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Long Beach, CA 90802

Mary Zendejas
Councilmember, District 1
Long Beach City Council
City Hall Office
411 West Ocean Blvd, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: PROPOSE AUTHORIZING NEW BILL TO ALLEVIATE PARKING TICKET FINES THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dear Councilwoman, Zendejas:

For the past two years I've been renting a studio apartment in your district two blocks from the beach that I simply adore, however it does not include an off-street parking space and because of this, I have been forced (not all that successfully) to find parking for my 2005 Ford Freestyle SUV each and every day that I have lived in my beloved apartment and because of the limited street parking in the downtown area, I have unfortunately racked up an excessive number of parking citations.

I am a part-time gig-worker earning a meager and sporadic income that enables me to afford my rent, a few necessities, and not much else; NOT the exorbitant fines associated with so many parking citations—which add up to more than I paid for my car and more than it is worth.

I would like to propose a new bill for adoption into the Long Beach City Bylaws that would enable citizens who have had the misfortune of getting an excessive number of parking tickets and who cannot afford to pay them, to allow the fines to be worked off through community service, and as Councilmember for my district, I would like you to author the bill.

Specifically, the bill would enable any citizen who acquires \$500 or more in parking citation fees in the greater Long Beach area to work them off by volunteering his or her time working for the City, thereby enabling him or her to trade his or her time for money at the going fair market hourly wage for the work, which would go directly toward paying off, in whole or in part, his or her parking citation fines.

Adopting such a law would be a win-win for everyone because it would enable Long Beach citizens who, like me, could otherwise not afford to pay their parking tickets, and therefore prevent them from registering their cars, to work off their debts, which would allow them to register their cars, and at the same time, it would provide the City of Long Beach with free hours of valuable labor.

I will contact you in a few days to set up a mutually convenient day and time to meet to discuss the details of this proposed bill and outline the necessary next steps for enacting it into law. In the meantime, please review the attached document, which contains the proposed language for the new bill.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Edith Guerrieri Quiroz
Long Beach Citizen, District 1

Attachment