicle is retrieved by the owner or sold or otherwise disposed of pursuant to this by-law; and

(d) the date that the vehicle is retrieved, sold or otherwise disposed of.

3.3 Notice of impoundment

The City Engineer must give notice to the owner of an impounded vehicle in the following manner:

(a) in the case of a vehicle registered in British Columbia, by notice in writing to the address of the owner as shown in the records of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia within 14 days of the date of impounding; and

(b) in the case of a vehicle registered outside British Columbia or an unregistered vehicle, if the identity and address of the owner can be ascertained by reasonable enquiry, by notice in writing to the address of the owner within 21 days of the date of impounding.

3.4 Contents of notice

A notice issued pursuant to section 3.3 of this by-law must contain the following information:

(a) a description of the vehicle;

(b) the applicable impounding expenses;

(c) the address where the vehicle is held or contact information to obtain the address where the vehicle is held; and

(d) the date after which the vehicle will be sold or disposed of, which date must be no less than 30 days after the vehicle was impounded.

3.5 Notice to lienholder

The City Engineer may also give notice, in accordance with section 3.3, to the holder of a lien on an impounded vehicle.

3.6 Notice to leaseholder

The City Engineer may also give notice, in accordance with section 3.3, to the lessor of an impounded vehicle.

PART 4
IMPOUNDING OF CHATTELS

4.1 Chattel unlawfully on a street

A chattel that is unlawfully placed, left, or kept on a street may be impounded.

4.2 Record of impoundment

Subject to section 4.4, the City Engineer must keep a record of every chattel impounded in accordance with this by-law, and the record must include the following information:

(a) a description of the chattel;

(b) the time, date and place where the chattel was impounded;

(c) impounding expenses calculated to the date that the chattel is retrieved by the owner or sold or disposed of pursuant to this by-law; and

(d) the date that the chattel is retrieved, sold or otherwise disposed of.

4.3 Notice of impoundment

Subject to section 4.4, the City Engineer must make reasonable efforts to ascertain the identity and address of the owner of an impounded chattel and must give notice in writing to the owner of the chattel if it is possible to do so, which notice must contain the following information:

(a) a description of the chattel;

(b) the applicable impounding expenses;

(c) the address where the chattel is held or contact information to obtain the address where the chattel is held; and

(d) the date after which the chattel will be sold or otherwise disposed of, which date must be no less than 30 days after the chattel was impounded.

4.4 Immediate disposal of certain chattels

Despite the provisions of this Part 4, the City Engineer is authorized to dispose of chattels immediately and without complying with sections 4.2 or 4.3 if, in the opinion of the City Engineer, they pose a health or safety risk, or if they consist of garbage, waste materials, or perishable items.

PART 5
IMPOUNDING EXPENSES

5.1 Recovery of impounded vehicle

Subject to the provisions of this by-law, the owner of an impounded vehicle, or a lawful claimant thereto, may recover the vehicle if:

(a) the owner provides proof of ownership, or the lawful claimant provides evidence of entitlement, to the satisfaction of the City Engineer; and

(b) the owner or the lawful claimant pays all applicable impounding expenses set out in Schedule A to this by-law.

5.2 Recovery of impounded chattel

Subject to the provisions of this by-law, the owner of an impounded chattel, or a lawful claimant thereto, may recover the chattel if:

(a) the owner provides proof of ownership, or the lawful claimant provides evidence of entitlement, to the satisfaction of the City Engineer; and

(b) the owner or the lawful claimant pays all applicable impounding expenses set out in Schedule B to this by-law.

5.3 Waiver of expenses for impounded vehicle or chattel

Despite the provisions of this by-law, the City Engineer may waive all or any part of the impounding expenses for an impounded vehicle or other chattel if, in the opinion of the City Engineer, payment of such expenses would cause the owner or lawful claimant of the impounded vehicle or chattel undue hardship and, in determining whether there is undue hardship, the City Engineer must consider the value of the vehicle or chattel, the cost to the city of the impounding, the financial circumstances of the owner or lawful claimant, and all applicable Council policies and guidelines.

PART 6
SALE OR DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES

6.1 Unclaimed vehicle

A vehicle that is unclaimed after the later of 30 days from the date of impoundment or the date stipulated in a notice of impoundment may be sold or disposed of by the City Engineer in accordance with this by-law.

6.2 Sale or disposal of unclaimed vehicle

If a vehicle is unclaimed after the later of 30 days from the date of impoundment or the date stipulated in a notice of impoundment, the City Engineer must estimate the value of the vehicle, and may sell or otherwise dispose of the vehicle in the following manner:

(a) if the vehicle is estimated to have a value greater than its value as scrap metal and, in the opinion of the City Engineer, the vehicle is saleable at auction, and if ownership of the vehicle can be transferred to the city, then the City Engineer may arrange for the discharge of any outstanding liens, arrange for the transfer of ownership to the city, and sell the vehicle at public auction;

(b) if the vehicle is estimated to have a value equal to or less than its value as scrap metal or, in the opinion of the City Engineer, the vehicle is otherwise not saleable at auction, the City Engineer may dispose of the vehicle as scrap metal or use some other method of disposal; and

(c) if the vehicle is estimated to have a value greater than its value as scrap metal but ownership of the vehicle cannot be transferred to the city, the City Engineer may dispose of the vehicle as scrap metal or use some other method of disposal after a period of 90 days from the date the vehicle was impounded.

6.3 Proceeds of sale or disposal

If a vehicle is sold at public auction or otherwise disposed of in a manner that generates any proceeds, the proceeds must be applied as follows:

(a) if sold at public auction, all expenses associated with the sale must be deducted from the proceeds;

(b) if otherwise disposed of, all expenses associated with the disposal must be deducted from the proceeds;

(c) all outstanding impounding expenses must be deducted from the proceeds; and

(d) if a balance remains after the proceeds are applied to the expenses recoverable under this section, the City Engineer must:

(i) pay the balance of proceeds to the former owner of the vehicle or to any lawful claimant thereto if the former owner or a lawful claimant has been identified, or

(ii) if the former owner of the vehicle or a lawful claimant thereto has not been identified, hold the balance of proceeds in accordance with the BC *Unclaimed Property Act*, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

PART 7
SALE OR DISPOSAL OF CHATTELS

7.1 Unclaimed chattel

A chattel that is unclaimed after the later of 30 days from the date of impoundment or the date stipulated in a notice of impoundment, may be sold or disposed of by the City Engineer in accordance with this by-law.

7.2 Sale or disposal of unclaimed chattel

Subject to the provisions of section 7.3, a chattel that is unclaimed after the later of 30 days from the date of impoundment or the date stipulated in a notice of impoundment may be sold or otherwise disposed of by the City Engineer in the following manner:

(a) by sale at public auction if, in the opinion of the City Engineer, the chattel is saleable; or

(b) by disposal as scrap or other method of disposal if, in the opinion of the City Engineer, the chattel is not saleable.

7.3 Proceeds of sale or disposal

If a chattel is sold at public auction or otherwise disposed of in a manner that generates any proceeds, the proceeds must be applied as follows:

(a) if sold at public auction, all expenses associated with the sale must be deducted from the proceeds;

(b) if otherwise disposed of, all expenses associated with the disposal must be deducted from the proceeds

(c) all outstanding impounding expenses must be deducted from the proceeds; and

(d) if a balance remains after the proceeds are applied to the expenses recoverable under this section, the City Engineer must:

(i) pay the balance of proceeds to the former owner of the chattel or to any lawful claimant thereto if the former owner or a lawful claimant has been identified, or

(ii) if the former owner of the chattel or a lawful claimant thereto has not been identified, hold the balance of proceeds in accordance with the BC *Unclaimed Property Act*, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

PART 8
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

8.1 Offences

A person must not attempt to obstruct or attempt to prevent, or obstruct or prevent the impounding of a vehicle or other chattel pursuant to this by-law.

8.2 Penalties

A person who commits an offence against this by-law is liable to a fine of no more than $10,000.00 for each offence.

PART 9
REPEAL AND ENACTMENT

9.1 Repeal

Council repeals Impounding By-law No. 3519.

9.2 Force and effect

This By-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this 13th day of June, 2023

Signed "Ken Sim"
Mayor

Signed "Rosemary Hagiwara"
Acting City Clerk

Schedule A

Impounding Expenses for Vehicles
(GST will be added to towing charges)

1. Towing fees

(a) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 2,999 kg or less

(i) regular tow ……..……..$82.18
(ii) tow with dolly …….....$118.23

Plus, for a towing distance greater than 6 km…….....$2.48 per km

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

(b) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 3,000 kg to 6,300 kg

(i) regular tow …….……$86.78
(ii) tow with dolly ….…….…… ……$122.83

Plus, for a towing distance greater than 6 km ……. ……$3.11 per km

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

(c) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 6,301 kg to 9,072 kg

Regular tow……....$137.58

Plus, for a towing distance greater than 6 km……..….$3.51 per km

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

(d) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 9,073 kg and over

Regular tow……...$182.98

Plus, for a towing distance greater than 6 km……..…$7.34 per km

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

2. Release (unhooking) fees

Where towing service has commenced hook-up and the owner or person in charge requests delivery of the vehicle before it is towed.

(a) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 2,999 kg or less

(i) regular tow…….$41.09
(ii) tow with dolly……..$59.12

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

(b) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 3,000 kg to 6,300 kg

(i) regular tow ……. $43.39
(ii) tow with dolly ……$61.42

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rates

(c) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 6,301 kg to 9,072 kg

Regular tow ……... $68.79

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rate

(d) Vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 9,073 kg and over

Regular tow …… .$91.49

Plus fuel surcharge of 27% on the above rate

3. Storage charges

For the first day, or portion thereof, and each subsequent day, or portion thereof, that the vehicle is impounded and stored:

(a) for vehicles up to and including 20 feet in length (6.1 m)……..$26.56

(b) for vehicles more than 20 feet in length (6.1 metres) up to and including 35 feet in length (10.7 metres)...…….$53.12

(c) for vehicles more than 35 feet in length (10.7 m) ……....$79.68

(d) for motorcycles ……$13.28

4. Other charges

(a)	discharge of any outstanding liens	$12.50-$26 per lien
(b)	registered owner search BC	$12.50 per search
(c)	registered owner search outside BC	$12.50 -$19.00 per search
(d)	registered mail	$10.82
(e)	clearing of grey/black water tanks	$19.47

Schedule B

Impounding Expenses for Chattels

1. Removal Charges

(a) removal that requires one person and no special equipment $100.00

(b) removal that requires two people and no special equipment $200.00

(c) removal that requires more than two people, or special equipment, or both $300.00

(d) removal that requires the use of a towing service

……..the towing fees set out in section 1 of Schedule A apply

2. Storage Charges

For the storage of an impounded solid waste container, the charge for:

(a) the first day, or portion thereof, that the solid waste container is impounded shall be $8.00

(b) each day after the first day, or portion thereof, that the solid waste container remains impounded shall be.....$8.00