

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to expanding and broadening the economic hardship relief programs for persons who have received parking fines.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Bonin – Ryu):

DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to report relative to expanding and broadening economic hardship relief programs for persons who have received parking fines, including: data on the number and percentage of applications for low-income payment plans who are denied and reasons for denial, the number of incomplete applications for low-income payment plans, the number of late unpaid citations, and an estimate of the percentage of unpaid citations that are due to economic hardship; and, examining the economic hardship relief programs offered by other agencies, and the different criteria used to qualify for such programs.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On October 21, 2020, Council considered Motion (Bonin – Ryu) relative to expanding and broadening the economic hardship relief programs for persons who have received parking fines. Motion states that on October 15, 2020, LADOT resumed parking enforcement for most violations that had been suspended during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion movers note that there are several existing and new relief programs for people experiencing economic hardship, including for people experiencing homelessness, low-income households, newly unemployed individuals, and drivers with citations over three years old. In addition, LADOT is creating a new early payment incentive program to reduce fines for people who pay within the first 48 hours after receiving a citation.

Motion goes on to state that while these programs provide critical relief from escalating parking fines and late fees, some individuals continue to fall through holes in the safety net. At a time when families face potentially compounding financial strains of job loss, unpaid bills, overdue rent, and fear of eviction, Motion movers recommend that Council instruct LADOT should evaluate the effective reach of its parking fine relief programs to see if there are additional populations that deserve relief but are unable to qualify under current rules. LADOT should also assess the qualification processes for other agencies who provide public benefits and determine if any other public benefit recipients should be deemed eligible for parking fine relief. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held November 2, 2020, the Transportation Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendation relative to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

BONIN: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

KORETZ: YES

jaw

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-