



City Attorney's Office

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June 4, 2008

The Honorable Ann Campbell, Mayor,
and Members of the City Council
of the City of Ames, Iowa

Re: Amendment to Parking Violations Ordinance, Municipal Code §18.7(1)

Dear Mayor Campbell and Members of the City Council:

During the past year several changes have been made to the procedures used in the enforcement of parking violations. One new ordinance imposed a five dollar collection fee for fines not paid within forty-five days. A second new ordinance established a permissible inference that the registered owner is responsible for vehicles parked in an illegal manner. A third change was drafted, but due to an oversight was not brought to Council at the same time as the other ordinances.

The attached draft ordinance was recommended by the Parking Committee. It increases overtime parking fines from three dollars to five dollars and reduces the time period for fine increases from thirty to seven days. The adjusted fine amounts more closely reflect the cost of parking law enforcement activities. The recommendation to increase in overtime parking fines was approved by the City Council as part of the review of the parking law enforcement system during the 2008 budget process.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Marek
City Attorney

Attachment

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY REPEALING SUBSECTION 18.7(1) AND RE-ADOPTING THAT SECTION REVISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE FINE FOR ILLEGAL PARKING; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by repealing Section 18.7(1) and re-adopting the same revised to state:

"Sec. 18.7. PARKING VIOLATIONS; METHOD OF CHARGING; METHOD OF PAYING.

(1) Any violation of any parking regulations of this chapter, or of Section 22.8 (snow routes), may be charged by placing a notice of violation and fine on the vehicle so parked. The amount of the fine payable for each violation of Section 18.28 (overtime parking) shall be five dollars (\$5.00) if paid within seven days of the date of violation; ten dollars (\$10.00) if paid after seven days. The amount of fine payable for violation of Section 18.18(1) (handicapped parking) shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The amount of the fine payable for all other parking violations, including snow route violations, shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) if paid within seven (7) days of the date of the violation, but shall increase to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) if paid after seven (7) days from the date of the violation."

Section Two. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Three. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this _____ day of _____, _____.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk
00940

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor