



City of Arts & Innovation

Land Use Committee Memorandum

TO: LAND USE COMMITTEE

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2026

FROM: CODE ENFORCEMENT

WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF SECTION 1.17.230(A) OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE
REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION AMOUNTS.**

ISSUE:

Adopt an ordinance amending section 1.17.230(A) of the Riverside Municipal Code (“RMC”) Administrative Citation amounts to \$100.00, \$500.00, and \$1,000.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Land Use Committee recommend that the City Council introduce and subsequently adopt the attached Ordinance amending Section 1.17.230(A) of the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 1.17.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Unless otherwise provided, violations of the RMC are imposed and assessed by means of an administrative citation set per ordinance 6479 § 1, 1999 at \$100 for the first occurrence of a violation, \$200 for the second occurrence of the same type of violation, and \$500 for the third and each subsequent occurrence of the same type of violation.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of administrative fines is to enforce rules, promote compliance, and deter violations without requiring criminal prosecution. These fines hold individuals and businesses accountable for breaking regulations, helping to maintain public safety, health, and community standards. They also serve as a financial incentive for timely compliance while covering enforcement costs, reducing the burden on taxpayers.

The current violation fine structure of \$100, \$200, and \$500 was adopted in 1999. Over the past 26 years, these amounts have become outdated, contributing to a decline in compliance. To address this issue, increasing code enforcement fines to \$100, \$500, and \$1,000 is necessary to ensure stronger adherence to local regulations and discourage repeat violations.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed amendment aims to strengthen the City’s enforcement measures and ensure greater compliance with the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC). Current fines of \$100, \$200, and \$500 often do not serve as an effective deterrent, particularly for repeat offenders who continue to ignore regulations. When violations persist, they create ongoing concerns for residents, such

as hazardous property conditions, public nuisances, including public health & safety concerns, all of which negatively impact the community.

By increasing fines, property owners and businesses will have a stronger financial incentive to address violations promptly, rather than risk accumulating higher penalties. This proactive approach will not only improve compliance rates but also reduce the burden on city staff, who often must repeatedly address the same violations. With fewer repeat offenses, enforcement resources can be allocated more efficiently, allowing the City to focus on broader community improvements rather than spending excessive time on non-compliant cases.

Moreover, raising fines would help offset the costs associated with enforcement efforts. Code enforcement involves inspections, administrative processing, and legal actions, when necessary, all of which require funding. Without adequate penalties, the cost of enforcement falls on taxpayers. By adjusting fines to reflect current economic conditions and the seriousness of violations, the City can ensure that those responsible for non-compliance contribute to the cost of maintaining community standards.

Ultimately, strengthening penalties promotes greater accountability among property owners and businesses. It encourages a culture of compliance, leading to cleaner neighborhoods, improved property values, and a safer, more livable environment for all City of Riverside residents. This amendment is a necessary step to protect the integrity of the community, ensure fairness in enforcement, and enhance overall quality of life.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Ed Torres, Senior Code Enforcement
Approved by: Rahman N. Gerren, Senior Deputy City Attorney
Approved by: Mike Futrell, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Ordinance Amendment Section 1.17.230(A)
2. Presentation