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MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

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HB21-1175

DONATION TO NONPROFIT FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

YOUR “NO” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

CML strongly opposes HB21-1175, which would allow those who receive a traffic citation to pay a traffic violation fine with a monetary donation or volunteer time to an eligible charity. The bill would place an undue burden on our municipalities and would not actually help the communities it is seeking to support.

In order to implement the bill, each court would be required to:

- Confirm that a person actually donated to an eligible nonprofit;
- Positively monitor hours volunteered at an eligible nonprofit;
- Establish how many hours a person needs to volunteer, if a person opts to volunteer for an eligible nonprofit;
- Create an administrative system to ensure that the appropriate amount of money is remitted to the court if the traffic penalty exceeds \$500;
- Create a new tracking system connecting municipal and district courts to verify that the individual has satisfied their traffic violation; and
- Submit to the Department of Revenue verification that a person donated to a nonprofit or volunteered rather than paying the monetary assessment.

Additionally, to administer this program, cities would certainly be required to hire additional staff, a cost that many are not able to afford, especially considering current economic circumstances.

There is no doubt that we should examine how fees and fines impact low income and minority communities, but HB21-1175 will not have any meaningful impact on these communities. Tickets will still be issued and requiring a donation to a nonprofit would not decrease the financial strain placed on people.

HB21-1175 would create an enormous administrative burden on our cities who are still struggling to recover from an economic crisis, and it would have an adverse effect on the very people it is seeking to help.

CML urges your “NO” vote on HB21-1175

For more information contact Meghan MacKillop at 720-308-0672 or mmackillop@cml.org