
WAUKESHA POLICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 12, 2016
TO: Russell P. Jack, Chief of Police
FROM: Lieutenant Kevin W. Rice #387
SUBJECT: Ordinance 11.22(i) Dogs in Park - Fine Change

For the past four years Community Service Officers (CSO) have patrolled City Parks and provided security for special events. As part of their duties, they are tasked with enforcing several ordinances including Ordinance 11.22 (i) Dogs in Park with a fine of \$187.00.

Each year I meet with Mary Palmer from WPRF and confirm that dogs in the parks are the most violated ordinance in the City Parks. That concern is passed onto the CSO's as they try to reduce the number of dogs in the park by educating, warning, and eventually citing citizens for the violation. A review of the CSO's contacts reveals two points (see table). The first is that the number of dogs in the parks violations decreased slightly in the first few years, but by the end of 2015, that number had significantly increased. The second point is that the number of dogs in the parks decreased when the number of citations increased.

Dog in Park Violations

CSO Statistics	2011	2013	2015
Warnings	41	26	99
Citations	0	9	1

At the completion of their 2015 seasonal employment, the CSO's submitted a memo regarding dogs in the parks. They suggested reducing the fine for first offense violations would encourage future CSO's to issue citations and reduce the number of verbal warning. Based on the above statistics, this should increase compliance and reduce violations.

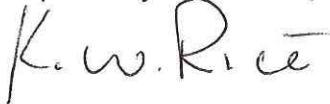
The current fine for violating the Dog in Park Ordinance, 11.22(i), is a base forfeiture of \$100 with a penalty of \$26 and court costs of \$61 for a total of \$187.00 for a first offense. The goal of this ordinance is education and compliance which is similar to the seat belt law. The current fine for not wearing a seatbelt is \$10 which encourages officers to issue citations for first offense violations in order to gain compliance by the public. If this logic is applied to the dogs in the park ordinance, by lowering the first offense fine the CSO's would be more inclined to issue citations which would eventually increase compliance.

This idea was brought before City Attorney Brian Running who agrees with the below reduction in base forfeiture. City Attorney Running suggested the below fine schedule and advised that the change in fine schedule would need approval from Judge Cook and the City Council.

With the above information in mind, I am requesting that this memo be delivered to City Hall for review and approval from Judge Cook and the Common Council.

1 st Offense	\$5 + court costs
2 nd Offense	\$25 + court costs
3 rd and Subsequent	\$100 + court costs

Respectfully Submitted,



Lieutenant Kevin W. Rice #387

4/21/16 DJB Refer TO Sgt. Bergwen

4/27/14 