

**REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

DATE: July 22, 2014

SUBJECT: RECONSIDERATION OF INCREASE TO SELECTED PARKING FINES

Report in Brief

At the July 8, 2014 council meeting Council Member Dan Helix requested information from staff to allow for reconsideration of increases to select parking fines approved at the June 24, 2014 budget hearing.

Background

At the June 3, 2014 budget workshop Council Member Edi Birsan requested examination of the possibility of increasing parking fines. The request was to explore increasing parking fines to be the highest in the County. Staff provided a memo at the June 24, 2014 budget hearing outlining the level of select fines in the County. With a 5-0 vote, Council approved increases to select parking fines. At the July 8, 2014 council meeting Council Member Helix requested information from staff to allow for reconsideration of the parking fine increases.

Discussion

The Parking Services Unit looked at a variety of cities in Contra Costa County regarding parking fines. In order to remain consistent, staff looked at the most common offenses and the fine amounts attached to that violation. They also looked at the cities geographically closest to Concord and those cities closest in population.

Prior to fine increases in the FY15 budget, Concord was higher than the average in four out of the seven major parking offenses. These four sections (handicapped, blocking wheelchair access, expired tabs and time zone/meter violation) are the more serious parking violations and are not area/neighborhood specific. The remaining three sections (parked in a street/ alley, posted no-parking or red zone and marked curb parking) tend to be more area specific (i.e., in downtown, near BART, etc.). Parking fines were last increased during the fiscal year 2014 budget process and effective in July 2013.

Section 40203.5.a states the following: "The schedule of parking penalties for parking violations and late payment penalties shall be established by the governing body of the jurisdiction where the notice of

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violation is issued. To the extent possible, issuing agencies within the same county shall standardize parking penalties.”

At the July 24, 2014 budget hearing, Council approved raising select parking fines so Concord was equivalent to the highest fine amounts in the County. None of the surveyed cities raised their parking fines for FY15. Attached is a breakout of parking fines by city. Below is a table comparing FY14 fines, FY15 fines (as recently set by Council). FY14 fines if they had been increased with a 2.8% inflation factor, and the average from other surveyed cities.

Description	Concord FY14	Concord FY15 Approved	FY14 Fines w Inflation Rate	Average Surveyed Cities *
Handicapped Parking	\$ 325.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 334.10	\$ 285.00
Blocking Wheelchair Access	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 334.10	\$ 238.00
Expired Registration Tabs (Period of Display)	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 66.82	\$ 43.00
Time Zone (or Meter) Violation	\$ 40.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 41.12	\$ 38.00
Parked Vehicle in Street/Alley over 72 Hours	\$ 40.00	\$ 64.00	\$ 41.12	\$ 44.00
Posted No Parking or Red Curb	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 41.12	\$ 44.00
Violation of Marked Curb Parking	\$ 40.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 41.12	\$ 41.00

Possible Council Actions

1. Council could affirm the increases already made to the five fines, as marked in green above.
2. Council could revert the five fines back to the FY 2014 fine amounts.
3. Council could set the five fines at the level shown in the column adjusted for inflation.
4. Council could set the five fines to the average of Concord’s comparable cities.

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Fiscal Impact

The fine increase approved by Council at the June 24, 2014 budget hearing would increase parking fine revenue approximately \$100,000 annually. This revenue increase was not built in to the adopted budget because the change was made after revenue estimates were established for the budget.

Public Contact

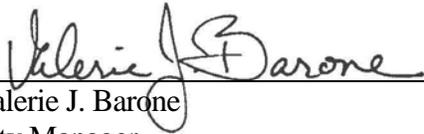
Posting of the Council Agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Provide direction to staff that defines which of the four alternative actions the Council desires to take.

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Attachment 1 – Parking Fines for Surveyed Cities
Attachment 2 – Recap of City of Concord Fines

Concord PD Parking Fines Compared to Other County Cities

June 2014

Central County

Description	Concord FY14
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Pleasant Hill

Walnut Creek

Clayton

Danville

Pittsburg

Antioch

Brentwood

Richmond

El Cerrito

Average *

Handicapped Parking	\$ 325.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 308.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 281.00	\$ 253.00	\$ 350.00		\$ 285.00
Blocking Wheelchair Access	\$ 325.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 308.00	\$ 285.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 253.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 238.00
Expired Registration Tabs (Period of Display)	\$ 65.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 53.00			\$ 43.00
Time Zone (or Meter) Violation	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 46.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 38.00
Parked Vehicle in Street/Alley over 72 Hours	\$ 40.00	\$35.00	\$ 45.00		\$ 35.00		\$ 41.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 44.00
Posted No Parking or Red Curb	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 44.00
Violation of Marked Curb Parking	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 46.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 41.00

Notes:

* Average fine amount does not include the City of Concord fines.

None of the surveyed cities increase their fines in Fiscal Year 2015

Fines highlighted in yellow are higher than the City of Concord

If the amount is blank, there is no information available from that municipality or the applicable section does not exist in that city.

Concord PD Parking Fines Compared to Other County Cities

June 2014

Description	Concord FY14	Concord FY15 Approved	FY14 Fines w Inflation Rate	Average Surveyed Cities *	Staff Recommended FY15
Handicapped Parking	\$ 325.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 334.10	\$ 285.00	\$ 325.00
Blocking Wheelchair Access	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 334.10	\$ 238.00	\$ 325.00
Expired Registration Tabs (Period of Display)	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 66.82	\$ 43.00	\$ 65.00
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Notes:

* Inflation rate 2.8%