Should Tow Trucks Be Licensed?

- 2007- staff were directed by Council to investigate possibly licensing tow trucks & include roadside service providers
- Comprehensive investigation included stakeholder consultation
  - Revealed valid public interest to require trucks & drivers be licensed
Staff Recommendation

- License tow trucks & drivers
- Not include roadside assistance providers (operations ie battery boosting, tire repairs already associated with tow truck operations or existing public garage licenses)
- 0.60 FTE required for enforcement & admin support prior to preparing by-law amendments

Financial

- 0.60 FTE required for enforcement & admin
- Approx 100 tow trucks in Hamilton
- Program could be cost recovery at;
  - $350.00 per vehicle &
  - $90.00 per driver yearly
- Fees in line with taxi plate renewal & operator licences;
  - $461.00 per plate renewal year
  - $75.00 per for driver yearly
**Purposes for Municipal License**

- **Consumer Protection**
  - currently no complaint process
- **Public Safety**
  - stranded consumers approached by unknown individuals in unmarked trucks
  - no vehicle/equipment standards, no criminal record checks for drivers
- **Nuisance Control**
  - vehicles being towed to unknown, unregulated compounds

**Tow Truck Licensing Category**

- Each tow truck & driver licensed
- Yearly inspection of vehicle/equipment
- Complaint process for public
- Use "show cause" hearings to resolve non-compliance issues
Tow Truck Licensing Category

Requirements
- Tariffs (rate card)
- Written estimates
- Identification of vehicles (marked on trucks)
- Identification of storage yard location
- Identification of owner (name/contact #)
- Owners management of their staff

Questions ???