Just the Facts

July 21, 2017

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CITATIONS—WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The allocation of fine money is very complex depending on factors such as; the type and severity of the offense, the county or city prosecuting, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction, and some fines are determined by state statute while others are not. The judicial branch sets fine amounts and updates a fine schedule annually called the Statewide Payables list.

Most traffic violations are a petty misdemeanor which means it’s the lowest offense level and is not considered a crime, so it does not carry a jail sentence. The maximum fine imposed is $300. In some cases, traffic offenses can be enhanced to a misdemeanor level if the violation endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property.

How much does a traffic citation cost?  It varies. For moving traffic offenses, fines start around $121-$131. Offenses such as speeding vary base on the severity. The base fine for most traffic violations is $50 but a court surcharge of $75 and law library fees bring most traffic fines up to $131. The law library fees vary by county. Steele County imposes a $6 fee for criminal and traffic court cases.

Where does the money go?  According to an Executive Summary published by the House of Representative - Research Dept., the allocation of fine revenue is distributed through established formulas. Under §484.90, 2/3rd of the base fine goes to the city where the offense occurred and 1/3rd to the state’s general fund. The $75 fine surcharge goes to the State.

In Summary, a $131 traffic citation occurring in the City of Owatonna for a stop sign violation, the City would receive 2/3rd of the base fine of $50 or $33.33. The remaining $16.67 goes to the State in addition to the $75 surcharge.

A Great Cause—Come help support the McKinley Elementary School Safety Patrols by grabbing a bite to eat!

BRAT SALES!
Stop by the Cash Wise Food Stand
495 W North Street
Owatonna, MN
Save the Dates!
Friday, July 21, 2017
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 22, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
We Would Love to Serve You!

Gun Thefts—In the past 30 days, OPD has seen a rise in firearm thefts from vehicles and homes. Three firearms were stolen from homes or attached garages and 7 firearms were stolen from vehicles or RVs. One firearm was recovered in another jurisdiction. We want to urge citizens to take proactive steps to secure firearms in homes and never leave them in unlocked and unattended vehicles. Gun owners should record serial numbers, maintain photographs and an accurate description of their firearms, this also goes for any valuable property such as tools, jewelry, electronics, etc.

STATE
CITY
$16.67 or 1/3
$33.33 or 2/3

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, July 15 to Thursday, July 20
- Busiest Day of Week: Friday — 139 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 10:00 PM — 63 events
- Total # of Events: 839
- Average Events/Day: 119.86
- Average Events/Hour: 4.99
- Average Traffic Stops: .67 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 2

It’s not too late! We are still accepting registrations for the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association—Night to Unite block party scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, August 1st. If you wish to organize a block party in your neighborhood, please visit our website by clicking here and complete the registration materials and use other helpful resources to plan and host your party. There is no cost to register – just return your registration page to the Owatonna Police Department.

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