

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 19, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 77 : POSSIBLE INCREASE OF POLICE FINES AND PARKING FINES

This memo is in response to a question from Councilman Krupicka inquiring as to whether or not the City of Alexandria could increase Police fines and a question from Council inquiring as to possible additional revenues from increasing the fines on parking violations from \$35 to \$40.

Police Fines

After consultation with the Commonwealth's Attorney, the City Attorney's Office, and the General District Court, staff determined that only one fine could be increased in the City Code. City ordinance sets a fine of \$50 for HOV violations and Virginia statutes sets the fine for violations at \$100. However, this would not generate additional revenue as the General District Court imposes the higher fine set by the Commonwealth. This issue should be resolved by asking the City Attorney to prepare the necessary ordinance to amend the City Code to match Commonwealth statutes. Other criminal and civil fines in the City Code are set at the maximum amount allowed under Commonwealth statutes and authorizing legislation. The City cannot increase fines beyond those amounts set in Commonwealth of Virginia statute.

Parking Fines

Parking fines relating to meter violations in the City of Alexandria are currently \$35. Fines for the same violations are currently set at \$25 in Arlington County and \$50 in Fairfax County. The following chart shows the revenue generated from these parking meter violation fines during calendar year 2009 at the current \$35 level.

CY 2009 Meter Violations			
# Meter Violations	Fine	Revenue	Change in Revenue
	\$35	\$647,290	-
18,494	\$40	\$739,760	\$92,470
	\$50	\$924,700	\$277,410

Increasing fines for parking meter violations to \$40 in CY 2009 would have resulted in additional revenues of \$92,470. A \$50 fine would have yielded \$277,410 in additional revenues. Even though higher fines would generate more revenue, they would likely result in increased appeals of the tickets so additional revenues would probably be less than the change in revenues shown on the chart.

Parking violation fine revenues collected in CY 2009 totaled \$3,214,269. If all fines were set at a minimum of \$50, the City would have collected revenues \$4,065,700, an increase of \$851,431.