



## NEWS ADVISORY

Jan. 20, 2012

Public information

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### **New Parking Fines Structure in Place Jan. 3**

The Missoula Parking Commission implemented a new fines structure on Jan. 3, including a first “You Have Been Forgiven!” ticket.

Here’s how it works:

Previously, a Meter Violation (the meter is expired) drew a \$2 ticket, and an Overtime Violation (parking longer than the maximum time limit at a meter or in a restricted time zone) was \$5. Fines had not increased in 40 years.

Now, after a “You Have Been Forgiven!” ticket with a \$0 fine, the fines escalate by the day to \$5, then \$10, \$15 and \$20, which is the maximum for subsequent offenses. The fine for Improper Parking, such as in a yellow zone, has gone from \$15 to \$20; state government sets the fine for parking in a disabled spot without a permit, and that is \$100. Fines will not escalate against one’s license plate in a single day. This means that if a vehicle draws two tickets on one day, the tickets will be either two “You Have Been Forgiven!” tickets or two \$5 tickets and so on. Once the vehicle hits its fourth ticket in six months, the cost is \$20, and subsequent tickets will remain at \$20.

If the vehicle stops getting tickets as time passes, the new fine structure rewards that. Old tickets fall off the record, so a ticket that was once considered a third offense becomes just a second offense. And once a record is clean for six months, the vehicle is eligible for the “You Have Been Forgiven!” once again.

For more information on the new fine structure or about anything related to parking downtown, contact the Parking Commission at 552-6250.

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