

From: [Saman Tabasinejad](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Please vote in support of MM5.6 - Fine Equity: Balancing Toronto Transit Commission Fare Evasion and Parking Fines
Date: March 31, 2023 2:35:21 PM

Dear City Councillors,

Progress Toronto is a not-for-profit organization that advocates and organizes for a more democratic, socially just, and progressive city. We have engaged tens of thousands of people across this city and worked with hundreds of volunteers to advocate for a more affordable and equitable Toronto. We are writing to share our strong support for motion MM5.6 - Fine Equity: Balancing Toronto Transit Commission Fare Evasion and Parking Fines.

The City of Toronto has an obligation to ensure that the administration of fines and penalties are reasonable and proportional. However, the present-day system for fining Torontonians is not equitable, and unfairly penalizes transit users.

The current fine for failing to pay the \$3.25 (soon to be \$3.35) transit fare can range between \$195 to \$400. This means that in some cases, the fine for fare evasion is 100x greater than the cost of one trip on transit. This is not a proportionate penalty and the TTC has reported that transit fines and enforcement disproportionately impact Black and Indigenous peoples, particularly men.[1]

Meanwhile, the fine for parking in a metered space without paying or exceeding the time limit is \$30. These fines are much smaller, in some cases less than one tenth of the cost of the penalties for transit fare evasion. This does not uphold the principle of fairness and it's clear that transit users are being unfairly penalized.

At a time when people across our city are struggling to afford basic necessities, it is imperative that the city take immediate steps to reduce the transit fines and make them more aligned with other city fines related to transportation. I encourage you to support the current iteration of this motion in order to build a more equitable city.

Saman Tabasinejad
Organizing Director
Progress Toronto

[1] https://ttc-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/Project/TTC/DevProto/Documents/Home/Public-Meetings/Board/2021/April_14/5_External_Presentation_Owusu_Bempah_Wortley_TTC_Racial_Equity_Impact_Assessment_Interim_Report.pdf

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