



City of Hamilton

Report for Consideration

To: Chair and Members
Planning Committee

Date: March 24, 2026

Report No: PED26071

Subject/Title: Parking Penalty Increases

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

Recommendations

- 1) That the proposed amendment to the Administrative Penalty By-law 17-225 and Table 3 of Schedule A of this By-law, which outlines fees associated with parking penalties attached, as Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" to Report PED26071 **BE APPROVED** and be prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Key Facts

- The 2026 Budget identified an increase in parking penalty fees to reduce the impacts to the general levy.
- Hamilton's parking penalty fees are lower than comparable municipalities.
- A By-law amendment to Administrative Penalty System By-Law 17-225 is required for any penalty increase to take effect.

Financial Considerations

With the proposed penalty increases, there would be an anticipated revenue generation of approximately \$734,000 based on historical parking penalty issuance between October 2024 and October 2025. There is no impact to existing FTE's or staffing resources.

Background

At the January 23, 2026, General Issue Committee, the Mayor's Memorandum: 2026 Proposed Tax Budget, identified parking penalty increases effective April 1, 2026, and directed staff to update Parking Penalty schedule within the Administrative Penalty By-law accordingly, with a revenue forecast increase of approximately \$734,000. From this forecasted increase in revenue, \$500,000 would be allocated to reduce the 2026 operating budget levy, while \$234,000 is allocated to the Parking Capital Reserve (Account Number 108021) for future parking process improvements.

Analysis

In preparation for the 2026 Budget, Parking Enforcement, as part of Transportation Planning and Parking, Planning and Economic Development Department, identified potential mitigation measures to offset operational costs and the overall budget levy pressures. Staff have projected potential revenue based on twelve months of parking penalty issuance data (October 2024 to October 2025). Adjustments to select parking penalty amounts consistent with comparable Ontario municipalities penalty amounts provided an opportunity to increase revenue from paid parking penalties.

The application and enforcement of parking by-laws serves several important purposes, such as helping to maintain traffic flow, turnover of parking, and assisting with improving road safety for vulnerable road users. These proposed penalty increases are not

blanket fee increases that affect all motorists. It only affects those that do not comply with select parking regulations.

Municipal Comparison

Hamilton’s parking penalty fees are generally lower than comparable municipalities. Appendix “C” attached to Report PED26071 outlines the comparison to other Ontario Municipalities similar penalties and their respective penalty fees. The increase in parking penalty fees will bring the City in more alignment with those municipalities.

Forecasting Expected Revenues

Based on parking penalty issuance from October 2024 to October 2025, the below table outlines what additional revenue would be expected based on the proposed penalty increases per annum (\$980,000). This would equate to \$734,000 in 2026 based on an April 1, 2026 implementation date according to the 2026 Budget.

Penalty	Number of Parking Penalties Issued	Proposed Increase to Penalty	Forecasted Revenue (rounded)
No Payment at Meter	47,815	\$5	\$240,000
Exceed Signed Time Limit	21,937	\$5	\$110,000
No Stopping Area	18,973	\$20	\$380,000
No Parking Area	10,512	\$10	\$105,000
No Parking Area-Alternate Side	9,610	\$15	\$145,000

Alternatives

If the above recommendation is not approved, the forecasted revenue resulting from the penalty increases would not be consistent with the revenue forecast presented in the 2026 Budget.

Council could also direct staff to increase parking penalties further or select additional penalties to increase. This would require further analysis and potential impacts than what has been proposed in this Report.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

1. Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development
 - 1.1. Reduce the burden on residential taxpayers

Previous Reports Submitted

Not Applicable

Consultation

Legal Services, Corporate Services

Financial Planning, Administration and Policy, Corporate Services

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A: Draft By-law to amend By-law 17-225, as amended, being a By-law to Establish a System of Administrative Penalties

Appendix B: Tracked Changes to Table 3 of Schedule “A” of By-law 17-225, as amended, being a Bylaw to Establish a System of Administrative Penalties

Appendix C: Municipal Comparison for Parking Penalty Increases

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