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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Cooperates with Department of Justice to Investigate Towing Company

DOJ Refrains from Serving City to Allow for Investigation of 3rd Party Vendor for Possible Violation of Servicemember Civil Relief Act

El Paso, Texas— The City of El Paso has been working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate United Road Towing Inc. and Rod Robertson Enterprises Inc. for allegedly violating the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

According to the DOJ lawsuit, United Road Towing Inc. and Rod Robertson Enterprises Inc. impounded and auctioned 176 vehicles owned by servicemembers without following the federal law outlined in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

As a result, the City began conducting its own audit/investigation via Police Department and Internal Auditor. As part of the process, the City with the approval of the City Council entered several agreements with the DOJ in October of 2022 which suspends the statute of limitations to allow the City to complete its investigations.

Background

The City of El Paso contracts with third-party vendors to operate the Municipal Vehicle Storage Facility impound lot. The City had contracts with Rod Robertson Enterprises Inc. and currently has a contract with United Road Towing Inc.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure compliance with all of the laws related to the operation of the storage lot, both related to the impoundment, and in an auction.

An Army soldier alleged that her vehicle was improperly sold from the impound lot in 2020, and the DOJ initiated an investigation in 2020 with the cooperation of the City.

Upon finding out about the situation the City immediately stopped any auction where the contractors did not follow the proper processes and procedures.

While the City entered agreements with the DOJ, the vendors did not enter the agreements resulting in the DOJ filing the lawsuit. The DOJ has agreed to refrain from serving the City at this time to allow the City to continue the investigation.

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