

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	March 26, 2012
	Agenda Item No.	47
	Roll Call No.	[_____]
	Communication No.	<u>12-138</u>
	Submitted by:	Diane Rauh, City Clerk

AGENDA HEADING:

Intergovernmental 28E Agreement with Polk County, for assistance in the collection of delinquent City of Des Moines Parking Citations.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Intergovernmental 28E Agreement with Polk County for assistance in the collection of delinquent City of Des Moines parking citations. Iowa Code Section 331.553(8) provides the opportunity for cities and counties to cooperate in the collection of delinquent parking citations in conjunction with renewal of motor vehicle registrations. The City of Des Moines City Clerk’s Office and the Polk County Treasurer’s Office have worked for months to create a streamlined and efficient process. In alignment with the City’s strategic goals, this is an excellent example of how the City and County can work together.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$50,000 per year in additional parking citation fines collected.

Funding Source: FY 2012-2013 Operating Budget, GE001, CCL040000, 457030, page 27

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City Clerk’s Office administers the parking ticket payment program for the City of Des Moines. The office utilizes various collection methods including a collection agency, the Iowa Income Tax Offset Program, and towing. Seventy-seven (77%) of all parking tickets are paid within the first 120 days after issuance. Eighty-six and one-half (86.5%) are eventually paid after collection efforts. However, between \$75,000-\$100,000 of parking citations remain unpaid on Polk County license plates per calendar year. With the cooperation of the Polk County Treasurer’s Office, citizens will be notified of any outstanding debt as part of their license plate renewal reminder mailing. Once the outstanding fines are paid (either to the Polk County Treasurer or to the City Clerk), the license plates will then be eligible for renewal.

Polk County will receive \$5 per hold that they collect on the City’s behalf. The smallest fine amount that will be placed with the Treasurer is \$20. The highest amount will vary and will most likely exceed \$400. In both scenarios Polk County will only receive \$5 for processing. While the fees are minimal, they will help cover the cost of the additional customer service time spent on the City’s behalf. This amount is less than the City pays to both the collection agency, and to the Income Tax Offset Program. In the future, the City Clerk’s Office will determine on a case-by-case basis the most appropriate collection method for the various types of unpaid citations. For example: The collection agency might

only be used to collect out-of-state license plates, and the Iowa Income Tax Offset Program might only be used to collect the plates not registered in Polk County.

The City of Dubuque and the Dubuque County Treasurer were the first in Iowa to take advantage of this cooperative program. Their program launched in October and they are reporting great compliance. While considerably less than Polk County, Warren and Dallas County license plates have the 2nd and 3rd highest amounts of unpaid Des Moines parking citations. In the future, the City Clerk will contact those County Treasurers to determine their interest in participating in this program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

The 28E is the first of many steps in this process. Once the agreement is signed by the Board of Supervisors, the City and County Information Technology (IT) Departments will begin their work with the Iowa Department of Transportation. Press releases and public information notices will be issued as the go-live date approaches sometime in Fall 2012.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.