

ORDINANCE 2022-04

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 8, ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORAGE,” SECTION 8-7 “RULES AND REGULATIONS” OF THE “REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY,”

WHEREAS, the existing regulations of the Borough of Hightstown (the “Borough”) as pertains to rules and regulations for towing companies are set forth in Chapter 8 entitled “Towing and Storage,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey,” and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to make certain revisions thereto relating to Chapter 8 Section 8-7.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 8, entitled “Towing and Storage,” Section 8-7 entitled “Rules and Regulations” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey,” is hereby amended and supplemented in the following limited respects (deletions are shown with ~~strikeout~~, additions are shown with underline):

Section 8-7 Rules and Regulations.

a. All towing services placed on the towing list shall be available to respond to a call in accordance with the towing rotation schedule of on-call status established by the Chief of Police.

b. All towing services shall respond to a call in any part of the Borough within twenty (20) minutes. If a towing service does not respond within twenty (20) minutes of a call, the towing service next on the list shall be called and entitled to provide services as needed, and the first towing service shall lose any claim to compensation.

c. All drivers and operators of towing vehicles shall be properly licensed to operate a motor vehicle within the State of New Jersey and are subject to driver’s license checks by the Borough police department at the time of registration and at least on a bi-annual basis thereafter. All towing vehicles shall be properly registered and inspected in accordance with any applicable law.

d. All vehicles must be towed in a safe manner.

e. All towing services shall be capable of providing reasonable roadside services to disabled vehicles such as, but not limited to, jump-starting, changing of flat tires, vehicle lockouts and providing fuel. Such services will only be performed if they can be done so safely, as determined by the police officer on the scene. The fees charged for these services shall be in accordance with this chapter.

f. All towing services shall make available a copy of its basic rates and a business card to all owners and operators of motor vehicles which will be towed.

g. All towing services shall keep accurate records of all motor vehicles towed and stored at the direction of the Borough police department. A copy of such records shall be provided to the Borough upon request.

h. Towing services shall not remove any motor vehicle which has been abandoned or involved in an accident in any public roadway without first notifying the Borough police department.

i. The police department shall not call a towing service to remove a vehicle from private property. The police department shall provide the property owner with all available information regarding the ownership of the motor

vehicle on their property, and the property owner will then be responsible for making their own arrangements to remove the vehicle.

j. The towing service shall notify the police department of all vehicles found by the towing service to have been abandoned and not claimed within fourteen (14) days after being stored. The police department shall, upon notification, expeditiously process the vehicle in accordance with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Code concerning abandoned and unclaimed motor vehicles.

k. An invoice and/or receipt shall be provided to the owner or operator of the towed vehicle indicating the amounts charged and the service provided, a copy of which shall be provided to the Hightstown Police Department and the Borough Administrator.

l. Towing service shall be in compliance with the State Affirmative Action statutes and rules.

m. Towing service must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

n. Towing service shall confirm that it is an independent contractor and does not represent or act for the Borough of Hightstown in any way.

o. All towing services authorized by the Borough of Hightstown must perform emergency roadside assistance when so requested by the Hightstown Police Department.

p. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the right of a motorist or vehicle operator to summon a tow operator of his or her own choosing, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-2.

q. The Borough of Hightstown shall not be liable for the cost of any services performed by the towing service unless those services are performed on borough vehicles.

(Ord. No. 2019-05)

Section 2. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Introduction: February 22, 2022

Adoption:

ATTEST:

MARGARET RIGGIO
MUNICIPAL CLERK

LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE
MAYOR