

# PROPOSED FEE INCREASE

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Portland Fire & Rescue  
Prevention Division

# *CURRENT* CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES

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- ❑ Current biennial fees consist of base fee (\$45), plus surcharges, minus discounts
  - ❑ Surcharge based on square footage or number of residential dwelling units
  - ❑ Discounts applied for sprinklered and violation-free buildings
  - ❑ Biennial bills range from \$35 to \$2000
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# CURRENT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY FEES

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- Event-related permits (festivals, concerts, trade shows, etc.) in assembly venues
  
  - Current fees range from \$100 to \$500, depending on venue size
  
  - Fees:
    - Do not cover cost of program
    - Have increased only once since 1998
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# ISSUE

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- Council directed PF&R to increase code enforcement revenue by \$714,000 annually, effective January 2007
  - FY 06-07 budget proposal assumed revenue would come from code enforcement fee increase from \$45 to \$100
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# ISSUE

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- Prevention staff and Commissioner's Office was concerned that proposed increase would have too great of an impact on small businesses
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# ISSUE

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- Several alternative revenue strategies were developed.
    - Increase code enforcement base fee by lesser amount
    - Eliminate code enforcement discounts for safe operation
    - Increase penalty fees for fire code violations
    - Increase code enforcement surcharge (based on size of occupancy)
    - Increase public assembly fees
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# ISSUE

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- ❑ In August 2006, sent proposed fee schedule to assembly operators informing them of possible fee increase from current range of \$100 - \$500 to a new range of \$100 - \$2500.
  - ❑ Five or six venue operators and promoters contacted PF&R expressing opposition to the increase. Staff discussed proposal by phone and email with interested parties.
  - ❑ Staff reworked public assembly fee schedule; proposed new fee range of \$150 - \$1500.
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# PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

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- In early November, Staff consulted with Prevention Advisory Council to discuss funding alternatives
    - Long-standing group comprised of business and multi-family housing leaders
    - Includes representatives from BOMA, SBAC, Metro multi-Family Assn.
    - Worked with PF&R to design original fee-for-service code enforcement program
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# PAC RECOMMENDATIONS

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- ❑ Maintain \$45 code enforcement base fee
  - ❑ Maintain current code enforcement discounts
  - ❑ Double first offense penalty fees to \$20
  - ❑ Quadruple subsequent penalty fees to \$100
  - ❑ Double surcharge (square footage and number of residential dwelling units)
  - ❑ Increase public assembly permit fees (\$150 - \$1500 version)
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# PAC RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Overall strategy:
    - Limit impact to smallest businesses
    - Maintain safety incentives through discounts (for sprinklers and violation free premises)
    - Create new safety incentives by increasing violation fees
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## Meeting with Assembly Venue Operators

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- On January 11, staff met with interested assembly venue operators to discuss concerns about proposal
    - PF&R agreed to modify proposed fee schedule to cap late permit application filing fee at \$500 (current late fee is double charge of the permit fee)
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# EXAMPLES: BIENNIAL CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES WITH ***NO VIOLATIONS***

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## *Five unit apartment complex*

Current \$35

Proposed \$35

## *Two hundred unit apartment complex*

Current \$172

Proposed \$312

## *Single proprietor business office*

Current \$35

Proposed \$35

## *Large professional office*

Current \$215

Proposed \$385

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# *EXAMPLES: BIENNIAL CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES WITH VIOLATIONS*

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*Five unit apartment complex – one violation*

**Current \$55**

**Proposed \$65**

*Two hundred unit apartment complex – six violations*

**Current \$305**

**Proposed \$565**

*Single proprietor business office – two violations*

**Current \$65**

**Proposed \$85**

*Large professional office – three violations*

**Current \$275**

**Proposed \$445**

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# *EXAMPLES:*

## PUBLIC ASSEMBLY FEES

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- < 2500 sq ft venue
    - Current \$100 Proposed \$150
  - 25k – 50k sq ft venue
    - Current \$150 Proposed \$250
  - 50k – 100k sq ft venue
    - Current \$150 Proposed \$500
  - 100k – 150k sq ft venue
    - Current \$300 Proposed \$750
  - 150k – 200k sq ft venue
    - Current \$300 Proposed \$1000
  - 200k – 250k sq ft venue
    - Current \$300 Proposed \$1250
  - > 250k sq. ft. venue
    - Current \$500 Proposed \$1500
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# REVENUE SUMMARY

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GOAL \$714,000

## Code enforcement

- Increase surcharge \$393,000
- Increase violation fees \$175,000

## Public Assembly

- Increase permit fees \$ 96,000

Plans review fee (in place) \$ 50,000

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