
Attachments: city_of_saskatoon_transportation_committee.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Dubois, Bev (City Councillor) <Bev.Dubois@Saskatoon.ca>
Cc: Web E-mail - Councillor's Office <Councillors.Office@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: CYC Webform: Brad Stratychuk: Transportation Committee

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Friday, July 30, 2021 - 16:47

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Out of Office No

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City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Your Message

Inquiry Category Invite council to an event, speak at an event or request a meeting

Subject Transportation Committee

Message

Please see attached letter from the Roadside Responder's Association of Saskatchewan Inc

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Roadside Responders Association of Sask. Inc.

Box 7341

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 4J3

roadsideresponderssask@gmail.com

July 30th, 2021

City of Saskatoon

City of Saskatoon Transportation Committee

222 3rd Ave N

Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Councillors,

The Roadside Responders Association of Saskatchewan (the “Association”) is a membership comprised of towing and recovery operators throughout Saskatoon and the entire Province of Saskatchewan. The members of the Association purchase over 325 licence plates per year and employ over 275 workers in the professional towing industry in Saskatchewan. The Association's mandate is to work with our members throughout the City of Saskatoon (the “City”) and the province to promote ethical behaviour, safety, training, professionalism, and sustainable business practices. It also acts as a forum for the industry to engage directly with government agencies, both municipal and provincial, to continually improve the services/programs offered throughout Saskatchewan while maintaining consistency in services and fairness across the entire province.

With the upcoming meeting of the City's Transportation Committee fast approaching, our members wanted to draw your attention to several matters that we feel should be included in the discussions that take place.

Based on the Expression of Interest recently put out by the City, it is our understanding that consideration is being given to having the City's impound lot program put out to tender for a third-party operator to manage under contract with the City. It also put forward the potential to include SGI accident and impound work in addition to the City impound work. Our members believe it would be in the best interest of all parties involved if this work were managed by a professional towing operation to maintain accountability throughout the process – from point of pick up through to customer interaction and return or delivery of the vehicles. This would also allow the City to stop operating its own impound lot at a loss and provide the opportunity to re-purpose or sell the existing land and realize that revenue gain for use in its' budgets.

As per the SGI Vehicle Impound Program, a Garage Keeper designation is required to operate a vehicle storage facility which stores/holds individuals property; furthermore, in order to operate a compound facility the Garage Keeper must "own and operate Towing Equipment registered in the Province of Saskatchewan". SGI has set up the program in this manner as they control the pricing/costs for our industry for all services, towing and storage rates combined. Our members do not have the option or ability to modify these charges. Our industry negotiates with SGI for these rates and relies on the rates for both the towing services along with the storage services in order to operate professional and sustainable businesses. For this reason, our members become very concerned when the City (or any municipality) introduces the concepts of "revenue sharing".

Without the ability to increase rates to offset the revenue the City is asking to be shared, our members are directly impacted as the already thin margins make it very difficult, and in some cases impossible, for our members to continue to operate sustainably. Revenue sharing has the effect of reducing local services, eliminating jobs and potentially forcing some in our industry to permanently shut down operations. The other municipalities, as well as the City, who promote the idea of

revenue sharing or a similar payment structure, are in effect, auctioning off these storage contracts to the highest bidder (i.e., whomever agrees to share the most revenue with the cities). We are unaware of any other contracts administered by the City whereby a payment is required from the successful bidder in order to be awarded a contract. It is a conflict of interest and highly unethical in any setting.

Another important item our members would like to raise for consideration is related to the towing services required by the City for the City Police contract. A lot has changed in our City over the last 15-20 years and yet the towing services contract has remained relatively static throughout that timeframe. As an example, the population of Saskatoon has grown by well over 50,000 residents since 2001 and yet, there has been virtually no change to the list of necessary equipment required by a professional towing operation to service the City's requirements. There are far more passenger vehicles and recreational vehicles (such as camper trailers, boats, toy haulers, etc.), as well as substantially increased volumes of commercial trucks and equipment traffic of all kinds. There are those of us in our industry who have continued to invest in the necessary equipment, personnel, training and facilities with a focus to providing safe, reliable, sustainable and professional essential services to the municipalities we contract with for services. The only modification to the required equipment list under the City's contract over the last 20 years has been the addition of one light deck truck. Other than this change, the City contract still only requires six light duty tow trucks to administer this contract. This is unrealistic in today's day and age given the substantially increased population, traffic and types of motor vehicles and equipment on the road.

Finally, it should be mentioned that SGI is in the midst of developing a Master Services Agreement for the towing industry. Similar to the agreement created for the auto body industry previously, it will outline specific and minimum requirements that an accredited towing operation must meet in order to qualify to perform SGI related work. This agreement is being developed with the guidance/advise of our Association and is set to be signed and take effect for those in our industry who meet the requirements in January of 2022. This should be taken into consideration when reviewing requirements to perform towing/storage services for the City of Saskatoon and other municipalities going forward.

We agree with the City's determination to look towards the private sector to manage their impound services. Our industry members, with the ability to set fair and appropriate rates with the City, can take on the successful management of these services alongside the services we already provide. This will eliminate the risk as

well as the financial burden that has been a drain on City budgets. Our Associations goal with this letter is to highlight some of the key issues that we feel the committee needs to be aware of well ahead of any determination surrounding the direction of these upcoming RFQ's as they relate to Towing and Storage services in the future.

We would like to thank all the members of the committee for taking the time to review our letter and table discussions surrounding these issues. Local members of our association can be available at any point during the review process to answer further questions or add clarity to any points surrounding our industry or services provided. We would look forward to being part of the discussions and development of improved processes and contracts that would be beneficial for the City of Saskatoon as well as our industry members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

RRAS Board of Directors - Saskatoon Members

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