

# **Fine structure for violation of handicapped parking spaces**

Presented to the Transportation and Environment Committee  
February 25, 2008



# Background

- The Crime Watch Executive Board (CWEB) has reviewed various policies and ordinances to identify areas for improvement within the community
- CWEB conducted a survey of Dallas' surrounding cities which revealed that the fee structure in these other cities ranged from \$116 to \$365 for violating disabled parking ordinances

# Disabled Parking Violations in Surrounding Communities

CITY	BASE FINE AMOUNT	CRIMINAL VIOLATION	CIVIL VIOLATION
<i>Addison</i>	\$365	√	
<i>Allen</i>	\$315	*	
<i>Balch Springs</i>	\$150	*	
<i>Carrollton</i>	\$195	√	
<i>Cedar Hill</i>	\$245	√	
<i>DeSoto</i>	\$310	√	
<i>Duncanville</i>	\$310	√	
<i>Frisco</i>	\$305	√	
<i>Garland</i>	\$116		√
<i>Grand Prairie</i>	\$300	*	
<i>Irving</i>	\$302		√
<i>Richardson</i>	\$300	√	
<i>Mesquite</i>	\$295		√
<i>Highland Park</i>	\$300	√	
<i>University Park</i>	\$305	√	

\* Unable to confirm criminal/civil status at this time

# CWEB Request

- CWEB has approached the City with a recommendation for the City to increase the fine for the violation of disabled parking ordinances to \$250; and to designate 15% of the revenue for the Citizens Helping in Parking Solutions (C.H.I.P.S.) program
- C.H.I.P.S. program trains and deputizes volunteers to patrol and issue citations to handicapped parking violators

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale image of a parking lot. In the foreground, a parking meter is visible on the left. In the background, a dark-colored car is parked, and a building with a large 'D' logo is visible. The overall scene is a typical urban parking area.

# Current Policy

- The City's civil parking fine for a disabled parking violation is currently \$95
- The City's base criminal fine for a disabled parking violation is \$290 plus court fees if paid on time

# Enforcement

- Dallas Police Department (DPD) through the C.H.I.P.S program- **80%** of citations issued
- Public Works and Transportation (PWT)- **14%** of citations issued
- Code Compliance – **4%** of citations issued
- Equipment and Building Services (EBS) Security – **2%**

# Recommendation

- C.H.I.P.S. program volunteers will write citations under State Law for prosecution in municipal court
  - Chapter 681 of the Transportation Code covers these offenses
  - Fines range from \$250 to \$500, with some enhancements for multiple convictions
- Update Dallas City Code to be consistent with State Law
- Review CWEB request to fund the C.H.I.P.S. program materials and supplies, and provide recommendations on how to assist with funding