

PS 1: Fines and fees as currently administered incarcerate too many people. They cause an unequal application of justice.

OBJECTIVES

- That it improves equity and equality as applied.
 - Increase ability for court to consider individual circumstances of the defendant.
 - \$100 is not the same punishment to every person
 - Fair, balanced, and reasonable
- Any solutions should be balanced between needs of community and the need to reduce crime and protect citizens.
 - Shouldn't undermine compliance **Increase compliance with the law.**
- That the solution not exacerbate a criminal justice involvement cycle. Access to the courts. Ability to pay. **Decrease incarceration for inability to pay**
- That the solution be accessible to everyone involved. Meet the needs of those who have trouble showing up to court.
- Meet the needs of those who have different financial resources.
- **Increase flexibility of the court in administering the penalty, to consider defendant's circumstances.**
- Financial burden of administering courts shift from general government to the courts themselves. Police can be incentivized to infractions because of the shift. Any solution should not have an incentive to writing citations. Should not incentivize certain infractions that have higher fees. (Save this for our data PS)
- Avoid unintended consequences by creating another structure that criminalize others. Any solution should avoid creating fees on

the people who cannot pay. Avoid criminalizing people who cannot pay.

- Solution should be viewed with an equity lens
- Appropriate discretion should be present. Any solution should allow appropriate discretion that is balanced, taking into account the circumstances of the case and defendant.
- Transparency to the public. Track officers fines and fees so we can see what communities are affected. (Save for data PS)
Increase transparency to the public
- Accessibility and clarity of the process. Any solution should adequately notify person of outstanding fine or fee. So it won't spiral out of control. **Increase the number (the quality of)of notices to defendant of court action.**
 - People should know they have fines
- The solution should be effective in encouraging compliance with the law. **Increase compliance with the law.**
- Any solution should not promote the use of fees as revenue generator. **Reduce the dependence of municipality on revenue for operations.**
- Any solution should provide an opportunity for defendant to address underlying problems that caused the arrest. **Address underlying social problems**
 -
- Any solution should provide access to courts and resources so the fine won't spiral out of control.
- Any solution should Make it easy to pay.
 - Multiple payment centers
 - Multiple ways to pay – non financial and financial
 - Multiple options for payment
 - **Increase ease of compliance with the judgment**

- Increase access to court and services
- Any solution should provide a path to expungement Provide a path to expungement
- Any solution should demonstrate respect to the defendant Demonstrate respect for the defendant
- Any solution should be based on facts
- Any solution should consider the true costs to city, defendant, society.
- Any solution should have a net zero on criminal activity.
-

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES

- Night and weekend court
- Payment plan options
- Community service options with after hours and weekend and family friendly options
- Call in court
- Public kiosk for court connection
- Public kiosk for payment
- Increase specialty court options
- Cease enforcement for fine and fee warrants
- Stop issuing drivers license suspensions for unpaid fines and fees
- Stop sending delinquent cases to collection companies
- Text email or phone reminders for outstanding payment and court dates
- Ensuring language accessibility
- Base payment on proof of income. Hardship appeal. Sliding scale payments
- Exchange food for payment
- Comprehensive study on municipal warrants to obtain data to develop action steps to reduce warrants. Need info for policy changes. We need more information for policy formation.
- Consider alternatives to failure to pay. Some communities have alternatives. What are the outcomes and costs?
- Periodically assess diversion program entry requirements to assure equitable access.
-

