

# News Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Bryan Peckinpaugh  
313.575.1245  
bryan@evolve-engage.com

## **STATEMENT: Detroit Councilman Gabe Leland Responds to Parking Ticket Rate Hike**

*Rate increase to affect residents who work and do business in downtown and midtown*

**DETROIT (April 21, 2014)** – City of Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr recently signed an order increasing the parking ticket fine from \$30 to \$45 beginning in June. Councilman Gabe Leland, who represents District 7 on the city’s west side and is chair of the Council’s Planning and Economic Development Committee, provides the following statement.

“I don’t believe the argument to raise the parking ticket fines from \$30 to \$45 and eliminate the \$10 early payment fine are justification for this action,” said Leland. “The emergency manager’s order to increase ticket fines places city government inefficiencies on the backs of our residents who need to do business in downtown and other parts of our city. And, this will increase the barrier for people to frequent Detroit-based establishments; likely to be a deterrent for some to shop and dine in our city.

“I would rather see a plan to reduce the operating inefficiencies to collect parking fines. I also believe by keeping the fines at the current rate, including maintaining the parking fine early payment \$10 fee, and establishing one-hour free parking zones in our city will support residents who must do business downtown and will lead to more traffic at Detroit-based establishments resulting in additional tax revenues.

“In my view, generating revenue by increasing fines when residents from the neighborhoods must go downtown to get licenses and permits, attend court appointments and do other necessary business, is the wrong direction. Detroit residents should not be penalized for city government’s inefficiencies. Additionally, generating revenue using fines when we are trying to grow this city and attract residents and customers to Detroit-based businesses is an anti-growth strategy.

“I encourage residents and the people who work downtown who are concerned about the parking ticket fine increase to contact the emergency manager’s office at 313-224-3400 to share your thoughts. I urge the emergency manager to reconsider this order based on the community’s input.”

Detroit City Council does not have the option to discuss this rate hike and vote on the action since it was an order initiated and signed by the emergency manager. However, Leland and the eight other council members are the members elected who represent the residents from the neighborhoods and their best interests.

### **About Detroit Councilman Gabe Leland**

Gabe Leland serves citizens in the new District 7 on Detroit’s west side as councilman. He was elected in November 2013 as one of seven council members who represent citizens in the city’s new district format. Leland is a former elected member of the Michigan House of Representatives - District 10, serving constituents in northwest Detroit. While a state representative, he was chair of the House Committee on Urban Policy. As a council member, Leland chairs the Planning and Economic Development Committee and serves on the boards of the Eastern Market Corporation and Tech Town.

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