



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of March 12, 2005**

DATE: February 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Request to Advertise an Amendment to Section 14.2-7.1 of the Arlington County Code to Increase Parking Meter Fines for Fiscal Year 2006.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing to be held on March 31, 2005 on an amendment to Section 14.2-7.1 of the Arlington County Code to increase the expired parking meter fine.

ISSUES: What should be the magnitude, if any, of an increase in expired parking meter fine?

SUMMARY: The current fine for parking at an expired meter is \$25, and was last increased in FY 1999. Arlington County uses parking meters to encourage parking turnover. If violators are not penalized enough to discourage either timely payment in parking meters or parking turnover, potential revenue is lost. An increase in the expired parking meter fine to \$30 will either encourage users to vacate metered parking spaces within the time that they've paid for on the meter, or offset the loss of revenue from the lack of parking turnover, especially in higher traffic area use.

BACKGROUND: The parking meter fine for expired meters has not increased since FY 1999. The Police Department recently surveyed several of the major jurisdictions in the Washington Metropolitan area. The fines charged for expired parking meters as of December 2004 were as follows:

Arlington County	\$25
Fairfax County	\$20
District of Columbia	\$25
Alexandria	\$20
Montgomery County	\$35

DISCUSSION: Fines are levied for cars parked at expired meters to enforce the requirement to pay to park in the parking space, but also to encourage turnover of the parking spaces to give more people the

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Barbara Donnellan, Director, Department of Management and Finance

opportunity to park and patronize businesses in the metered areas. In the surrounding jurisdictions, fines for parking at an expired meter vary from a low of \$20 to a high of \$35. Arlington's rate of \$25 is in line with most of the area jurisdictions, but still below the maximum for the region. Increasing the fine to \$30 would encourage parkers to adhere to the parking meter limits, thus allowing more cars to use the same number of metered parking spots and increase patronage of businesses in the urban corridors.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed fine increase is not included in the County Manager's base budget but rather as a policy priority for the Board to consider as a component to consider for the long-term sustainability of the County. The estimated revenue generated by increasing the expired meter fine rate from \$25 to \$30 per violation is \$400,000.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REENACT, AND RECODIFY CHAPTER 14.2-7.1 (FINES FOR NONMOVING VIOLATIONS) OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE RELATING TO AN INCREASE IN EXPIRED PARKING METER FINES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005. BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 14.2 of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted, and recodified as follows, effective July 1, 2005:

§ 14.2-7.1. Fines for nonmoving violations.

Each law enforcement officer or other employee charged with the duty of enforcing violations shall attach to each vehicle whose operator is in violation of sections 14.2-1, 14.2-2, 14.2-3, 14.2-3.1, 14.2-32, 14.2-33, 14.2-34, 14.2-38, 14.2-38.1, 14.2-40, 14.2-41, 14.2-42, 14.2-43, 14.2-44, 14.2-45, 14.2-85, 14.2-87, and 14.2-96 of the County Code or Section 33D of the County Zoning Ordinance, a notice to the operator thereof that such vehicle has been parked in violation of one (1) or more of these sections.

(a) The fines to be paid prior to issuance of a warrant for violation of Arlington County parking ordinances, except as otherwise provided in section 14.2-7.1(b), shall be the following:

- (1) ~~Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)~~ Thirty dollars (\$30.00) for exceeding the time limit on meter (sections 14.2-42, 14.2-43, 14.2-44, and 14.2-45).
- (2) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking in restricted zone (sections 14.2-33 and 14.2-40); forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking, without consent, on private property (section 14.2-3.2); and fifty dollars (\$50.00) for unlawful parking on a weather emergency street (section 14.2-87);
- (3) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for not parking on the right side of two-way street (section 14.2-2 and Section 46.2-889 of the Code of Virginia);
- (4) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking on an interstate highway continuously for more than twenty-four (24) hours (section 14.2-2); forty dollars (\$40.00) for leaving a motor vehicle unattended for a period of ten (10) days (section 14.2-3); and forty dollars (\$40.00) for abandoned vehicle (section 14.2-3);
- (5) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking commercial vehicle in residential zone (sections 14.2-33 and 14.2-34);
- (6) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking outside designated space (section 14.2-38);
- (7) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking within twenty (20) feet of corner (section 14.2-38);
- (8) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking within fifteen (15) feet of fire hydrant (section 14.2-38);
- (9) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for obstructing traffic, violating temporary "No Parking" zone, or creating a hazard (sections 14.2-2, 14.2-3, 14.2-32, 14.2-38, and 14.2-86, and Section 46.2-888 of the Code of Virginia);
- (10) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for leaving vehicle unattended with motor running (Section 46.2-1071 of the Code of Virginia);
- (11) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for failure to display valid Virginia license tags (section 14.2-2 and Section 46.2-715 of the Code of Virginia);

- (12) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for failure to display valid Arlington license tag (section 14.2-2);
- (13) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for failure to display any valid license tag (section 14.2-2);
- (14) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for failure to display valid Virginia inspection sticker (section 14.2-2);
- (15) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking in a fire lane (section 14.2-38);
- (16) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for double parking (section 14.2-38);
- (17) Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for unlawful parking in a space restricted for use by disabled persons (section 14.2-38.1); and
- (18) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking in a residential restricted zone (Section 33D of the Zoning Ordinance);
- (19) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for any nonmoving violation for which a fine is not specifically provided elsewhere in this chapter;
- (20) Forty dollars (\$40.00) for parking or placing any automobile, truck, trailer or other vehicle upon or in any street, alley or parkway for the purpose of selling or offering the same for sale or rent.