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Radcliff to drop program forcing some drivers to pay for assistance after accidents

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(WHAS11) - After complaints and legal fights, the city of Radcliff is dropping a program that forced some drivers to pay for fire and police assistance after a crash.

The idea was that people from out of town who got into a wreck in Radcliff would be assessed fees for police services and these were intended to be passed on to the drivers' insurance companies.



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The problem is, most insurance companies refused to pay, angry drivers flooded city halls with complaints and the money coming in didn't even cover the costs of running the program.

If you are in an accident, a police officer's help can be like a godsend.

Sarah Eggleston's wheelchair-bound father was in an accident recently.

"The cop helped him the whole time. Directed traffic, cleaned up the mess," she says.

But if you are from out of town and have a wreck in Radcliff and it's your fault, it's going to cost you.

For a minor accident that happened in late December, a Rineyville teenager was billed \$469.

The bill was for two police vehicles responding, a police station administration fee and police officers' time.

All billed by a company called Cost Recovery Corporation, which runs similar programs in cities nationwide for a 10% fee.

The collection is based on the concept that out of town drivers who cause wrecks don't pay for city services.

But Eggleston and others don't think the program passes the smell test.

Most insurance companies share the same thought, refusing to pay the bills submitted by Cost Recovery Corporation, then sending threatening letters to the drivers involved in the crash informing them they would be responsible.

It all added up to a lot of complaints, with very little money actually coming into the city.

So if you are from out of town and have to drive through Radcliff between now and when the contract ends June 1st, be careful, or be ready to pay.

During the first ten months, the program brought in less than \$6,900, which is less that city officials say the program costs to set up and administer.

Other nearby cities have rejected similar contracts with Cost Recovery Corporation.