



Audit, Finance & Enterprise Committee Report

Date: April 14, 2016
To: Audit, Finance & Enterprise Committee
Through: John Pombier, Deputy City Manager
From: J. Matias Tafoya, Presiding City Magistrate
Paul Thomas, Court Administrator
Subject: Amendments to Title1, Chapter 12, Section 3 Court Sustainability Fee Citywide

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The City Council previously adopted, and the Mesa Municipal Court implemented a Municipal Court Sustainability Fee in the amount of (\$15.00) assessed and collected on a per/charge basis. The Sustainability Fee enhances and maintains the technological, operational, and security capabilities of the Municipal Court. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to clarify applicable provisions of the City Code regarding the Municipal Court Sustainability Fee.

Background

The Mesa Municipal Court has employed extensive use of technology for operational efficiencies and in providing web-services for the public. The Mesa Municipal Court is recognized as a national model by the National Center for State Courts, and the Sustainability Fee supports the continued use and expansion of technology in fulfilling the Court's mission and service to the public.

Discussion

A recent routine operational review by the Arizona Supreme Court confirmed that the Court appropriately assessed and collected the Sustainability Fee, but suggested that the City Code should be clarified to reflect that the Sustainability Fee is assessed on a per/charge basis, as follows (additions are shown in bold and underlined "abc" and deletions are shown as strikeouts "~~abc~~"):

1-12-3: COURT SUSTAINABILITY FEE:

A court sustainability fee in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) is hereby established. The Mesa Municipal Court shall direct a defendant to pay the court sustainability fee ~~in all cases, except for parking violations,~~ **on all charges** where the court imposes a fine, sanction, penalty, or assessment **except for parking violations**. The court sustainability fee shall be in addition to all other fines, sanctions, penalties, or assessments of whatever type.

Alternatives

No alternatives are applicable.

Fiscal Impact

There would be no change in the assessment or collection of the Sustainability Fee.

Coordinated With

City Attorney's Office
City Clerk's Office