

Parking & Towing **Fines & Fees** Reform



Presented to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity, &
Community Policy Committee

by Councilmember Rigel Robinson



Legislation

1. Ordinance Amending RPP Policy

Allow low-income residents with outstanding parking tickets to purchase Residential Parking Permits.

2. Referral to the City Manager

Expand payment plan eligibility to 50% AMI.

Formalize practice of not towing for unpaid parking tickets.

Offer fee waivers for low-income, homeless, and first-time tows.

3. FY 2024 Budget Referral for Additional Staff

Allocate \$383,512 for 2 FTEs to administer the expanded payment plan program.



Current Situation

\$27,750

Maximum annual income
for a family of 4 to qualify for
the citation payment plan

Typical Tow Charge

+\$220 Tow Fee

+\$75 BPD Vehicle Release Fee

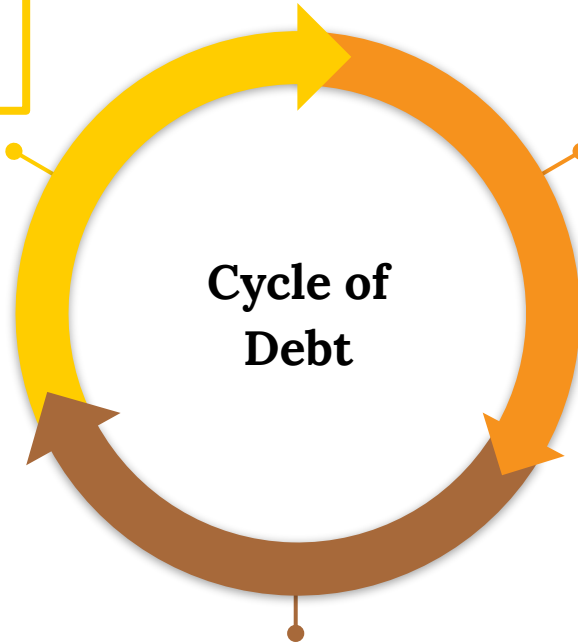
+\$85/day Tow Storage Fee

=\$465 (With 2 days of storage)

Low-income resident is **unable to pay** off their parking tickets

Resident's RPP expires and they are **barred from renewing**

Cycle of Debt



Resident gets ticketed for parking without a permit, **adding to the debt they owe**



Goals

- ◉ **End cycles of debt:** The City of Berkeley should not be in the business of pushing people further into debt and poverty.
- ◉ **Encourage compliance:** Give low-income residents more options for paying off their parking tickets.
- ◉ **Reduce impact of punitive measures:** Towing is a massive financial burden, and thus should be reserved for situations where it is necessary for public safety. A fee waiver program should be implemented to alleviate costs.