

# Staff Report

Community Services Department



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**REPORT TO:** Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 2, 2025

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gloria MacNeil, Director or Enforcement, 519-741-2200 ext. 7952

**PREPARED BY:** Gloria MacNeil, Director or Enforcement, 519-741-2200 ext. 7952

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** All

**DATE OF REPORT:** May 12, 2025

**REPORT NO.:** CSD-2024-431

**SUBJECT:** Increased Penalty Fines for Parking Violations

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## RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the attached schedule under the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) to increase penalty fines for parking violations as outlined in CSD-2024-431.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Parking fines have not been increased in the City of Kitchener since 2008.
- City of Kitchener parking fines are considerably lower than surrounding municipalities.
- Staff are recommending an increase of \$10 for most parking violations and a larger fine amount for any safety related parking restrictions.

## BACKGROUND:

The City's parking fine structure has not undergone an update since 2008. Staff have reviewed the current fine structure to assess whether they continue to serve as an effective deterrent and to remain consistent with those imposed by neighbouring municipalities. Aligning our fines with regional comparators better reflects current enforcement and administrative costs.

## REPORT:

Staff are recommending an increase of \$10 for each parking violation, this increase will help align Kitchener's parking fines with our neighbouring municipalities. Staff have flagged five violations that are in place to address safety concerns and are recommending higher fine increases for these to appropriately reflect the associated safety risks. These specific fines include school zones, fire routes, fire hydrants, snow events and accessible parking. Increasing of parking fines will allow Kitchener's parking fines more closely aligned to those of our neighbouring municipalities.

The Bylaw Enforcement Division has seen a substantial increase in the number of complaints related to parking violations year over year. The increased volume in residents' complaints has resulted in the need to add additional staffing coverage and shifts to maintain response levels and enforcement. Typically, fines are intended to act as a deterrent. Staff believe higher fines in combination with other strategies, such as the use of technology, will begin to curb or maintain complaint levels from increasing further.

\*\*\* This information is available in accessible formats upon request. \*\*\*  
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

The chart below displays the number of parking complaints responded to each year since 2017 and demonstrates the year over year increase. As shown in the chart, the total number of complaints have doubled over the past seven years. The chart also includes the number of parking tickets issued in the same time frame demonstrating a similar pattern of increased enforcement annually.

#### Annual Number of Parking Complaints/Tickets

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Complaints	7826	9091	10081	7495	9714	12687	14575	17162
Tickets Issued	61,998	69,354	70,078	44,556	46,423	61,448	67,135	67,191

\*Drop in 2020 was related to the pandemic where parking enforcement was suspended for several months.

Staff have also provided a chart outlining the most common parking violations and subsequent fine amounts that are currently approved within the City of Kitchener and included the comparable fine amounts from the cities of Waterloo, Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo. The chart below clearly demonstrates that the majority of Kitchener's fines are lower than the other three municipalities

#### Current Parking Penalty Fines and Comparators to Neighbouring Municipalities

	Private Property	Overnight Parking 230am-600am	Over 3 hour limit	Parked over Sidewalk	No Parking	Fire Hydrant	Fire Route	Accessible Parking Space	Stopped in School Zone
Kitchener	\$25	\$30	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$75	\$300	\$80
Waterloo	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$45	\$50	\$80	\$80	\$400	\$100
Cambridge	\$35	\$45	\$35	\$40	\$35	100	\$100	\$400	*\$55
Region	\$25	\$40	\$35	\$35	\$60	\$50	\$75	\$300	\$90

\*school bus loading zone only – no "School Zone" specific

Staff are recommending an average increase of \$10 to each of the penalty fines, with the exception of parking violations that have a safety component to them, the penalty fines associated with these are higher and vary depending on the violation.

#### Proposed Parking Penalty Fines with Increased Amounts

Bylaw	Private Property	Overnight Parking 230am-600am	Over 3 hour limit	Parked over sidewalk	No Parking	Fire Hydrant	Fire Route	Accessible Parking Space	Stopped in School Zone
Current Fine Amount	\$25	\$30	\$20	\$25	<b>\$25</b>	\$25	\$75	\$300	\$80
Proposed Increase	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$25	\$25	\$100	\$20
New Fine Amount	\$35	\$40	\$30	\$35	\$35	\$50	\$100	\$400	\$100

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports the delivery of core services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Staff do anticipate that higher fines may lead to increased revenue, however the intent of increased fines is to deter behaviour. It is difficult to predict the increase or how long it may be sustained, staff did see a decrease in the number of tickets issued in 2008 after fines were increased which impacted the annual fine revenue and foresee a similar response. The other anticipated challenge is fine collection, which is completed on the City's behalf by Service Ontario, staff have no control over when fines are paid, and collection can be delayed.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

**APPROVED BY:** Michael May, DCAO

**Appendix A:** Set Fines – Administrative Monetary Penalty's