

RESOLUTION NO. 8590

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE CITY'S MASTER FEE SCHEDULE TO UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLE STORED AND IMPOUND RELEASE FEES, ESTABLISH SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FOR 30-DAY HOLD AND DUI-RELATED IMPOUNDS, AND PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 22850.5 authorizes cities to impose an administrative charge equal to their actual administrative costs relating to the removal, impound, storage, or release of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hawthorne currently assesses an Administrative Vehicle Stored/Impound Release Fee of One Hundred Two Dollars (\$102); and

WHEREAS, the administrative processing of stored and impounded vehicles requires staff time and resources, including verification of ownership, review of DMV records, confirmation of driver eligibility, insurance and registration verification, statutory compliance review, documentation processing, and coordination with tow operators; and

WHEREAS, vehicles impounded pursuant to California Vehicle Code Sections 14602.6 and 23109.2 (30-Day Holds), as well as vehicles impounded due to DUI-related enforcement actions, require enhanced administrative review, supervisory oversight, statutory tracking, hardship hearing processing, and additional compliance measures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the current administrative fee no longer reflects the City's fully burdened cost of providing impound processing and release services, resulting in partial cost recovery and subsidy from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that updating the Master Fee Schedule to reflect reasonable administrative cost recovery is consistent with fiscal responsibility and regional benchmarking among comparable jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that implementation of an annual cost-of-living adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index will maintain alignment between administrative costs and established fees without requiring frequent amendments to the Master Fee Schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Amendment to Master Fee Schedule

The City of Hawthorne Master Fee Schedule is hereby amended to establish the following administrative vehicle release fees:

1. **Standard Administrative Stored/Impound Release Fee:** Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)
2. **30-Day Hold Administrative Release Fee (CVC §§ 14602.6 and 23109.2):** Three Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$325.00)
3. **DUI-Related Administrative Release Fee:** Three Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$325.00)

These administrative fees are separate from towing and storage charges assessed by the City's contracted tow operator.

SECTION 2. Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Beginning July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the administrative vehicle release fees established herein shall be adjusted based upon the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Area, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Fee adjustments shall:

- Be rounded to the nearest whole dollar;
- Not require reduction if the CPI reflects a decrease; and
- Be implemented administratively by the Finance Director consistent with this Resolution.

SECTION 3. Waiver Requirement

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 22850.5, administrative costs shall be waived upon verifiable proof that the vehicle was reported stolen at the time it was removed.

SECTION 4. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect thirty (30) days following adoption to allow for administrative implementation, public notification, and coordination with the City's contracted tow operator.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 10th day of March, 2026.

ALEX VARGAS, Mayor
City of Hawthorne, California

ATTEST:

DAYNA WILLIAMS-HUNTER, City Clerk
City of Hawthorne, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID CACERES, City Attorney
City of Hawthorne, California