

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** June 26, 2025

**From:** Finance Department

**Subject:** FY 2025-26 Bail Schedule

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**Recommended Action:** Conduct the duly noticed public hearing and adopt a resolution repealing Resolution No. 4233.1 and approving the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bail Schedule.

**Background:** A regular update of the City's Bail Schedule, the official list of fines for local violations, is necessary to maintain a schedule that is consistent with the Capitola Municipal Code. New ordinances must be reviewed and incorporated to ensure the Bail Schedule reflects the City's current code. This schedule must also be kept up to date for the Capitola Police Department to accurately process citations of code violations and for the use of the Santa Cruz County Court database.

State law requires the City to conduct a public hearing where testimony can be taken before any fees are added or existing fees are altered.

**Discussion:** Staff is proposing streamlining the City's Bail Schedule, creating a tiered penalty structure for most Municipal Code violations. The purpose of streamlining the schedule is to make an easier-to-read version for the public that will be available for public review on our website. The proposed changes to the schedule result in similar penalty amounts for similar violations, while remaining consistent with fines assessed by other local jurisdictions.

It is important to remember that once infractions are sent to the Santa Cruz County Superior Court, fines are added so that violators ultimately pay a higher price than the City's base bail. Generally, the base bail listed is what the City of Capitola receives as the citing agency.

The full Bail Schedule, redlined to show changes, is attached to this report as an exhibit to the resolution (Attachment 1). While most fees that are not specifically identified in the Capitola Municipal Code have been placed into one of four tiers, it should be noted that parking violations have been increased from \$36 to \$65, as allowed by State law. All fees in the bail schedule are based on the cost of delivering services while fines are consistent with the Eighth Amendment as well as other agencies within the region.

The streamlined version of the Bail Schedule, which will be available on the City's website upon adoption, is included as Attachment 2. Once adopted, the full list will be provided to the Police Department and Santa Cruz County Courts for reference.

**Fiscal Impact:** None at this time, staff will be evaluating fee revenue during the mid-year budget review and recommend budget amendments, if any, at that time.

### Attachments:

1. Resolution (with Proposed FY 2025-26 Bail Schedule attached as Exhibit A)

2. Website version of Bail Schedule
3. Bail Schedule comparison

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Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager