

## **PARKING BYLAW FINE INCREASES**

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### **SUMMARY/ISSUE**

In May 2015 the Provincial Government increased the fine amounts for a number of parking offences under the *Traffic Safety Act*. The City of Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002 needs to be updated to create consistency. This inconsistency creates a situation whereby there could conceivably be two separate fine amounts for the same offence (depending on whether the Bylaw or the *Traffic Safety Act* was used for enforcement).

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION**

That the SPC on Transportation and Transit recommend that Council give three readings to a bylaw to amend the Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002 Schedule "A" fine amounts.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, DATED 2016 MAY 18:**

That Council give three readings to **Proposed Bylaw 29M2016**.

### **BACKGROUND**

In May of 2015 the provincial government increased the fine amounts for a number of parking offences under the *Traffic Safety Act*. The City of Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002 mirrors these offences. These offences are paralleled in order to provide a broader range of payment options for Calgarians, such as the early payment option contemplated under the *Municipal Government Act* s.7(i)(iv) and to allow the fine revenues to remain in the City of Calgary. The specified fine amount for the *Traffic Safety Act* offences increased to \$68 from \$50 for the safety related offences and increased to \$270 from \$200 for abandoned vehicles.

### **INVESTIGATION**

The Calgary Parking Authority enforces the parking provisions of the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96 and the Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002. Fine amounts in the Calgary Traffic Bylaw were increased in 2010 and the three tiered early payment option was also introduced to both bylaws in 2010. The Provincial Specified Penalty amounts in the Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002 have remained constant since the Bylaw came into force on May 20, 2003.

The current City fine structure is a three tiered system with two early payment options. The proposed fine schedule would increase the early payment options to mirror the early payment options in the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96. Attachment 2 contains the proposed amending bylaw which contains the recommended fine increases for Schedule 'A' of the Parking Bylaw 41M2002.

City of Calgary fine amounts contained in 41M2002 were compared to eight Canadian cities. Those Cities were: Edmonton, Lethbridge, Victoria, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa. Wherever possible, fines for identical or nearly identically drafted by-laws were compared. The proposed increase will ensure the Calgary fine amounts are in line with other cities and if the early

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payment options are utilized, Calgary's fine structure will remain below the average rate. Further, our research has shown that most fines are paid at the early payment amount 2.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **General**

Fines are intended to encourage compliance to parking regulations and must have penalties high enough to act as a deterrent to non-compliance.

#### **Social**

Increasing fine levels will encourage compliance and the increase to the early payment options will align with the early payment options in the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96.

#### **Environmental**

n/a

#### **Economic (external)**

n/a

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Approximately 270,000 parking tickets were issued in 2015. 20% of these parking tickets were issued under the Calgary Parking Bylaw, with the remainder being issued under the Calgary Traffic Bylaw. Increasing the fine amount would increase the revenue returned to the City by an estimated \$500,000 per year assuming no improvement in compliance.

### **RISKS**

By not increasing the fine amounts, citizens may take the opportunity to ignore the bylaws resulting in traffic flow and traffic safety issues.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Current Calgary Parking Bylaw 41M2002-Schedule "A"
2. **Proposed Bylaw 29M2016**
3. Graph showing the proposed fine increase comparison by city.