

City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Chief Jonathan Mills
DATE: June 15, 2010
SUBJECT: Police Fine and Fee Increases

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:

William C Norton (Signed by S Sheldon)
William C. Norton, City Manager

1 **ISSUE:** To consider a Resolution increasing parking citation penalties and fees for livescan
2 fingerprinting and vehicle release.

3 **RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolutions.

4 **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** The City of Calistoga currently collects revenues from
5 parking citations, vehicle release fees and livescan fingerprinting services. Parking fines and
6 the vehicle release fee have not been raised in over 20 years. During this period there has
7 been both an increase in the cost of providing these functions and an increase in state taxes
8 levied on each fine collected. In order to offset these costs, the following increases are
9 proposed.

- 10 1. Parking citations: Increase the amount of each fine by \$10.00.
- 11 2. Vehicle release fee: Increase the fee from \$20.00 to \$70.00.
- 12 3. Livescan service: Create a second fee of \$50.00 when the service is provided for
13 a non-resident. The current fee is \$20.00.
- 14

15 Parking citations: For each citation issued approximately \$9.50 is deducted for state taxes.
16 Through Senate Bill 1407, the State increased the State Courthouse Construction Fund
17 from \$1.50 to \$4.50 per citation, with an effective date of January 1, 2009. Of the new \$4.50
18 tax, \$1.50 will continue to be directed to the State Courthouse Construction Fund and the
19 additional \$3.00 will go to the Immediate and Critical Needs Account within the State
20 Courthouse Construction Fund. Below is a breakdown of current parking fine surcharges
21 that are subtracted from collected fines.

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23	Criminal Justice Facilities Fund (GC 76000)	\$1.50
24	Courthouse Construction Fund (GC 76000)	\$1.50
25	County General Fund (GC 76000)	\$2.00
26	State Court Facilities Fund (GC 70372)	\$1.50
27	SCFF Immediate/Critical Needs (GC 70372)	\$3.00
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29	Total State Taxes	\$9.50
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31 Previously, we employed Data Ticket to administer the collection of parking fines. Data
32 Ticket charged \$100 per month for this service. We averaged about 25 to 30 parking tickets
33 issued each month which equaled about \$3.00 to \$4.00 per ticket. To cut this annual cost of
34 \$1,200 we have cancelled that service and now process all citations in house.

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Fines for parking violations have not been adjusted in over 20 years. The proposed \$10.00 increase will cover the cost of the taxes paid for each fine collected.

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Parking enforcement is required to ensure compliance with time limits and turn over of downtown parking spaces, to enforce loading zones, handicap zones and safety regulations. The cost for enforcement should be covered by fines collected. The proposed increase in penalties along with the streamlined parking enforcement program will help accomplish this goal.

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Comparison of select current parking violations fines:

Violation	Calistoga	Napa	Saint Helena	Healdsburg
Parked in intersection	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$35.00	\$50.00
Parked in crosswalk	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Blocking driveway	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Parked on sidewalk	\$25.00	\$75.00		\$35.00
Double parked	\$25.00	\$100.00		\$35.00
Parked in Bus Zone	\$255.00	\$300.00		\$250.00
Right wheel to right curb	\$25.00			\$35.00
Handicap Zone	\$255.00	\$300.00	\$280.00	\$275.00
Parked by Fire hydrant	\$35.00	\$100.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Parked leaving motor running	\$35.00			
Parked in Fire Lane	\$35.00	\$300.00		\$35.00

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Vehicle Release Fee: A release fee is imposed when a vehicle is impounded or stored by a Police Officer following an arrest, parking violation, unlicensed driver violation or other condition pursuant to the Vehicle Code. Our current vehicle release fee is \$25.00. Based on the officer's time preparing the tow report, inventorying the vehicle and waiting for the tow truck and a dispatcher's time to enter the vehicle in the state database and process the tow report. The vehicle release fee should be increased. The officer's time is estimated at one half hour, the dispatcher time is estimated at 15 minutes. Using the average billing rate the cost for this time at \$70.00. This is below the average of other jurisdictions in this area.

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For comparison, other jurisdictions in the area charge the following for a vehicle release:

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Napa PD \$134

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American Canyon PD \$150

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Saint Helena PD \$ 0

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Napa SO \$ 0

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SRPD \$200

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Sebastopol PD \$ 75

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Windsor PD \$181

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Sonoma PD \$183

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Sonoma SO \$183

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Petaluma PD \$140

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Cloverdale PD \$ 68

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Clearlake PD \$100

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Lake County SO \$ 85

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Average \$115.30

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74 Livescan: The Police Department provides livescan fingerprinting services to the general
75 public. Many public and private agencies require that employees or volunteers get
76 fingerprinted. In 2009 the Police Department did 473 livescans. To help recover the cost of
77 providing this service to non residents I propose a second fee of \$50.00. This fee is based
78 on a time estimate of 20 minutes to complete a livescan.

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80 The livescan machine requires maintaining a service contract which we do at the lowest
81 service level possible. The annual cost of this contract is \$8,440. The increase to the
82 livescan fee will help offset this cost to the City.

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84 In closing, the proposed fee increases are aimed at covering the costs of enforcement,
85 providing services or matching the increased taxes or maintenance contracts imposed.

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87 **FISCAL IMPACT:**

88 **Parking fines**: Increase each fine by \$10.00 to cover \$9.50 in taxes collected from each
89 citation. Estimated \$3,000 revenue increase.

90 **Vehicle Release fee**: Increase the fee to \$70.00 to cover officer's time on scene of tow,
91 report writing and dispatcher's time on data entry. Estimated \$ 3,650 revenue increase.

92 **Livescan**: Increase the cost of providing livescan service to \$50.00 to cover officer's time
93 (20 minutes) and machine maintenance cost (\$8,440). Assuming half of the livescans will
94 be done for non residents the estimated revenue increase would be approximately \$7,000.

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96 **ATTACHMENTS:**

97 1. Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 2010- _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALISTOGA,
COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
UPDATING POLICE DEPARTMENT FEES

1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Calistoga charges fees for certain services; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to maintain fees reasonable and current.

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5 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of
6 Calistoga hereby increases the Vehicle Release fee to seventy dollars (\$70.00)
7 and establishes an off hours Livescan service fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

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9 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of
10 Calistoga at a regular meeting held this **15th day of June 2010**, by the following
11 vote:

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AYES:

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NOES:

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ABSTAIN/ABSENT:

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JACK GINGLES, Mayor

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ATTEST:

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SUSAN SNEDDON, City Clerk

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RESOLUTION NO. 2010- _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALISTOGA, COUNTY OF
NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN PARKING
VIOLATION FINES**

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 40200 authorizes cities to impose and collect civil fines and penalties for violations of any regulation pertaining to the standing or parking of a vehicle, as specified in the California Vehicle Code provided such violations are not misdemeanors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calistoga is authorized to establish and impose penalties for municipal parking violations pertaining to the Calistoga Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department issues citations for parking violations; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to increase the penalties it imposes for parking violations; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Council modify existing parking fines in order to reflect additional costs imposed under Senate Bill 1407.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Calistoga hereby increases fees for parking violations by ten dollars (\$10.00).

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Calistoga at a regular meeting held this 15th day of June 2010, by the following vote:

- AYES:**
- NOES:**
- ABSTAIN/ABSENT:**

JACK GINGLES, Mayor

ATTEST:

SUSAN SNEDDON, City Clerk