



**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REVIEW
MAURICE CHALMERS, DIRECTOR
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

TITLE:

A Local Law amending Title J of Chapter 8 of the Administrative Code of Nassau County as enacted by Local Law No. 25-2001 and amended by Local Law No. 20-2010 with respect to the immobilization and removal of illegally parked vehicles and scofflaws.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION: This proposed local law is rooted in the inaction of scofflaw vehicle owners in answering delinquent tickets or summonses for parking and Red Light Camera (RLC) violations. Amending Local Law 20-2010 will permit the immobilizing and/or towing not only of vehicles that have delinquent unanswered tickets but any vehicle that is registered in the scofflaw's name. Additionally, booting and/or towing will be triggered by two unanswered delinquent tickets rather than the current three unanswered delinquent summonses. The existing law defines a "scofflaw" vehicle as having at least three or more notices of liability for RLC violations issued to the owner of a vehicle that are delinquent. This proposed local law reduces that number to two with the intent that more scofflaws will voluntarily comply with the traffic laws. Including all vehicles eligible for immobilization and/or towing registered to a scofflaw is meant to act as a deterrent to those vehicle owners that attempt to circumvent the law by not driving the scofflaw vehicle.

This proposed local law has been amended from the original version which would have enabled the booting/towing of registrants' vehicles after only one delinquent RLC or parking violation. The updated local law has been viewed as less severe while still encouraging scofflaws to comply.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This local law would take effect immediately.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The intent of this local law is to promote a deterrent for the disregard and delinquency associated with these violations and as such, negligible economic impact is expected.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Nassau County Police Department, there are currently 44,000 plates with at least two delinquent parking violations. However, over 70% of these vehicles are no longer on the road and therefore ineligible for booting. There are 33,000 plates with two or more RLC delinquent violations. As mentioned above, this proposed local law will enable the County to boot a scofflaw's vehicles after

two delinquent unanswered violations. In comparison, New York City's policy boots/tows after the violations/penalties accumulate to \$350.00.

The County began a boot and tow program in March 2012 and hired the vendor IPT LLC/Paylock to operate it at no cost to the County. The registrant who is booted and/or towed is responsible for the cost of that action. The boot activity cost is \$166 and the towing cost is \$125 and \$25 a day if stored. Since March 2012, a total of 5,400 boots have been applied and 193 tow actions have been taken for an estimated \$3.7 million in revenue through April 2014 and an additional \$1.0 million is expected by year end.

The Traffic and Parking Violations Agency (TPVA) had previously inactivated many of these violations, but has reactivated them to allow the collection vendors to attempt collection activities. Based on TPVA's estimates, the value of the tickets associated with the plates that are still active is about \$11.3 million. However it is unclear how many of the reactivated and delinquent violations will be collected thereby making revenue projections for this local law uncertain. It is none the less the department's position that early enforcement will deter violators from ignoring the summonses while increasing the collectability of tickets by enforcing the law sooner rather than later.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Nassau County Police Department
Nassau County Traffic and Parking Violations Agency

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