

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Carolyn N [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 12:24 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting 2/1/2021

While I understand the need for responsibility among drivers in the State of California, I find it to be in particularly bad taste for the Police in Merced to be giving tickets instead of warnings for minor non-safety violations such as expired tags on vehicles.

We are in a pandemic, and many citizens are using their vehicles less often. If the police department is relying on citizens having minor infractions (such as speeding) to fortify the department's budget, then perhaps the budget needs to be reconsidered to withstand hardship better without depending on citizens behaving poorly with an expected frequency.

Further, the covid restrictions have created long lines and delayed responses from the DMV, both in correspondence and face-to-face visits. It is not incumbent on the City to be responsible for the delays the state government is experiencing, but it is their duty to adjust their expectations of their citizens responsibly.

Moreso, largely citizens nationwide are already in fiscal danger; punishing them further for being poor is cruel and goes against core values of the government's civic duty to help and protect members of our community.

Lastly, it is particularly abhorrent to see the police ticketing vehicles at the parkade adjacent to city hall, the place where those trying to engage in governmental business park. Indeed, vehicle owners cannot do many transactions at the DMV until their city violations are paid for. So being ticketed while resolving previous tickets so that one can engage in transactions with the DMV is absurd.

To assuage these concerns, I would like to see a decrease in tickets, to be replaced with warnings, as well a decrease in fines and an increase in the amount of time to respond to the violations. There also needs to be the creation or extension in the amount of time between repeated citations for the same instance of the same violation.

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Carolyn Neumann
Notary Public - California

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