



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Sheriff's Office



Date: July 2, 2014

Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Greg Munks, Sheriff

Subject: Vehicle Registration Fee Increase

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an increase in the vehicle registration fee by one dollar (\$1) for each vehicle registered within the County of San Mateo for the exclusive purpose of enhancing local law enforcement's capacity to deter and investigate vehicle theft crimes.

BACKGROUND:

On February 15, 1994, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Resolution 58024 authorizing the Department of Motor Vehicles for the State of California to impose a one dollar vehicle registration fee on all vehicles registered in San Mateo County under the provisions of SB 2139 (Vehicle Code Section 9250.14). The vehicle registration fee of one dollar, per vehicle registered in San Mateo County, has been used to fund the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force (VTTF) for the past twenty years.

The level of funding provided by the current DMV surcharge fee has failed to match the level of inflation and the increasing rate of operational costs for the VTTF. When the 1994 Resolution was adopted, the amount of revenue generated from the one dollar fee was able to fully fund the various staff costs associated with the auto theft initiatives. However, the revenue generated by the vehicle registration fee has remained largely flat for the past 20 years, while personnel costs have increased as has the demand for the regulatory activities undertaken by the VTTF.

In addition to the cost of providing staff to the County's Vehicle Theft Task Force, the Sheriff's Office also incurs the expense of supplying necessary services and supplies to that Unit, such as undercover vehicles, bait cars, and miscellaneous office equipment. For FY 2012-13, the revenue from the DMV surcharge was \$693,063 and for FY 2013-14, the revenue was \$703,791.

DISCUSSION:

Assembly Bill 767, which was enacted in September 2013, authorizes each California county, upon adoption of a resolution by its elected Board of Supervisors, to increase the amount collected in support of its auto theft prevention and investigation efforts by one dollar, to a new total of two dollars per vehicle registered within that county.

Adoption of this Resolution will effectively double the amount of money being allocated to San Mateo County and allow the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force to continue with this valuable program, both now, and into the foreseeable future.

For fiscal years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, the revenue from the DMV \$1 surcharge was \$677,918. Upon approval from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to increase the vehicle registration fee to \$2.00, the estimate revenue would increase to \$1,433,360 (approximate and based on the number of vehicles registered in San Mateo County).

Vehicle Code Section 9250.14 mandates that all revenue raised “be expended exclusively to fund programs that enhance the capacity of local police and prosecutors to deter, investigate, and prosecute vehicle theft crimes.” The Sheriff’s Office has complied with this mandate and will continue to comply with the mandate if the fee is increased, by expending the \$1,433,360 on regulatory/investigatory activities related to vehicle theft prevention. The Sheriff’s Office anticipates that the VTTF budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget will be approximately \$1,400,000.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by giving to the County, the quality of life necessary for prosperity and the ability to work in partnerships, to take a greater responsibility for the future quality of life.

Performance Measures:

Measure	FY 2013-14 Actual	FY 2014-15 Projected
Number of recovered stolen vehicles	144	200
Value of vehicles recovered	\$1,539,009	\$2 million

FISCAL IMPACT:

The increase in the vehicle registration fee from one dollar to two dollars will support Countywide vehicle theft prevention and investigations. There is no Net County Cost.