

MOTION PUBLIC SAFETY

When a vehicle is impounded in the City of Los Angeles, it is stored at an Official Police Garage (OPG) until the owner of the vehicle retrieves it. In most cases when retrieving an impounded vehicle, the owner must pay any fees for storage that have accumulated while the vehicle was in the possession of the OPG. If an owner of an impounded vehicle does not retrieve their vehicle in a timely manner, the OPG may auction it off to recover part of their expenses.

However, some individuals have discovered a loophole where instead of paying the fees required to release their vehicle from impound, they wait until it comes up for auction and purchase it back for a lower amount than they owe. Many other cities across the United States do not allow the previous owner of a vehicle to purchase it during auction, and similarly, the Department of the Treasury prohibits individuals from purchasing their seized property back at auction. Allowing an individual to purchase their vehicle during an auction instead of paying the fees they owe defeats the purpose of impounding vehicles, which is to deter the type of behavior or criminal acts that resulted in the vehicle being impounded in the first place. The City of Los Angeles should enact an ordinance to close this loophole.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance that would prohibit previous owners of seized or impounded vehicles from purchasing their impounded or seized vehicles back during auction.

PRESENTED BY Joe Buscaino
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