



City Council AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 06/04/2021

AGENDA OF: 06/22/2021

DEPARTMENT: Police

SUBJECT: Resolution to Extend the Fee Portion of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee Program (PD)

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to:

- 1) Adopt a resolution providing for the extension of the fee portion of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee Program (AVA) for a 10-year extension of the one-dollar (\$1) surcharge on vehicle registrations.
 - 2) Authorize the Chief of Police to provide written notification to the California Department of Motor Vehicles to extend the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee Program for an additional ten years.
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BACKGROUND: Abandoned vehicles are a public nuisance and a danger to public health and safety. As abandoned vehicles remain a public safety issue, the City's AVA Program functions as an effective strategy to improve public health and safety on city roadways.

Through the AVA Program, dedicated Police Department personnel respond to complaints of abandoned vehicles and those parked on streets for more than 72 hours on public roadways. A dedicated Community Service Officer verifies violations, marks vehicles, posts 72 hour notices of intent to move vehicle, and arranges for tows for improperly parked, abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, and trailers. During FY 2020, the City of Santa Cruz alone abated 1,950 vehicles, which consisted of 1,762 voluntarily abated vehicles and 188 towed vehicles.

The City's AVA Program is dedicated to the abatement of vehicles along public roadways and is funded pursuant to Section 9250.7 of the Vehicle Code (VC), which authorizes the California Department of Motor Vehicles to collect \$1 from every registered vehicle in the City of Santa Cruz, in order to fund the County run AVA Program.

Years back, the County established the AVA Program through the DMV and established agreements with the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville to collectively abate abandoned vehicles. Each municipality receives a portion of the \$1 vehicle registration surcharge for cost recovery based upon the population of each city and the County and the percentage of vehicles abated and reported. Each of the participating cities have ordinances in place establishing procedures for the abatement, removal, and disposal as public nuisances,

abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof from public property, including highways, in accordance with the requirements of Sections 22660 and 22661 VC. The City's ordinance on abandoned vehicles is Santa Cruz Municipal Code Chapter 6.28, Abandoned or Inoperative Vehicles.

DISCUSSION: To maintain the City's ability to address this pervasive issue, the City Council adopted a Resolution in 2011 providing for the extension of the \$1 dollar surcharge on vehicle registration fees for an additional ten years, from April 30, 2012 to April 30, 2022. The 10-year extension for the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee Program (AVA) will sunset in 2022. It is recommended that City Council adopts a resolution extending the \$1 vehicle registration surcharge for an additional 10 years, allowing the city to continue to participate in the County AVA Program managed by the Sheriff's Office.

As recommended, Council adoption of a resolution extending the vehicle registration surcharge of \$1 for an additional ten years provides a reliable cost recovery mechanism for the removal and disposal of abandoned, wrecked, and dismantled vehicles throughout the City of Santa Cruz.

FISCAL IMPACT: In accordance with reporting and cost recovery requirements, the City of Santa Cruz collected \$75,433 in revenue for vehicle registration surcharge funds during FY 2020 for vehicle abatement expenditures. In return, the AVA position and all of its expenditures were completely funded by the program.

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Chief of Police

Approved By:
Martin Bernal
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RESOLUTION _ EXTENSION OF AVA REGISTRATION SERVICE FEES.DOCX
2. DMV LETTER.DOC