

Information Item

Date: October 9, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Patrice Toney, Interim City Manager
Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
William Penn, Police Chief

Subject:
Information Regarding the Winston-Salem Police Department's Vehicle Evidence Storage Facility

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community
Strategic Objective: Improve Public Safety Service Quality
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



The deterioration of the Winston-Salem Police Department's impound lot, located at 4011 Old Milwaukee Lane, has become a safety concern for employees and citizens. This lot was once shared with the City's Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement but is now solely utilized by WSPD. As this land was formerly used as a landfill in the 1960's, the settling and shifting of the lot has created numerous challenges with access, storage, and safety. The department stores vehicles and gas-powered equipment seized during criminal investigations at this location until they are eligible for disposal. Currently, there are 265 vehicles on the lot and 156 other gas-powered items (mopeds, golf carts, generators, backpack blowers, trailers, lawn mowers, etc.). Staff will provide pictures that show the current condition of the lot at the Public Safety Committee meeting.

City Real Estate personnel have searched for available space to suit the needs of such a storage lot; however, they have met with negative results. The following list provides a profile of the land needed, as well as other specifications required to operate a new impound lot.

- Flat land
- Space for 400 vehicles
- Power (no water/sewer)
- Electric fence
- Chain link fence with visual barrier and razor wire
- Small, enclosed building for hand-held items
- Robust camera system
- Exterior lighting
- Swinging gates with padlock (no electric gate)
- Numbered spaces
- Limited foot traffic but not isolated
- Internet capabilities

City staff plan to retain a real estate broker to identify potential areas for purposes of relocating the impound lot. If a viable property is identified, staff will provide an update to the City Council to seek guidance on next steps. Currently, staff have not identified funding for the acquisition and development of a new lot.