



For Immediate Release

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Public Statement Release

Recently, the City of Doraville was served notice of a civil action brought about as a result of alleged concerns regarding the collection of fines. The suit takes the position that the City wrongfully uses fines and forfeiture for the purpose of generating revenues to balance the City's budget.

Because this is to be litigated, the City will not at this time directly respond publicly to these allegations, except and foremost to say this lawsuit is without merit and our attorneys will address this through the justice system.

However, what the City does desire to share with the public at this time is reminders about the City's Police Department law enforcement and traffic activities; and code enforcement policies. The City has adopted laws and ordinances for the sole purpose of ensuring that our City is a safe, clean and healthy place to live and visit. The goal of the police department is to protect and serve our citizens. The City has no Traffic Division as our police officers are focused on community policing in our neighborhoods and crime prevention of a serious nature.

Our property maintenance codes, enforced by a contractor, has no ties to how many citations are written, but to public outreach and education to ensure neighbors maintain their property to a standard to which all are held. In fact, in the recent Request for Proposals for this contract service the requirements specifically cited the desire of the City to prevent violations. Potential contractors were requested to submit ways and programs in which they would work to mitigate the need for enforcement measures.

In both the Police Department and Code Enforcement Division of Community Development, there is no responsibility for revenue collection and the focus is on progressive compliance-- citations being a last resort.

The Doraville budget for this fiscal year--2018 is \$13.5 million, of which the major source of revenue is taxes at sixty-nine percent (69%). The percent of the court revenue is \$2.5 million which is eighteen (18%). The 2019 Proposed Budget which is \$15.1 million projects court revenue at \$2.0 million which is 13% of the City Proposed Budget.

For Doraville, it is not these numbers that tell the story, but the day to day manner in which we go about the interaction of our police officers, code enforcement officers and other city employees to provide quality public service.