



Update to Council Regarding Parking Enforcement Set Fines Management Report (ITS23-030) – November 27, 2023

At the November 14, 2023 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting, the above report was considered. During discussion, concern was raised with the increase in proposed set fine amounts for the offence of parking at an expired meter. Additionally, it was questioned how many tickets are written annually for this specific offence. Staff have compiled the following information in response to this discussion.

The infraction of parking at an expired meter becomes an offence when a vehicle is parked in a paid parking space but has either not remitted payment or payment was made but the paid time expired. This may occur at any paid on-street or off-street parking space, regardless of whether payment is available to be made at a meter, pay by plate machine, or via the HotSpot App. This infraction does not include situations when a vehicle is parked beyond the permitted time limits of a given parking space. That would be a separate offence for exceeding time limits.

In reviewing annual tickets issued for the offence of parking at an expired meter, staff focused on 2023 (up to October 31), 2022, and 2019. 2021 and 2020 have been omitted due to abnormal parking activity associated with the Covid-19 pandemic:

- 2023 (up to October 31) – 8,108 tickets issued for parking at an expired meter
- 2022 – 5,628 tickets issued for parking at an expired meter
- 2019 – 6,943 tickets issued for parking at an expired meter

Assessing the above data, it is important to note that in 2023 (up to October 31), the Parking Division issued a total of 9,593 tickets across all infraction types. This means that tickets issued for parking at an expired meter make up 85% of all tickets. This is a similar pattern seen in the other years with 2022 making up 83% and 2019 making up 82%.

Staff are of the opinion that increasing set fine amounts in general will encourage more patrons to pay for parking and not risk receiving a ticket. At present day, parking behavior suggests that there is no incentive for some to pay for parking given the low cost of a ticket. Further, with an expected increase to compliance in this area, tickets are likely to decrease to some degree and allow parking enforcement officers more time to enforce other areas of concern.

Should amendments be made to the proposed set fines as set out in the attachments to Management Report ITS23-030, reducing the increase for parking at an expired meter would have the most significant impact to potential fine revenue received by the City.