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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
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Board Matter

January 26, 2009

Madam Chairman—in these challenging budget times, we need use every tool at our disposal to ensure we don't fall prey to the law of unintended consequences. I specifically refer to our County parking ticket collection. With the exception of violations of handicapped accessible parking spaces, most parking offenses are set by County Code at \$40. (Any person who pays late is assessed an additional \$20 fee.) As it has been some time since the County's basic parking fine schedule has been changed or reviewed in depth, we may have reached the point where the cost of issuing a ticket—the salary of the police officer and the associated administrative costs—is higher than the actual fine. In effect, we may be subsidizing parking violators.

I move that we direct staff to review the County's current schedule of parking fines and fees and report to the Board on which of those fees can be increased to both provide a higher level of deterrence and to fully cover the costs of County enforcement and collection.

I would like to mention at this time that my budget advisory group that has been working hard since September has highlighted the need to find creative ways to raise County revenues—starting with moving our fine and fees into a more realistic balance.