

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-07-060

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON, AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 11.33.230 RELATING TO THE PENALTIES FOR PARKING INFRACTIONS.

WHEREAS, Bellingham Municipal Code Section 11.33.230 authorizes the institution of civil penalties for parking infractions, discounts for timely payment of parking infractions, and procedures for handling delinquent parking infractions; and,

WHEREAS, civil penalties have not been increased since 1986; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of issuing a parking infraction exceeds the revenue received from an infraction that is paid within 72 hours of issuance of the infraction; and,

WHEREAS, sending multiple notices to a registered owner of a vehicle with a delinquent parking infraction is costly and confusing; and,

WHEREAS, bankruptcy courts have been discharging civil penalties but not late fees; and,

WHEREAS, this ordinance is in the best interests of the City of Bellingham;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Bellingham Municipal Code Section 11.33.230 is amended to read as follows:

11.33.230 – Penalties For Parking Infractions – Procedure and Penalty on Failure to Appear

Civil penalties for parking infractions and procedures on failure to appear are as follows:

A. The civil penalty for parking meter and overtime infractions shall be \$10; for disabled parking infractions, \$250; and for all other parking infractions, \$20. Five dollars (\$5) of the ten dollar (\$10) civil penalty for each parking meter and overtime infraction shall be deposited in the City's designated parking fund.

B. If the person committing a parking infraction fails to respond as directed on the citation within 15 days, the civil penalty shall be increased by a late fee of \$10. The Municipal Court shall send said person notification of the increased penalty, advising that failure to respond before the 30th day will result in an additional civil penalty of \$25. If the person fails to respond to the notice of parking infraction before the 30th day, the civil penalty shall be increased by an additional late fee of \$25. When an infraction is delinquent and the Court has obtained the name and address of the vehicle's registered owner from the Department of Licensing or other out-of-state licensing agency, the Court shall mail the registered owner a notice advising the person of the current status of the ticket, all applicable late fees, and the City's intention to assign the matter to a collection agency.

C. Failure to respond within 30 days from the date of issuance of the citation to 5 or more parking infractions shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$25 per parking infraction.

Section 2: Effective Date.


This Ordinance shall be effective beginning on the 1st day of January 2006.

PASSED by the Council this 11th day of July, 2005.

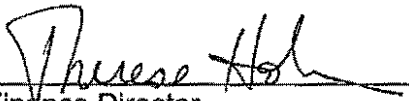


Council President

APPROVED by me this 14th day of July, 2005.

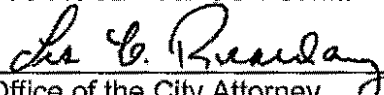


Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

PUBLISHED: July 15, 2005