

INTRODUCED: July 22, 2019

AN ORDINANCE No. 2019-194

To amend City Code § 12-122, concerning fee to support an electronic summons system, for the purpose of providing for an assessment of the fee in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the City of Richmond.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 9 2019 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 12-122 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015) be and is hereby **amended** and reordained as follows:

Sec. 12-122. Criminal and traffic court costs—Fee for electronic summons system.

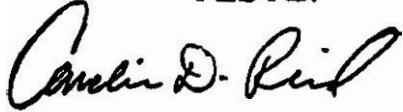
A fee as set forth in Appendix A to this Code shall be assessed by the City in each criminal or traffic case in the General District Court of the City of Richmond, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the City of Richmond, and the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond in which the defendant is charged with a violation of any statute or ordinance. The assessment shall be collected by the clerk of the court in which the action is filed, remitted to the Director of

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 9 2019 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

Finance, and held by the Director of Finance subject to disbursement by the City Council to the Department of Police to fund software, hardware, and associated equipment costs for the implementation and maintenance of an electronic summons system.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:

City Clerk



CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O & R REQUEST

4-8923
JUN 24 2019

Office of the
Chief Administrative Officer

O&R REQUEST

DATE: June 12, 2019

EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

RECEIVED

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

JUL 15 2019

THROUGH: Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

THROUGH: John Wack, Director of Finance

THROUGH: Jay Brown, Director of Budget and Strategic Planning

FROM: Lieutenant Colonel William Smith, Interim Chief of Police

RE: ELECTRONIC SUMMONS SYSTEM FEE IN JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

ORD. OR RES. No.

PURPOSE:

To amend the City Code to provide for the assessment of an additional \$5.00 in each Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) criminal or traffic case, pursuant to Virginia Code § 17.1-279.1. The funds are to be retained in a separate special fund designated as "Police eTicket Account" and used solely to fund software, hardware, and associated equipment costs for the implementation and maintenance of an electronic summons system. Also to amend the FY2020 special fund budget to appropriate \$15,000 in estimated revenue for these purposes.

REASON:

Section 17.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia, as passed during the 2014 Session of the Virginia Acts of Assembly, authorizes the local governing body to adopt an ordinance that will assess up to an additional \$5.00 as part of the costs in each criminal or traffic case in the locality's district or circuit courts. The funds are then held for disbursement to fund software, hardware and

system. An electronic summons system will reduce the time it takes an officer to issue a traffic citation. This will reduce the risk of road shoulder accidents during the course of the officer's traffic stop, as well as provide the motorist with a faster, more efficient transaction.

On October 8, 2018, a public hearing was held regarding the assessment of a \$5.00 fee for all criminal and traffic cases in the General District Court and the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond. By a vote of 9-0, the City Council adopted the ordinance, adding section 12-122 to the Code of the City of Richmond. Currently, the ordinance does not cover any criminal or traffic cases in the Richmond JDR District Court. Authorizing the assessment of an additional \$5.00 fee in each JDR criminal or traffic case would bring the Richmond JDR District Court in line with the other Richmond courts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Administration recommends adoption of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND:

The Richmond Police Department (RPD) promotes traffic safety and enforces traffic code violations on a daily basis. During 2017 and 2018, RPD issued, on average, 47,111 traffic citations per year and made, on average, 15,562 arrests. When motorists are stopped by police, it adds an element of danger as the motorists and officers are exposed to passing traffic. Nationwide statistics indicate that in 2017, there were a total of 31 officer fatalities caused by motor vehicle crashes, and 10 officer fatalities caused by the officer being struck by a vehicle. An electronic summons system will reduce the danger of road shoulder accidents by reducing the amount of time it will take an officer to issue a traffic citation. Additionally, an electronic summons system will provide the motorist with a faster, more efficient transaction.

An electronic summons system will also significantly improve efficiency and accuracy in the process of issuing citations. Citation data will automatically be scanned and electronically entered at the point of activity. Personnel will no longer have to subsequently re-enter data from hand-written tickets. Once the citation is completed, the transaction data will be sent electronically to the court's case management system, usually within 24 hours or less. This will allow violators to promptly prepay their fines, as well as aid the courts in managing their dockets and tracking their caseloads. Additionally, the electronic summons system will reduce data entry errors, thereby reducing the need for manual ticket information follow-ups between the courts and police.

Funding from the proposed ordinance will also support the purchase of new peripheral equipment such as handheld devices, portable printers, driver's license scanners, and barcode readers. This equipment will contribute to making the citation process run faster and more efficiently. Vehicle operators will still receive a paper copy of the summons printed locally by the officer.

The initial implementation would cover 25 vehicles. However, the full implementation of an electronic summons system will cover approximately 400 police vehicles. The City of Richmond is currently in the process of procuring such a system.

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FISCAL IMPACT / COST TO CITY: None

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Estimated revenue of approximately \$15,000 in FY2020 will be utilized for the implementation and maintenance of an electronic summons system.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: Yes

REVENUE TO CITY: Approximately \$15,000 in FY2020 special fund fee revenue (product of projected 3,000 criminal and traffic cases, multiplied by \$5.00).

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: July 22, 2019

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 9, 2019

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent Agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Public Safety Standing Committee

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:

Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Police Department, Department of Finance, Richmond JDR District Court

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: Amends the FY2020 Special Fund Budget. Reference Code of the City of Richmond § 12-122

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): Courts staff will collect and remit the new fee revenue to Finance

ATTACHMENTS: Virginia Code § 17.1-279.1, Code of the City of Richmond § 12-122

STAFF:

David Mitchell
Office of General Counsel
Richmond Police Department
804-646-4467