



**APPLETON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
COMPASSION ★ INTEGRITY ★ COURAGE

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To: Alder Chris Croatt – Chair, Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Chief Polly Olson

Re: Action Item – Safety and Licensing Committee

Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Recommendation to create City Ordinance Authorizing Impoundment of Vehicles Used in Reckless Driving Offenses

Our community has expressed growing concern about reckless driving, including excessive speed, racing, ignoring traffic controls, and aggressive behavior. Despite increased enforcement efforts, offenders often flee, making intervention difficult. The proposed ordinance would authorize law enforcement to impound vehicles used in reckless driving under Wis. Stat. § 349.115, as amended by 2025 Wisconsin Act 46.

Impoundment offers immediate intervention by removing vehicles that pose a risk to public safety, something citations alone may not achieve. Defined procedures for impoundment, notice, release, and disposal will ensure transparency and consistency. Stolen vehicles are exempt from fees and returned to owners without charge, and vehicles are released promptly once legal requirements are met, as this process is intended to be corrective rather than punitive.

This measure aims to improve public safety, deter dangerous driving, and provide officers with an effective enforcement tool while remaining fully compliant with state law. Other municipalities have successfully implemented similar ordinance enhancements to address these issues.

This ordinance provides a lawful, balanced, and effective approach to improving traffic safety, supporting law enforcement operations, and advancing Appleton's commitment to proactive public safety.

Respectfully,

Chief Polly Olson

Appleton Police Department