



Staff Report

June 7, 2021 Council Regular Meeting

Parking Infraction Penalty

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Phone	Email
360.817.7899	swall@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: Camas Municipal Code Section 10.08.060 (Violation – Penalty) requires that the penalty for all general parking infractions within the City is \$15. This penalty has been in effect since at least 2010 when Ordinance 2589 was adopted. Earlier this year, the City Council requested that Staff review the Parking Infraction Penalty and bring a discussion to the City Council.

Staff previously reviewed the parking infraction penalty with the Parking Committee in January 2020. Though it was not specifically asked for at the time, the Committee recommended the penalty be increased to \$30 per infraction. Due to COVID and other factors, this recommendation was never brought before the City Council.

In February 2021, the Downtown Camas Association (DCA) submitted a letter to the City's Parking Advisory Committee (attached for reference) requesting the Committee review the current penalty and consider the option of a tiered structure where the penalty for each vehicle increases with each infraction.

SUMMARY: The Parking Advisory Committee reviewed the parking infraction penalty, including the proposal by the DCA, at its May 11, 2021 meeting. The Committee discussed the information available and made a motion recommending that Council consider revising the current parking infraction penalty language in the Camas Municipal Code to include a tiered structure by which the penalty increases with each additional infraction. The Parking Committee did not suggest any amounts to be used for each tier and felt that was something for the City Council to determine with input from staff.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

- Respond to Council's request of bringing forward a discussion regarding the current parking infraction penalty and to receive general direction on Council's preference regarding the penalty. If desired, staff would bring an ordinance forward for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

- Staff has not yet collected relevant data related to the cost of parking infractions in other communities as they might compare to Camas. This work would be completed should Council wish to proceed with revising the penalty.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

- Input from the Downtown Camas Association has been received. The City has not received any additional formal input regarding the penalty; however, there may be opportunities to do that prior to bringing forward an Ordinance for consideration.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

- There are some that believe downtown businesses will benefit from increasing the parking infraction penalty as it will encourage employees to park farther away from the Downtown core, leaving spaces open for patrons. Alternatively, there is a perception by some that issuing parking infractions in general is seen as a negative factor for visitors to the City.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

- Review of the initial proposal to increase the parking infraction penalty with the Parking Advisory Committee, further discussion with the City Council, and opportunities for the public to comment at Council meetings are all intended to reduce or mitigate any unintended consequences.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

- N/A

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

- N/A

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

- There will be political hurdles to overcome as there are businesses, patrons and citizens that all have varying opinions on what should be done regarding parking downtown.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

- N/A

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

- N/A

BUDGET IMPACT: Increasing the parking infraction penalty and/or implementing a tiered structure by which the penalty increases with each ticket could have the potential to slightly increase revenues under Fines and Forfeitures. However, there is also the potential for a slight increase in administration time needed to process the penalties and follow through on reporting to the State of Washington those that do not pay.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff is seeking direction from Council regarding the desire to draft an Ordinance revising the Parking Infraction Penalty and what structure Council prefers – flat rate vs. tiered.