

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE
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Police Board Demands Towing Payments

Board President Acts on Promise to Seek Every Taxpayer Dollar Owed

In a November 25th letter to St. Louis Metropolitan Towing, The Board of Police Commissioners (“The Board”) for the Metropolitan Police Department of the City of St. Louis (“The Department”) demanded that the company pay \$453,508.50 owed to the Department and the City of St. Louis.

In September, Board President Col. Chris Goodson said “as for any contractually obligated payments the towing company did not make, and I want to be very clear about this—we will use every legal avenue possible to recover every taxpayer dollar that’s owed.” That month, the Department began reviewing towing records to determine the amount of payments that the Department and the City should have received from St. Louis Metropolitan Towing. The review, limited to the time period of August of 2006 through May of 2008, revealed a shortage in payments of \$332,166.50 to the City and \$121,342 to the Department. It is difficult to analyze arrears prior to August of 2006 because the government entity that stores computerized records necessary for such analysis purges those records after 24 months. In its letter to St. Louis Metropolitan Towing, the Board reserved all of its rights to at any point modify the monetary amount owed if additional information or records become available. The Department is currently researching methods of re-creating the data necessary to determine if additional monies are owed.

Board President Col. Chris Goodson said, “This money is owed to the City of St. Louis and the Metropolitan Police Department and we’ve made it clear that we expect it to be paid. If it isn’t, we will absolutely take the legal steps necessary to get it.” At the request of the Board, the Missouri State Auditor is conducting an audit of the Department, including the former towing contract.

The Department severed its relationship with St. Louis Metropolitan Towing on July 18th and now exclusively uses the towing services of the City of St. Louis.

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