

Recorder's Court

702 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31901
(706) 653-4256

November 21, 2014

To: All Councilors and all local
Members of the General Assembly
Clifton Fay

RE: TECHNOLOGY FEE / COURT COSTS

As you are aware, the Governor vetoed the technology fee bill last year. The veto was based on two reasons:

- (1) He did feel the judge should not set the fee and
- (2) The fee was too much.


I would point out that the previous bill from the prior legislative session contained the same provision which allowed the judge to set the fee and was signed into law.

I have attached a copy of a bill from DeKalb County which was signed into law by the governor and set a court cost fee of \$25.00. The fee was set by the legislature. I have no objection to the legislature or the city council setting the fee. The bill the governor signed calls the charge "court cost".

Because of financial constraints we have not been able to begin e-ticketing. The State Patrol tells me that by using e-ticketing, a trooper can complete a traffic stop in about 5 minutes. It takes much longer to hand write tickets. Surrounding communities such as Troup County, Lagrange, Pine Mountain and many other smaller communities have e-ticketing. We are behind the time.

Please remove the sunset provision and the provision that we cannot assess the mandated fines. No other city has these limitations. Tickets will not go away.

Sincerely


Michael P. Cielinski
Senior Recorder

House Bill 1230 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Oliver of the 83rd, Mosby of the 90th, Gardner of the 57th, Holcomb of the 82nd, Parent of the 81st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating and establishing the Recorder's Court of DeKalb County, approved
2 March 17, 1959 (Ga. L. 1959, p. 3093), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 April 11, 1979 (Ga. L. 1979, p. 3565), so as to provide for the payment of costs in such court;
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 An Act creating and establishing the Recorder's Court of DeKalb County, approved
8 March 17, 1959 (Ga. L. 1959, p. 3093), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
9 April 11, 1979 (Ga. L. 1979, p. 3565), is amended by revising Section 21 as follows:

10 "SECTION 21.

11 Each person who is ordered to pay a fine for, is convicted of, or pleads guilty or enters a plea
12 of nolo contendere to any violation shall pay court costs of \$25.00 unless otherwise ordered
13 by the sentencing judge. Such court costs may be included in an order of probation and paid
14 during the probated part of any sentence. Such court costs shall be used to defray the cost
15 of operating the recorder's court."

16 SECTION 2.

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.