

April 16, 2008

BRIEFING NOTE: Parking Ticket Issuance in 2007

Issue:

To provide information on the number and type of parking infraction notices (i.e. parking tickets) issued in 2007.

Background:

- The purpose of the City's various parking by-laws is to regulate the movement of traffic on City streets and to help ensure smooth traffic flow and safe City streets. The set fines that have been established for parking related offences serve as a deterrent to illegal parking.
- The City of Toronto attracts vehicular traffic from all surrounding areas. Over 60 percent of all parking tickets issued in the City of Toronto are issued to vehicles registered in the "905" area.
- The Toronto Police Service (TPS), through its Parking Enforcement Unit, is responsible for parking enforcement and can provide information on enforcement practices. The TPS issues the majority of the City's parking tickets each year. However, a small percentage of the tickets are issued by trained Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs).
- MLEOs are independent private agencies whose staff are trained and certified by the TPS to issue parking tickets on private or municipal property throughout the City of Toronto. MLEO agencies are required to obtain a license from the City's Municipal Licensing & Standards Division in order to operate in the City. Some of the City's agencies, such as the TTC and Toronto Parking Authority, employ MLEOs to enforce off-street parking in their respective areas. Currently, there are approximately 2,500 MLEOs working for 115 different agencies.
- The Revenue Services Division is responsible for the processing and collection of fines for all parking infraction notices issued in the City of Toronto.

Key Points:

- In 2007, the City of Toronto issued 2,888,234 parking tickets. Approximately 2.6 million tickets were issued by the TPS and the balance of the tickets were issued by MLEOs. Table 1, below, provides a breakdown of the number of tickets issued in 2007 (with a comparison to 2006) by type of issuing officer/unit.

Table 1: Number of Parking Tickets Issuance by Unit

	2007	2006	Increase / (Decrease)
Toronto Police Services: Parking Enforcement Officers	2,582,581	2,566,383	16,198
Toronto Police Services: Police Officers	<u>19,707</u>	<u>15,834</u>	<u>3,873</u>
Subtotal: Toronto Police Services	2,602,288	2,582,217	20,071
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs)	268,672	246,783	21,889
Other (Tickets issued where the unit code was missing or unknown)	<u>17,274</u>	<u>23,100</u>	<u>(5,826)</u>
TOTAL	2,888,234	2,852,100	36,134

- The overall number of parking tickets issued in 2007 is slightly higher than in 2006 (there were 36,134 more parking tickets issued in 2007).
- There are many variables that may impact parking ticket issuance in any given year. In 2006, parking ticket issuance was impacted due to the implementation of the hand held system. Officers were required to attend in class training days to learn the new computerized system and there was a learning curve involved while officers were familiarizing themselves with the new electronic system. Since the hand held system was fully implemented in 2006, these issues did not impact the 2007 issuance numbers. The increase may also be due in part to a higher number of MLEO's working in 2007 (2,444 MLEO's in 2007 versus 2,004 in 2006).
- Appendix A, attached, provides a breakdown (by type of parking offence) of the number of parking infraction notices issued in 2007, in order of ticket issuance (i.e. highest number of tickets issued to lowest).
- In 2007, 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 44% of the parking tickets issued in 2007. 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 16% of all tickets issued in 2007.

Collection Activity for Tickets Issued in 2007 & 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, 2007. Based on prior years' experience, staff has also projected what the final collection rate will be for each of the years.

- As noted in Appendix B, the collection rate for tickets issued in 2007 and paid as of December 31, 2007, was approximately 58%. However, given that offenders will continue to pay parking tickets issued in 2007, in 2008 and later years (when renewing their license plates at the Ministry of Transportation), the collection rate is expected to increase to approximately 85%.
- The City continues to collect upon parking tickets issued in prior years. In 2007, payments were received for 2007 tickets as well as tickets issued between 1989 and 2006. For example, 1,084 parking tickets issued in 1989 were paid in 2007. Although staff are unable to determine exactly why these payments are being received for tickets that were issued as far back as eighteen (18) years ago, it is believed that some of these payments are generated when drivers re-activate a dormant license plate.

Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity - 2007 (Appendix C)

- Appendix C, attached, provides a breakdown of trial requests and court conviction activity for tickets issued in 2007 and other years, where court activity was required or requested by the offender.
- In 2007, 175,655 (6.08%) of parking ticket recipients requested a trial. Of the 28,345 tickets that went to trial, 19,830 (or 69.96%) received a conviction by the Justice of the Peace.

Summary of Cancellations and Withdrawals – 2007

- Although the City of Toronto's collection rate is one of the highest in Canada, approximately 15% of all parking tickets are not collected upon for a variety of reasons. In 2007, of the approximately 2.9 million tickets issued, 434,742 or 15.05% of these were cancelled.
- Table 2, below, outlines the various reasons why these tickets were cancelled.

Table 2 – 2007 Parking Tickets - Breakdown of Tickets Cancelled

Parking Tickets Cancelled in 2007		Parking Tickets Cancelled in 2006		Reason for Canceling
#	%	#	%	
150,901	5.22%	147,074	5.16%	Cancelled by staff due to various reasons including utility or road work, by-law exemptions, missing signs, time errors(officer forgets to circle am or pm), date errors(date is in the future), etc.
119,032	4.12%	129,034	4.52%	Drove Away – offender drives away before officer can serve the ticket on the vehicle or to the person directly
90,722	3.14%	102,791	3.60%	Out-of-Province – Tickets issued to out-of-province vehicles where license plate and owner information is unavailable from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
61,965	2.15%	83,312	2.92%	Plate errors – These errors most often occur when an officer or data entry staff enters the license plate number incorrectly. When the license plate number is forwarded to the MTO, the Ministry provides information to the City indicating an error - such as the plate number provided has not been issued, the plate was not found, the expiry months don't match (expiry month on the ticket does not match MTO records), the plate has been reported stolen, or the plate is unattached-whereby the plate is not assigned to any specific vehicle.
7,291	0.25%	24,820	0.87%	Incomplete – a piece of information is missing on the ticket
2,482	0.09%	6,817	0.24%	Cancelled/Conviction by Justice of the Peace at Trial. May result in a conviction registered; however, a suspended sentence may be imposed whereby the offender if not required to pay the fine and the ticket is treated as cancelled since no revenue is forthcoming.
1,561	0.05%	1,315	0.05%	Spoiled – Parking officer notices a mistake was made when writing the ticket and subsequently cancels the ticket before it is issued
788	0.03%	7,800	0.27%	Illegible – data entry staff who key information on manually written tickets into a database, are unable to read a piece of information on the ticket.
434,742	15.05%	502,963	17.63%	

- The number of cancellations in 2007 decreased by 68,221 from 2006. There was a substantial decrease in the number of tickets cancelled due to “illegibility” and “Plate errors” which is attributable to the hand held parking ticket writers implemented by TPS in the fall of 2006.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Breakdown of Parking Offences - 2007 (and 2006)

Appendix B: Collection Activity for Tickets issued in 2007 & Prior Years (1989–2006)

Appendix C: Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity – 2007

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Date: April 16, 2008

APPENDIX A: Breakdown of Parking Offences – 2007 (and 2006)

Bylaw / Offence	Set Fine Amount	Tickets Issued in 2007		Tickets Issued in 2006		Difference #
		#	%	#	%	
No Parking – “Park Signed Highway during Prohibited Times/Days	\$30.00	644,162	22.30%	628,212	22.03%	15,950
Expired Meter Offences – “Park at Expired Meter, Fail to deposit fee/display receipt”	\$30.00	621,044	21.50%	661,682	23.20%	(40,638)
No Valid Permit - “Park (Prohibited area/location) without a Permit”	\$30.00	469,963	16.27%	506,082	17.74%	(36,119)
Private Property - “Park Vehicle on Private Property without Consent”	\$30.00	285,572	9.89%	271,969	9.54%	13,603
No Stopping - “Stop Vehicle signed Highway Prohibited Time/Day”	\$60.00	159,476	5.52%	143,933	5.05%	15,543
Parking – 3 Hour Limit - “Park Longer than 3 Hours”	\$30.00	119,671	4.14%	115,939	4.07%	3,732
No Standing – “Stand Vehicle signed Highway Prohibited Time/Day”	\$60.00	112,608	3.90%	100,772	3.53%	11,836
Parking Excess Time – “Park Signed Highway in excess of Permitted Time”	\$30.00	96,339	3.34%	88,282	3.10%	8,057
Fire Hydrant – “Park – 3M of Fire Hydrant”	\$30.00	41,138	1.42%	35,089	1.23%	6,049
Fire Route – “Park Vehicle in Designated Fire Routes”	\$100.00	39,613	1.37%	39,291	1.38%	322
Parking Machine not used/no fee deposited	\$30.00	31,878	1.10%	29,363	1.03%	2,515
No Parking 2:00am – 6:00am in North York from Dec 1 to Mar 31	\$30.00	31,489	1.09%	33,621	1.18%	(2,132)
Stop Sidewalk/Footpath - “Stop - on/over sidewalk/footpath”	\$60.00	30,400	1.05%	27,301	0.96%	3,099
Parking – Public Lane - “Park in Public Lane”	\$30.00	22,594	0.78%	20,891	0.73%	1,703
Park Passenger/Freight Loading Zones contrary to Permitted times	\$30.00	21,652	0.75%	16,186	0.57%	5,466
Parking – 9M Intersection - “Park - 9M of Intersecting Highway”	\$30.00	20,694	0.72%	19,139	0.67%	1,555
Parking – Transit Zone - “Stand Vehicle - Signed Highway – Transit Zone”	\$60.00	19,751	0.68%	18,108	0.63%	1,643
Municipal Offences - “Park Vehicle on Municipal Property without Consent”	\$30.00	14,863	0.51%	12,790	0.45%	2,073
Unauthorized Parking on Boulevard	\$50.00	13,486	0.47%	N/A	N/A	13,486
Parking – Blvd - “Park on Boulevard”	\$50.00	12,146	0.42%	23,092	0.81%	(10,946)
Park not within period permitted	\$30.00	11,760	0.41%	10,923	0.38%	837
Parking – Parallel to Curb - “Fail to Park/Stop Parallel to curb”	\$20.00	7,593	0.26%	9,460	0.33%	(1,867)
Park and Fail to Properly Display Parking Permit	\$30.00	5,757	0.20%	N/A	N/A	5,757
Disabled Parking - “Park Vehicle in Designated Disable Parking Space”	\$150.00	5,473	0.19%	5,535	0.19%	(62)
Parking – Obstruct Driveway - “Park/Obstruct Driveway/Laneway”	\$30.00	5,398	0.19%	5,647	0.20%	(249)
Park on Boulevard Between Roadway and Sidewalk	\$50.00	1,902	0.07%	N/A	N/A	1,902
Other Offences – Parking in Parks, Park facing wrong direction, etc.	\$15 - \$150 *	41,812	1.46%	28,793	1.00%	13,019
Totals		2,888,234	100.0%	2,852,100	100%	36,134

* The other offence category is a summation of all other parking offences where the number of tickets issued is under 1,000. The fines in this category range from \$15 - \$150

APPENDIX B

Collection Activity for Tickets Issued in 2007 & Prior Years (1989-2006)

Year	Number of Tickets Issued	Number of Tickets Paid as of Dec 31, 2006	Number of Tickets Paid in 2007	Number of Tickets Paid as of Dec 31, 2007	Collection Rate as of Dec 31, 2007	Projected Final Collection Rate
	#	#	#	#	%	%
1989	803,723	648,219	1,084	649,303	80.8%	80.9%
1990	3,144,174	2,409,343	8,685	2,418,028	76.9%	77.5%
1991	2,929,574	2,282,156	6,144	2,288,300	78.1%	78.5%
1992	2,639,282	1,931,641	3,535	1,935,176	73.3%	75.0%
1993	2,598,057	1,997,133	4,208	2,001,341	77.0%	78.0%
1994	2,481,123	1,971,999	4,506	1,976,505	79.7%	80.5%
1995	2,284,687	1,784,688	1,747	1,786,435	78.2%	80.5%
1996	2,575,178	1,970,054	1,896	1,971,950	76.6%	80.5%
1997	2,570,146	1,958,416	2,204	1,960,620	76.3%	80.5%
1998	2,633,616	2,035,786	2,740	2,038,526	77.4%	80.5%
1999	2,546,102	2,035,318	3,147	2,038,465	80.1%	81.0%
2000	2,760,301	2,239,715	4,365	2,244,080	81.3%	82.0%
2001	2,796,949	2,236,419	6,174	2,242,593	80.2%	82.0%
2002	2,934,214	2,215,106	6,613	2,221,719	75.7%	82.0%
2003	3,108,663	2,377,436	11,102	2,388,538	76.8%	82.0%
2004	3,076,149	2,382,050	19,227	2,401,277	78.1%	82.0%
2005	2,858,353	1,822,371	63,824	1,866,195	65.3%	82.0%
2006	2,852,100	1,603,656	324,848	1,928,504	67.6%	82.0%
2007	2,888,234	N/A	1,665,111	1,665,111	57.7%	85.0%

APPENDIX C

Summary of Trial Requests and Court Conviction Activity 2007

	Number of Tickets Issued	Number of Trial Requests	Percentage of Trial Requests	Total on Docket (*)	Total Convicted (**)	Percentage Convicted (***)
	#	#	%	#	#	%
January	231,993	11,720	5.05%	2,568	1,678	65.34%
February	218,295	11,949	5.47%	2,316	1,532	66.15%
March	263,431	15,180	5.76%	2,591	1,912	73.79%
April	251,898	14,827	5.89%	2,081	1,690	81.21%
May	263,300	16,817	6.39%	2,119	1,795	84.71%
June	253,183	15,586	6.16%	2,230	1,851	83.00%
July	243,094	15,789	6.50%	2,432	1,519	62.46%
August	240,612	15,725	6.54%	2,299	1,669	72.60%
September	238,203	13,985	5.87%	1,894	1,402	74.02%
October	251,587	15,986	6.35%	2,785	1,772	63.63%
November	242,752	15,537	6.40%	2,796	1,713	61.27%
December	189,886	12,554	6.61%	2,234	1,297	58.06%
Total	2,888,234	175,655	6.08%	28,345	19,830	69.96%

* Estimated since trial requests are 60 days behind.

** Total on Docket refers to those offenders who followed through with their trial request.

*** 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.