

To: Mayor Sam Kooser

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

From: Fran Cersusio

Co Owner of Magui Moments Bridal

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Was very disturbed when I read in the Journal the proposed changes in parking tickets in the downtown area. Maybe you don't realize parking is a big problem for my customers and for employees who work downtown. We have a parking pass we have to share as there are no available spaces left in the lot, in fact it is overbooked and we sometimes have to park a block further away. We do get tickets and \$5 is reasonable but \$10 or more will add up. I have been at the main street location for 16 yrs and have seen many business move or close their doors. Main street square while a great idea for our citizens or guests, isn't helping actually hurting many businesses. Please don't raise the tickets. We don't want our customers going elsewhere.

Thank You, Fran Cersusio

ESCALATING FINES INFORMATION

2011 ALL VIOLATIONS

13,019 CARS RECEIVED 1 TICKET
2,561 CARS RECEIVED 2 TICKETS
999 CARS RECEIVED 3 TICKETS
1,369 CARS RECEIVED 4 OR MORE TICKETS

Cars with 1, 2, or 3 tickets account for 21,138 tickets out of the 32,791 tickets that were issued in 2011.

Cars with 4 or more tickets would then have to account for the remaining 11,653, which is an average of 8.5 per car.

2011 OVERTIME METERS AND 2-HOUR VIOLATIONS

10,068 CARS RECEIVED 1 TICKET
2,046 CARS RECEIVED 2 TICKETS
833 CARS RECEIVED 3 TICKETS
1,209 CARS RECEIVED 4 OR MORE TICKETS

Cars with 1, 2, or 3 tickets account for 16,659 tickets out of the 28,322 tickets that were issued in 2011 for overtime at a meter or in a 2-hour time zone.

Cars with 4 or more tickets would then have to account for the remaining 11,663, which is an average of 9.6 per car.

180 DAYS OVERTIME METERS AND 2-HOUR VIOLATIONS (JULY 5 – DECEMBER 31, 2011)

5,495 CARS RECEIVED 1 TICKET
987 CARS RECEIVED 2 TICKETS
409 CARS RECEIVED 3 TICKETS
543 CARS RECEIVED 4 OR MORE TICKETS

Cars with 1, 2, or 3 tickets account for 8,696 tickets out of the 13,544 tickets that were issued in 2011 for overtime at a meter or in a 2-hour time zone.

Cars with 4 or more tickets would then have to account for the remaining 4,848, which is an average of 8.9 per car.

I looked up 24 random cars that I knew were habitual offenders. These cars had a total of 1,291 tickets issued to them. Therefore, I don't think it is out of line to say that 1,369 cars had 4 or more tickets.

Taking the total number of tickets issued in a 180 day period times \$5.00 you get \$67,720. If you work through the tickets at a graduated fine system of the first ticket being a courtesy and then going to \$5.00, then \$15.00, and then \$25.00 you get \$104,450. It is hard to tell how accurate this is. If this was put into place, the parking pattern of people would probably change.

I heard back from Cardinal Traking. Switching from version 8 to 9 will not affect the escalating fines.

Here is some information from different cities on how they deal with their fines:

Billings, MT:

First – courtesy; Second - \$5; Third - \$10; Fourth or more subsequent citations - \$20
If fewer than 30 days have elapsed between the issuance of the first citation and the issuance of the present citation, the fine will escalate from the previous citation as provided above. When 30 days or more have elapsed from the issuance of the first citation, the fine for the present citation shall become the first citation and the above escalation provisions shall apply.

Sarasota, FL

They do not have escalating fines. Their tickets are \$25 and then they have a habitual offender fine. "In addition to the parking fine otherwise set forth in this section, habitual parking violators receiving three (3) or more tickets for parking violations described in this article with any 30-day period, for each citation above three (3) issued to the same violator within any 60-day period\$35"

Cheyenne, WY

Courtesy, \$10, \$20, \$40. Fines start again at \$0 at the expiration of each 6 month period from the date of the first violation.

Aberdeen, SD

They do not have escalating fines, but they do have a different way of dealing with certain vehicles. After the first ticket of the day, if a car does not move they write it a new ticket every hour. The second one doubles from the first ticket, then they go to \$20, \$30, and then \$35, not to exceed \$100 in a given day.

Ft. Collins, CO

The amount of the fine is determined by the number of tickets received in a 180-day period. Once you receive your first free warning, your 180-day period begins. 180 consecutive days without a ticket must be accumulated to get another "free" ticket. This

schedule is only for overtime tickets and does not include red zones, accessible parking violations or other restricted violations.

First = Warning or Free
Second = \$10
Third = \$20
Fourth or more = \$50

Bismarck, ND

I could not find a lot of details on this, but they do have a 180-day period with fines going from free, \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50

A couple questions:

What to do if a handheld is not working? Cheyenne, WY, has this written in their ordinance:

"In the event automated enforcement is inoperable, the fine for overstaying time will be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per violation."

It could happen where one of us writes a vehicle a ticket and then that vehicle moves to someone else's area and receives another ticket. Our handhelds do not talk to each other, so the second ticket would not escalate.

If a car sits in one spot without moving or even if it moves but you know you already wrote it that day, would the fine escalate?

If we are worried about a loss of revenue, there are other ways to bring in more revenue. The following information shows other violations and the fine amounts other cities charge:

Loading Zone: 534 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, 25, and 35
Alley: 53 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, 25, and 35
No Parking Zone: 12 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, 20, and 25
Parked Against Traffic Flow: 19 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, 20, and 25
Parked on/Blocking Sidewalk: 24 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, and 25
Parked Over Line: 740 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10 and 15
Yellow Zones: 126 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 10, 15, and 25
Fire Lane: 0 tickets in 2011, we charge \$10, Other cities charge 10, 35, 50, and 100
Fire Hydrant: 3 tickets in 2011, we charge \$5, Other cities charge 15, 25, 40, 50, and 100

These numbers are tickets written in the downtown area by parking enforcement. There are a lot more written by our Accident Investigators and Patrol Officers. If the fines for

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY ASPECT

- 90 DAY (QUARTERLY)
- CARPOOL TICKET

these violations were increased, once we got new manual tickets there would be more income.

Another possible source of revenue would be to raise the boot fine. The boot fine is \$50 and has been for at least 15 years. Last year we booted 251 cars. A raise in this fine would place the burden directly on the habitual offenders.