



**City of Philadelphia**

**Request for Information and Qualifications**

**Towing Pilot Project**

**Issued by:**

**The Office of the Director of Public Safety**

## **Request for Information and Qualifications (RFIQ): Towing Pilot Project**

This request for Information and Qualifications is being issued by the City of Philadelphia to assess whether a technological solution exists to the current legislative requirement that vehicles parked illegally on private lots, private property or driveways be ticketed prior to the tower removing the vehicle. The ticket serves as prima facie evidence of a violation, but often times requires the tower to wait extended periods of time for an available police officer to arrive on scene and issue the ticket.

The City of Philadelphia seeks to run a limited pilot program allowing towers to dispense with the requirement to call police to have them issue a ticket for a vehicle parked illegally on private lots, private property or driveways prior to being towed. The success of this program will determine if further legislative action is warranted.

In order to participate in the Pilot, Towers will be need to demonstrate - to a selection committee of City employees - that they are able to utilize such existing technology that will provide the same prima facie evidence of violation and the same indicia of reliability as a ticket issued by the Philadelphia Police Department. **This RFIQ will not result in a contract to provide any services to the City. A firm's response – or lack of a response – will not provide that firm with any advantage or disadvantage if there is a solicitation for services related to the Towing Pilot Project in the future.**

### **Background:**

The Philadelphia Code, Chapter 9 § 605 (11)(d) mandates that in order for a tower to tow a vehicle from a private lot, private property or driveway, the vehicle must first be ticketed for a violation. Towers must, therefore, contact the Philadelphia police to have the vehicle ticked prior to the tower removing the vehicle from the private lot, private property or driveway.

The ticket, issued by the Philadelphia Police Department, is prima facie evidence that the towed vehicle was parked illegally on a private lot, private property or driveway. The ticket also provides the owner of the towed vehicle with indicia of reliability that their vehicle was legitimately towed due to being parked in violation of a posted notice. The requirement that the tower contact the Philadelphia Police to have an officer dispatched to issue a ticket causes, at times, undue delay. These delays impact the towers, the police and the owners of the private property. Towers are required to wait, which causes delays and interruptions in their ability to provide services to other customers. Police officers dispatched to issue tickets would be better utilized on patrol, deterring crime and responding to emergency calls. Additionally, property owners are forced to wait while illegally parked vehicles block access to their property.

### **Qualifications:**

To be considered for the pilot program, towers need to demonstrate to a selection committee of City employees that they have the following capabilities:

Permanently affixed boom camera with a fish eye lens or similar device capable of capturing a panoramic view of the location, clearly depicting the vehicle in violation; Pictures need to be in color and have clear resolution 24 hours a day; GPS providing the date time and location of the violation; Tow vehicle tracking system that provides a detailed history of the tow vehicle's activity and boom operations; Data needs to be capable of being stored and transmitted to the Philadelphia Police Department in electronic format with an affidavit of violation for each incident of a tow from private lots, private property or driveways submitted.

The above mentioned criteria are not meant to be an exhaustive list of requirements that are needed to participate in the pilot. Tows are invited to present to the City any technological solutions that meet the requirements of this pilot- to provide prima facie evidence of a violation and to serve as an indicia of reliability that a vehicle was parked illegally on private lots, private property or driveways and dispense with the requirement that a police officer issue a ticket prior to the vehicle being towed.

Additionally, respondents to this RFIQ need to provide the following information:

- Name, street address, mailing address if different, e-mail address, telephone numbers and any web addresses
- A record of success: Years providing towing services; a list of all governmental entities the firm has contracted with to provide towing services; a list of all projects or programs the firm has participated in that are similar in scope to the Pilot noticed in this RFIQ. In addition, provide references that can attest to the firm's work in assisting governmental entities. The Firm shall provide 3 references that are current customers or were customers within the last 3 years. Reference information shall include: State/local government; point of contact name; point of contact title; phone number; e-mail address; number of years as a customer.
- **Trained and knowledgeable staff:** The respondent shall submit information, including resumes, regarding their staff's experience implementing projects governmental entities.

Based upon qualifications several firms will be invited to present information on their technical solutions alternative to issuing tickets for vehicles parked illegally on private lots, private property or driveways to City representatives in Center City Philadelphia. The presentations must be limited to only those topics identified in this RFIQ and the City will not entertain presentations that are focused upon marketing the presenting firm. At this time the City's sole interest is to collect information which may lead to the implementation of a limited pilot project.

Any costs associated with the presentations, including travel, are the sole responsibility of the selected respondents.

## **Time Line**

Responses may not exceed 5 pages and must be submitted electronically to Michael Resnick, Director of Public Safety at: [michael.resnick@phila.gov](mailto:michael.resnick@phila.gov) by 4 PM (EST) on Monday, December 19, 2011. The proposed timeline is below.

Responses from Firms	Monday, December 19, 2011, 4PM
Selection of Firms to Present	Monday, January 2, 2012
Presentations by Firms	Weeks of January 16 and 23, 2012