

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	October 21, 2013
Action Required:	Resolution
Presenter:	Maurice Jones, City Manager
Staff Contacts:	Jason Vandever, City Treasurer Tim Longo, Chief of Police
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Parking Ticket Waiver Program</b>

**Background:**

In June of 2013, City Council voted to have an increased overtime parking fine of \$20 added to City Code. As part of that discussion, Council requested City staff to research the possibility of implementing a waiver program for first time offenders parking in the downtown corridor. There are several entities in Virginia with a waiver program, including the University of Virginia and the City of Fredericksburg.

**Discussion:**

Staff believes that the most effective method of implementing a waiver program would be to grant one-time waivers for first time offenders administratively through the current appeals process. Often, the Treasurer's Office or Police Department receives phone calls and inquiries from citizens and visitors who were issued tickets in areas where they did not understand the parking regulations. Under this proposal, the driver will be encouraged to appeal the ticket, writing an explanation of the situation to the Parking Ticket Appeals Review Board. Additionally, language will be added to the parking ticket notifying drivers that they may qualify for a one-time waiver if this is their first ticket. The officer reviewing the ticket would verify that they met pre-determined criteria and a waiver would be granted. Three years of ticket history would be reviewed when making this determination. The program would primarily target overtime parking violations in the downtown corridor, and would take approximately three months to implement.

**Community Engagement:**

The Parking Fines increase and the possibility of a waiver program were considered as part of our public discussions of the budget. Additionally, the Council has received communications from a number of Downtown business owners who are supportive of a waiver program.

**Alignment with City Council's Vision and Priority Areas:**

**Economic Sustainability**

Our community has an effective workforce development system that leverages the resources of the University of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia Community College, and our excellent schools to provide ongoing training and educational opportunities to our residents. We have a business-friendly environment in which employers provide well-paying, career-ladder jobs and residents

have access to small business opportunities. The Downtown Mall, as the economic hub of the region, features arts and entertainment, shopping, dining, cultural events, and a vibrant City Market. The City has facilitated significant mixed and infill development within the City.

**Budgetary Impact:**

Estimates a loss of revenue of \$20,000 annually.

**Recommendation:**

Staff believes this is the best alternative available to implement a one-time waiver program for first time offenders.

**Alternatives:**

Council could decide not to support a waiver program at this time.

**Attachments:**

Resolution

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Proposed One-Time Fine Waiver for Parking Tickets**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville that the City Manager be authorized to design and implement a one-time fine waiver program for tickets issued in the downtown parking corridor.