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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 11, 2020

TO: Greg Harrison, City Manager

THROUGH: Suzette Sibble, Assistant City Manager 

FROM: Jeff Lantz, Parking Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Vehicle Immobilizing Device – The Barnacle Parking System

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As the Parking Manager for the City of Pompano Beach (the “City”) I am involved in almost all aspects of parking revenue collections, including parking citations (citations). Although the City would ultimately not want to yield any parking citation revenues and instead have visitors and residents comply with all of the City’s parking regulations, the reality is that there are those who violate our parking regulations and many are habitual offenders. This in many instances is a result of failing to pay to park in designated parking areas. The City’s parking system relies on its parking fees to not only cover the operating and maintenance expenses of the parking system, but to also cover debt service expenses for the parking system’s infrastructure (i.e. the construction of the pier parking garage). The City generates approximately \$200,000 in parking citation revenue annually. However, the City continues to have a high instance of non-payment for these citations. At this time the City has over \$131,000 in unpaid citations and well over 120 violators with 3 or more unpaid citations or 1 ADA citation that in some cases are aging up to 2 years. Our current ordinance 70.11 (B) currently provides for placement of an immobilization device on any motor vehicle in the city with unpaid parking citations. Until now the city has not exercised this option.

I have identified the Barnacle Parking System (Barnacle) as a suitable solution to this issue. The Barnacle has important advantages over the traditional Boot system. The Barnacle is a bright yellow 20-pound device that looks similar to a common brief case that adheres to the windshield with 750 pounds of force. The parking enforcement officer can easily and quickly apply the device to the front windshield. An alarm and tracking system are then activated using the keypad built into the device. If a vehicle operator attempts to drive away with the Barnacle on their vehicle’s windshield, a high-pitched alarm will sound. In order to remove the device, the operator simply calls the number on the device and once the outstanding fees are paid on the phone with a credit card, they are given a code to release the device. The vehicle operator then has 24 hours to return the barnacle to the parking

office 24/7 utilizing a drop box for convenience. If the device is not returned in a timely manner their credit card will be charged for the device. The Barnacle software system is compatible with our current enforcement software allowing seamless reporting and auditing capabilities. The cities of Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach use the Barnacle, and have had success with this immobilizing device.



The traditional Boot system takes up a lot of room, the devices are heavy to move around, and hooking them to front drivers-side wheel almost always requires officers to kneel down in the street with their backs to oncoming traffic, as opposed to the Barnacle, which is placed on the car's windshield. The Barnacle Company will supply the Barnacle free of charge to the City with a \$850 initial set up fee. They charge the offender \$35 dollars for each release, and a 5% surcharge will be collected only on those individuals with citation fines over \$150.

Currently the City has many offenders who do not pay their citations, and the City's failure to have additional tools at their disposal to ensure compliance with payment will only result in additional unpaid citations and delayed collections, which impacts the City's parking system's fiscal operations. Staff is seeing some results from scofflaw, which is to say when a violator tries to renew their vehicle tags, they are sent to the City's Parking Office from the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles (the "DMV") to pay their outstanding fines. However, this process can take up to three years in many cases, as a violator must have at least one (1) handicap violation or at least three (3) regular citations before this process is affected. In this case the City is reliant on another agency for delayed collection of our citation revenues. We have found that some can find ways around this process by selling their vehicle or purchasing a new vehicle and acquiring a new license plate.

The Barnacle is a simpler, more effective, solution than the traditional Boot system. I would recommend the City institute a pilot program using the Barnacle on those offenders with more than 3 unpaid citations or 1 handicap citation. If a parking ambassador comes across a vehicle meeting this criterion, the barnacle would be applied to the vehicle. This will serve as an additional help to reinforce the City's parking ordinance.

Prior to going live with the program, the City would ensure that the public is well informed of this upcoming program (press release, social media, website, etc.), with a future implementation date (i.e. 60 days). Letters will also be sent to those violators with three (3) or more regular (or 1 handicap citation) informing them their vehicles may be immobilized if the citations are not paid before implementing the Barnacle. I will document our collection efforts to justify the implementation of this program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (954)786-5580 with any additional questions or via email at [jeff.lantz@copbfl.com](mailto:jeff.lantz@copbfl.com).