



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Roy Newton
Chief of Police

Thomas Wirsing
Deputy Chief of Operations

Joe Grage
Deputy Chief of Administrative Services



TO: Chief Newton

FROM: Deputy Chief Grage

DATE: 02/21/20

SUBJECT: Public Safety and Transportation Committee Agenda Informational
Item: Barnacle Immobilization Device

As of this date, the Village has \$376,609 in unpaid/uncollected parking fines from 2015-2020. As you may recall, we revitalized our vehicle immobilization program several years ago in order to recover some of these unpaid fines. We successfully recovered thousands of dollars in fines using the traditional vehicle “boot” immobilizers since that time. One of the challenges in administering this program is the nature of these traditional vehicle immobilizers. They are understandably made of heavy steel and can be difficult to put on the vehicles in some instances. We have run into situations involving the locks on these devices freezing during winter which resulted in us damaging or heating up the locks to remove them once the appropriate fines and fees have been paid. There are also safety issues involved, since officers may be out in traffic while attaching the devices and can be vulnerable to being struck by vehicle or an attack by an angry vehicle owner.

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This past November, myself and the community service officers in on a demonstration by a company named Barnacle. This company produces an immobilization device that attaches to a vehicle's windshield using suction in lieu of a heavy metal device on the tire.

With the Barnacle device, officers could attach the immobilizer to the windshield of the car in seconds. Once the owner of the vehicle returns to it, they cannot drive away because they will be unable to see in order to drive. If they attempt to do so, a GPS alarm is sent to the company and an alarm sounds on the device. The company will then notify police of the device's location. The device is also bright yellow and stands out clearly on a vehicle.

If an owner wishes to get the device removed, they call a phone number or pay online on their phone or mobile device. Once they pay, they will get a code to unlock the device from their windshield. They must then return the device to the police department within 24 hours or they are charged \$500 for the device. This is convenient for the vehicle owner and safer for the officer because we no longer would have to send officers out to remove the device.

Per Barnacle, this device has been successfully used nationwide in over 60,000 deployments. The devices are used locally by the Evanston Police Department, Berwyn Police Department, and Franklin Park Police Department. They will be used in the near future by the Hanover Park Police Department and Joliet Police Department.

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If the police department proceeds with this contact, Barnacle would charge \$50 per immobilization and 5% of any fee collected over \$150 using the phone service or website. This 5% would not apply in the vehicle owner pays in person at the police department. The bulk of the \$50 fee would be covered by the \$40 fee we already charge to immobilize a vehicle. Training to use the devices is also free and included.

The devices remain the property of Barnacle, so we do not have pay for any repairs or maintenance to them. Barnacle assumes all liability for vehicle damage as long as it is properly installed on the vehicle and documented with digital photos (we already do this).

No ordinance modifications are required to use the device. The Barnacle device's software recently integrated with our parking ticket software This will streamline the entire process to make it faster and more accurate.

Based on the above and in light of the budget shortfalls the Village is facing, I recommend signing an agreement to use the Barnacle device. I believe that this will assist in the recovery of the large amount of unpaid parking fines owned to the Village.

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DEPLOYED BARNACLE

