

Increased Fines for Luxury Cars

Increased Fines for Luxury Cars: Fines for vehicle-related offenses in Chicago are set by the applicable provisions of either the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) or the Illinois Vehicle Code (ILVC). Current fine structures for these violations do not differentiate based on the price/'luxury' status of the violating vehicle.

Background

Fines for vehicle-related offenses in Chicago are set by the applicable provisions of either the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) or the Illinois Vehicle Code (ILVC). All parking, compliance, standing, and automated enforcement violations are violations of the MCC. However, the fines and penalties for these violations are regulated by the ILVC and range from \$25 to \$500 depending on the violation. Fines for these violations do not vary based on the price/'luxury' status of the violating vehicle.

Revenue Impact

Vehicle-related fine revenue to the City was \$307 million in 2014, which includes parking fines, vehicle impoundment, and booting.

Revenue from an escalated 'luxury vehicle' fine structure would vary based on the amount of the additional 'luxury' fine (a \$10 surcharge? a percentage of the original base fine?) and what vehicles were designated as luxury (all vehicles of a certain make or model? all vehicles over a certain market value? only new vehicles?).

Legal Authority

Fines for vehicle related offenses, e.g. parking, compliance, etc. are imposed based on the conduct of the individual. Imposing fines based on the status of the vehicle (whether it is a luxury car versus a non-luxury vehicle) would present constitutional equal protection and due process issues.