

City going after vehicle registrations for deadbeats who refuse to pay their parking tickets

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Over 13,000 motorists who have racked up five or more unpaid parking tickets collectively owe the city \$17 million for 130,000 tickets.

Cracking down on deadbeats

Do you think the city is being too hard on people who haven't paid their parking tickets?

When deadbeats refuse to pay their parking tickets, towing and booting aren't enough, city officials say.

Now they're going after vehicle registrations.

"When you don't pay, we're going to come after you as hard as we possibly can," said Finance Commissioner [David Frankel](#). "We've started looking at every way that we have to collect money from people who are putting the screws to the people who do pay."

The city sent warning letters in March to 13,000 motorists who had racked up five or more unpaid parking tickets over any 12-month period in the last eight years.

The deadbeats - who collectively owed the city \$17 million for 130,000 tickets - were told they'd lose their registrations if they refuse to pay up.

That could mean facing misdemeanor charges that carry hefty fines or jail time if they're caught driving without a registration.

Some scofflaws promptly paid up, pouring a quick infusion of \$1.6 million into the cash-strapped city's coffers to pay off 15,000 tickets.

Those who didn't respond within 30 days were turned over to the state's [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) for registration suspension.

Next time, Frankel says, he's not sending a warning letter - anyone who tallies five tickets in 12 months that are so overdue they've landed in judgment will be automatically reported to the DMV.

"Your mailbox should be full of notices if you've gotten five tickets in 12 months," Frankel said. "It should not be a complete mystery to you."

Frankel said he decided to employ the new tactic as part of a heavy push to collect outstanding revenue.

The city says it's owed \$500 million for parking tickets alone.

The city is also docking the wages of city workers who don't pay up.

"We're taking a more aggressive approach," Frankel said. "We have an interest in people paying what they owe to the city."

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