

Parking Ticket Activity - 2006

Date:	April 17, 2007
To:	Government Management
From:	Treasurer
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2007\Internal Services\Rev\gm07013Rev (AFS #4815)

SUMMARY

In 2006, the City of Toronto issued 2,852,100 parking infraction notices (i.e. parking tickets). This report provides statistical data on parking ticket issuance, trial requests, trial activity, and collection rates.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its Special Meeting held on February 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2003 and March 3, 2003, City Council requested that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report on the number and breakdown of all parking infraction notices issued in the City of Toronto (Clause No. 2 of Report No. 2 of The Policy and Finance Committee, headed "City of Toronto 2003 Recommended Operating Budget").

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto issues approximately 2.8 million tickets each year. The Toronto Police Service, through its Parking Enforcement Unit, is responsible for parking enforcement and can provide information on enforcement practices. The Revenue Services Division is responsible for the processing and collection of fines for all parking infraction notices issued in the City of Toronto. The City collects fines on approximately 82 percent of tickets issued, representing annual revenues of approximately \$80 million.

COMMENTS

In 2006, the City of Toronto issued 2,852,100 parking tickets. Approximately 2.6 million tickets were issued by the Toronto Police Services (i.e. Parking Enforcement Unit and Police Officers) and the balance of the tickets were issued by licensed Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs – i.e. private security officers, property owners, etc.). MLEO's are trained and certified by the Toronto Police Service, and MLEO agencies are required to obtain a license from the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards Division in order to conduct parking enforcement on private property.

Table 1, below, provides a breakdown of the number of tickets issued in 2006 (with a comparison to 2005) by type of issuing officer/unit.

Table 1: Number of Parking Tickets Issuance by Unit

	2006	2005	Difference 2006/2005
Toronto Police Service: Parking Enforcement Officers	2,566,383	2,592,856	(26,473)
Toronto Police Service: Police Officers/Cadets	15,834	22,951	(7,117)
Toronto Police Service: Sub-total	2,582,217	2,615,807	(33,590)
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs)	246,783	237,571	9,212
Other: (Tickets issued where the unit code was missing or unknown)	23,100	4,975	18,125
TOTAL	2,852,100	2,858,353	(6,253)

As noted in Table 1 above, overall the number of parking tickets issued in 2006 is slightly lower than in 2005 - there were 6,253 fewer parking tickets issued in 2006. There are many variables that may impact parking ticket issuance in any given year. The reduction could be due in part to the implementation (in the Fall of 2006) of the hand-

held parking ticket writers which reduced issuance levels during the initial roll-out and training period. The Toronto Police Service, Parking Enforcement Unit also advises that there has been a higher level of compliance by motorists with respect to parking legally since 2005, most likely attributable to the Voluntary Payment amount being eliminated in November 2004. In addition, general economic information indicates that the high fuel prices in 2006 may have resulted in fewer vehicles on the City's streets.

Breakdown of 2006 Parking Offences (Appendix A)

Appendix A, attached, provides a breakdown (by type of parking offence) of the number of parking infraction notices issued in 2006, in order of ticket issuance (i.e. highest number of tickets issued to lowest).

In 2006, the largest number of tickets were issued with respect to "Expired Meter" offences (i.e. offences related to failing to deposit the fee in parking meters or Pay and Display machines) and "No Parking" offences (i.e. offences related to prohibited parking areas such as major arterial roadways and transit routes). These two categories represented approximately 45% of the parking tickets issued in 2006. The next highest category of offences was "No Valid Permit" (i.e. offences where vehicles are ticketed for failing to display a valid residential parking permit) which represented approximately 18% of all tickets issued in 2006.

Collection Rate Activity for Tickets Issued in 2006 & Prior Years (Appendix B)

Appendix B, attached, provides information on the tickets issued each year since 1989, and the number of tickets that have been paid as at December 31, 2006. Based on prior years' experience, staff has also projected what the final collection rate is expected to be for each of the years.

As noted in Appendix B, the collection rate for tickets issued in 2006 and paid as at December 31, 2006, was approximately 56%. However, given that offenders will continue to pay parking tickets issued in 2006, in 2007 and later years (when renewing their license plates at the Ministry of Transportation), the collection rate is expected to increase to approximately 82%.

The City continues to collect upon parking tickets issued in prior years. In 2006, payments were received for current year (2006) tickets as well as tickets issued between 1989 and 2005. For example, 577 parking tickets issued in 1989 (representing \$17,075 in fines) were paid in 2006. Although staff are unable to determine exactly why these payments are being received for tickets that were issued as far back as seventeen (17) years ago, it is believed that some of these payments are generated when drivers re-activate a dormant license plate or decide to clear their fines at the Ministry of Transportation offices.

Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity - 2006 (Appendix C)

Appendix C, attached, provides a breakdown of trial requests and court conviction activity for tickets issued in 2006 and other years, where court activity was required or requested by the offender. In 2006, 110,775 (or approximately 3.9%) of parking ticket recipients requested a trial. However, only 31,843 of these 110,775 tickets actually went to trial, given that some offenders opted to pay their tickets after filing a trial request and before the trial. Of the 31,843 tickets that went to trial, 25,125 (or 85.95%) received a conviction by the Justice of the Peace.

Summary of Cancellations and Withdrawals – 2006

Although the City of Toronto’s collection rate is one of the highest in Canada, approximately 18% of all parking tickets are not collected upon for a variety of reasons. In 2006, of the approximately 2.8 million tickets issued, 502,963 or 17.63% of these were cancelled. Table 2, below, outlines the various reasons why these tickets were cancelled.

Table 2 – 2006 Parking Tickets - Breakdown of Tickets Cancelled

Parking Tickets Cancelled in 2006		Parking Tickets Cancelled in 2005		Reason for Cancellation
#	%	#	%	
147,074	5.16%	174,093	6.09%	Cancelled at First Appearance Facility due to various reasons including utility or road work, by-law exemptions, missing signs, errors on ticket, etc.
129,034	4.52%	123,032	4.30%	Drove Away – offender drives away before officer can serve the ticket on the vehicle as legislatively required.
102,791	3.60%	102,250	3.58%	Out-of-Province – Tickets issued to out-of-province vehicles where license plate and owner information is unavailable.
83,312	2.92%	25,220	0.88%	Plate errors – plate does not exist, plate is unattached
24,820	0.87%	26,382	0.92%	Incomplete – information is missing
7,800	0.27%	7,525	0.26%	Illegible – processing staff are unable to read the ticket.
6,817	0.24%	45,481	1.59%	Cancelled/Conviction by Justice of the Peace at Trial (*)
1,315	0.05%	1,359	0.05%	Spoiled – error on parking ticket
502,963	17.63%	505,342	17.68%	

*Cancelled/Conviction by the Judiciary - may result in a conviction being registered; however, a suspended sentence may be imposed whereby the offender is not required to pay the fine and the tag is treated as cancelled since no revenue is forthcoming.

Overall, the cancellations in 2006 were very similar to the number of tickets cancelled in 2005. There was a substantial increase in the number of tickets cancelled due to “plate errors” which may be attributable to the Ministry of Transportation updating its licence plate database. However, decreases in other categories more than offset this increase. Overall, the number of parking tickets cancelled in 2006 decreased by 2,379 as compared to 2005.

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SIGNATURE

Cam Weldon
Treasurer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Breakdown of Parking Offences 2006 (and 2005)
Appendix B: Collection Rate Activity for Tickets issued in 2006 & Prior Years (1989–2006)
Appendix C: Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity - 2006

APPENDIX A

Breakdown of Parking Offences – 2006 (and 2005)

Bylaw / Offence	Set Fine Amount	Tickets Issued in 2006		Tickets Issued in 2005		Difference #
		#	%	#	%	
Expired Meter Offences – “Park at Expired Meter, Fail to deposit fee/display receipt”	\$30.00	661,682	23.20%	665,542	23.28%	(3,860)
No Parking – “Park Signed Highway during Prohibited Times/Days”	\$30.00	628,212	22.03%	604,403	21.15%	23,809
No Valid Permit - “Park (Prohibited area/location) without a Permit”	\$30.00	506,082	17.74%	504,717	17.66%	1,365
Private Property - “Park Vehicle on Private Property without Consent”	\$30.00	271,969	9.54%	240,683	8.42%	31,286
No Stopping - “Stop Vehicle signed Highway Prohibited Time/Day”	\$60.00	143,933	5.05%	140,805	4.93%	3,128
Parking – 3 Hour Limit - “Park Longer than 3 Hours”	\$30.00	115,939	4.07%	106,948	3.74%	8,991
No Standing – “Stand Vehicle signed Highway Prohibited Time/Day”	\$60.00	100,772	3.53%	95,382	3.34%	5,390
Parking Excess Time – “Park Signed Highway in excess of Permitted Time”	\$30.00	88,282	3.10%	83,000	2.90%	5,282
Fire Route – “Park Vehicle in Designated Fire Routes”	\$100.00	39,291	1.38%	36,090	1.26%	3,201
Fire Hydrant – “Park – 3M of Fire Hydrant”	\$30.00	35,089	1.23%	30,827	1.08%	4,262
No Parking 2:00am – 6:00am in North York from Dec 1 to Mar 31	\$30.00	33,621	1.18%	25,912	0.91%	7,709
Parking Machine not used/no fee deposited	\$30.00	29,363	1.03%	29,153	1.02%	210
Other Offences – Parking in Parks, Park facing wrong direction, etc		28,793	1.00%	151,492	5.31%	(122,699)
Stop Sidewalk/Footpath - “Stop - on/over sidewalk/footpath”	\$60.00	27,301	0.96%	24,143	0.84%	3,158
Parking – Blvd - “Park on Boulevard”	\$30.00	23,092	0.81%	20,141	0.70%	2,951
Parking – Public Lane - “Park in Public Lane”	\$30.00	20,891	0.73%	18,646	0.65%	2,245
Parking – 9M Intersection - “Park - 9M of Intersecting Highway”	\$30.00	19,139	0.67%	17,385	0.61%	1,754
Parking – Transit Zone - “Stand Vehicle - Signed Highway – Transit Zone”	\$60.00	18,108	0.63%	16,562	0.58%	1,546
Park Passenger/Freight Loading Zones contrary to Permitted times	\$30.00	16,186	0.57%	8,200	0.29%	7,986
Municipal Offences - “Park Vehicle on Municipal Property without Consent”	\$30.00	12,790	0.45%	8,973	0.31%	3,817
Park not within period permitted	\$30.00	10,923	0.38%	10,815	0.38%	108
Parking – Parallel to Curb - “Fail to Park/Stop Parallel to curb”	\$20.00	9,460	0.33%	8,657	0.30%	803
Parking – Obstruct Driveway - “Park/Obstruct Driveway/Laneway”	\$30.00	5,647	0.20%	5,244	0.18%	403
Disabled Parking - “Park Vehicle in Designated Disable Parking Space”	\$150.00	5,535	0.19%	4,633	0.16%	902
Totals		2,852,100	100.0%	2,858,353	100.0%	(6,253)

APPENDIX B

Collection Rate Activity for Tickets Issued in 2006 & Prior Years (1989-2006)

Year	Number of Tickets Issued	Number of Tickets Paid as of Dec 31, 2005	Number of Tickets Paid in 2006	Number of Tickets Paid as of Dec 31, 2006	Collection Rate as of Dec 31, 2006	Projected Final Collection Rate
	#	#	#	#	%	%
1989	803,723	647,242	577	647,819	80.6%	80.7%
1990	3,144,174	2,401,947	4,012	2,405,959	76.5%	77.0%
1991	2,929,574	2,276,643	2,990	2,279,633	77.8%	78.0%
1992	2,639,282	1,928,717	1,599	1,930,316	73.1%	75.0%
1993	2,598,057	1,994,058	1,615	1,995,673	76.8%	78.0%
1994	2,481,123	1,968,241	2,035	1,970,276	79.4%	80.0%
1995	2,284,687	1,779,438	2,799	1,782,237	78.0%	80.0%
1996	2,575,178	1,964,511	2,922	1,967,433	76.4%	80.0%
1997	2,570,146	1,952,268	3,362	1,955,630	76.1%	80.0%
1998	2,633,616	2,027,828	4,446	2,032,274	77.2%	80.0%
1999	2,546,102	2,025,190	5,778	2,030,968	79.8%	81.0%
2000	2,760,301	2,224,945	8,474	2,233,419	80.9%	82.0%
2001	2,796,949	2,214,484	12,735	2,227,219	79.6%	82.0%
2002	2,934,214	2,186,725	19,075	2,205,800	75.2%	82.0%
2003	3,108,663	2,290,218	68,407	2,358,625	75.9%	82.0%
2004	3,076,149	1,953,077	361,131	2,314,208	75.2%	82.0%
2005	2,858,353	1,484,434	337,937	1,822,371	63.8%	82.0%
2006	2,852,100	N/A	1,603,656	1,603,656	56.2%	82.0%

APPENDIX C

Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity 2006

	Number of Tickets Issued	Number of Trial Requests	Percentage of Trial Requests	Total on Docket (*)	Total Convicted (**)	Percentage Convicted
	#	#	%	#	#	%
January	236,929	9,866	4.16%	3,046	2,140	70.26%
February	230,170	9,351	4.06%	2,436	1,943	79.76%
March	275,789	9,289	3.37%	2,856	2,380	83.33%
April	219,772	7,617	3.47%	2,141	2,085	97.38%
May	261,006	10,115	3.88%	2,526	2,214	87.65%
June	257,605	9,483	3.68%	2,502	2,361	94.36%
July	214,150	8,767	4.09%	2,152	2,030	94.33%
August	236,425	9,325	3.94%	2,303	1,999	86.80%
September	221,226	9,573	4.33%	1,916	1,777	92.75%
October	233,174	8,927	3.83%	2,240	2,200	98.21%
November	252,287	9,231*	3.66%	2,190	2,079	94.93%
December	213,567	9,231*	4.32%	2,318	1,917	82.70%
Total	2,852,100	110,775	3.9%	28,626	25,125	88.54%

* Estimated since trial requests are 60 days behind.

** Total on Docket refers to those offenders who followed through with their trial request. The difference between the number of trial requests and Total on Docket is due to some offenders opting to pay their tickets after filing a trial request and negating the need for a trial.

*** Total Convicted refers to those offenders who received a conviction by the Justice of the Peace, however, a conviction does not necessarily mean that the offender is required to pay the fine since a significant number of convictions result in suspended sentences whereby the offender is not required to pay the fine.