



# City Council Communication

**AGENDA DATE:** December 15, 2025    **LEGISTAR ITEM #:** Ord 2752

**PRESENTER:** Darrel Guadnola    **DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
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## REQUEST

Adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 11, Article III, to authorize the impoundment of vehicles stopped by the Police Department where the Officer has probable cause that the operator does not have a valid driver's license, the vehicle is not properly registered, and the vehicle does not have insurance as required by law.

## BACKGROUND

In a study session, on February 24, 2025, City Council expressed a desire for City staff to prepare an ordinance similar to the City of Aurora's ordinance, requiring the Police Department to impound vehicles operating on the roads in Commerce City, when officers have probable cause that the operator does not have a valid driver's license, the vehicle is not properly registered, and the vehicle does not have insurance as required by law.

The City Council's primary focus was on considerations related to public safety and the inherent dangers and risks to the community in allowing a vehicle to be driven on the City's roadways when all three conditions exist. City Council recognized that unlicensed drivers may lack the skills to drive safely and may lack essential knowledge related to traffic laws. Council also acknowledged that unlicensed drivers may have had their license suspended because of too many points or because of driving under the influence or other unsafe driving.

Before proceeding with the introduction of this ordinance, the City needed sufficient resources available to both tow vehicles and to store such vehicles until owners could provide proof that such vehicles are properly registered, insured, and that the operators of such vehicles have valid driver's license. The City now has secured additional towing contracts and is in a position to move forward with the ordinance.

## CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

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### JUSTIFICATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goal	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
Public Safety	Colorado Revised Statute § 42-2-101, requires operators of motor vehicles to be licensed. Colorado Revised Statute § 42-3-103 requires motor vehicles to have license plates. Colorado Revised Statute § 42-4-1409 requires motor vehicles to have insurance.		

### AVAILABLE ACTIONS

- Available Action #1: Approve a resolution adopting ordinance 2752 amending Chapter 11, Article III, to impound vehicles stopped by Police where the Officer has probable cause that the operator does not have a valid driver's license, the vehicle is not properly registered, and the vehicle does not have insurance as required by law.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Available Action #1.