

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Show Cause Hearings:

- Show Cause Hearings are to determine whether a vehicle was properly towed and impounded under the provision of Subtitle Divisions 10 and 18 of the County Code.
- This form entitles you to request a show cause hearing into the impoundment of your vehicle.
- If you elect to contest the impoundment, you will be required to appear and present testimony at the hearing.

Reclaiming your vehicle:

- If your vehicle has been impounded, please make every effort to retrieve it from storage as soon as possible. Impound/storage fees are incurred daily. Keep in mind, you may reclaim your vehicle at any time.
- By retrieving your vehicle, you do not forfeit your right to the hearing should you so request it and you may save yourself the additional assessment of storage fees and possibly other expenses if it is found that the tow/impoundment was legal.
- Not reclaiming your vehicle within 21 days after the impound notice being mailed, waives all the owners "right, title and interest in the vehicle" (Sec. 26-142.12).

The Hearing Officer:

- The Hearing Officer is only empowered to rule on whether or not the vehicle was legally towed and impounded (Sec. 26-142.10(c) and Sec. 26-169(c)).
- Should the Hearing Officer rule that your vehicle was towed without probable cause (illegally) you may be entitled to receive reimbursement for towing and storage fees already paid or a fraction thereof.
- Should the Hearing Officer determine there was probable cause (legally) for your vehicle being impounded, impound/storage fees paid will be upheld, and therefore forfeited.
- The decision of the Hearing Officer is final. That decision is in no way connected to any claims filed via Civil Court.

Probable Cause for Vehicular Impoundment:

- Abandoned vehicles are prohibited-
 - A vehicle is classified as abandoned if it is inoperable and left on public property; illegally on public property; displaying invalid registration plates; or displaying registration plates of another vehicle for more than 48 hours.
 - A vehicle is classified as abandoned if it has remained on private property for more than 48 hours and is inoperable; displaying invalid registration plates; displaying registration plates of another vehicle; or partially dismantled, wrecked or junked.
- Impoundment without prior notice to the owner. Vehicles can be impounded without prior notice to the owner if it is impeding traffic flow (vehicular/pedestrian traffic flows); illegally parked; imposes an immediate danger to public safety; when a police officer believes vehicle may be stolen; when a police officer believes vehicle constitutes evidence of a crime; when the operator of vehicle has been taken into custody; parked in a reserved parking space in violation of Sec. 26-129 or parked on private property in violation of Sec. 26-142.01; or when a vehicle is classified abandoned.

Please let The Office of Boards and Commissions know how to best meet your needs as they will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making "reasonable accommodations" to promote and encourage your participation.

The Office of Boards and Commissions
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite #500; Largo, MD 20774
301-883-6210