

I am Jane Madison,

, Soldotna

In addition to the Revoked and Suspended Licenses issue, would you please work on the following Unlimited Speeding Fine issue and the Bail issues?

### **Unlimited Fines for Speeding:**

There are several areas between Soldotna and Anchorage where drivers choose to speed. The most notable is the Seward Highway between Anchorage and Girdwood. Because this stretch of road is policed by the Anchorage Police Department and because it is a Double Fine Zone and because, unlike the State, Anchorage assigns high dollar amounts for fines, a driver was caught driving at 130 m.p.h. (75 miles per hour over the limit) and fined more than \$3,600. If that same driver was caught doing 130 m.p.h. on "The Flats" north of Sterling, the State would have fined him only \$300 (+\$20 surcharge). If he was caught doing 130 m.p.h. in the "Double Fine Zone" north of Soldotna, the state would have fined him only \$600 (+\$20 surcharge).

**The current state statute has a maximum limit for a violation (like speeding) of \$300. There should be no upper limit.** In the instance of the driver on the Seward Highway driving at 130 miles per hour (if the State didn't have a \$300 limit), the state could have fined him (assuming \$40 per mile for 75 miles over the limit) \$3,000. If he was in a Double Fine Zone, the state could have charged him \$6,000.

Could you please call the Municipality of Anchorage to confirm how their Violation Schedule works, and apply those rates (or even higher rates) to the State Statute/Administrative Code?

## **Secondly, Forfeit Bail if a No Show:**

**When the offender doesn't show for their court date, the bail should automatically be forfeited to the state.**

Currently, when a person is arrested and goes to jail and then stands before the Magistrate or Judge, they may be released for a period of time if the accused deposits an assigned amount of bail money. In most cases, the accused returns to their usual illegal activities, and in most cases, does not appear for their court date. A warrant is then issued and law enforcement is then asked to find the accused a second time and take them to jail again. When the magistrate sees the accused the second time, they often order the bail money returned to the accused. This should be stopped. **The criminal did not live up to their promise to appear. Judges should not be allowed to return that bail money. The state should keep the bail, period.**

## **Thirdly, Raise the Deposit Amount for Third Party Custodians:**

At times, friends or family members pay the bail amount (as Third Party Custodians) and promise to watch the accused person 24 hours per day until he/she returns for their assigned court appearance. Too often it's an enabling family member or friend that "owes the offender" that is being given the responsibility of being Third Party with a 24/7 sight and sound responsibility. Because watching the accused person 24 hours per day is very difficult, or impossible, after a few hours or days the friend or family member often allows the accused person to leave their custody. There is currently no monetary fine for the Third Party Custodian Agreement if the offender leaves supervision and the Third Party Custodian immediately calls law enforcement to report it. If they don't report the infraction, the Custodian can be charged with a misdemeanor (Violation of a Third Party Custodian Agreement), but Judges rarely do that.

**The Third Party Custodian deposit should be so large that friends and family would be less willing put up the money or accept the responsibility. Please increase Third Party Custodian Rates, and please require forfeiture of the deposit when the Third Party Custodians do not fulfill their promise.**

**Lastly, Bail Amounts:**

**Judges should be required to assign much larger bail amounts!**

**Amounts of \$250, \$500, or even \$2,500 for most crimes are unacceptable. There should be required minimum bail amounts assigned to misdemeanors and felonies – amounts that encourage the payers to think twice before they violate their conditions of release. If they do not show up for court on their assigned court date, their bail should be automatically forfeited.**

**Thank you for listening, thank you for your time, and thank you for everything you are doing for us every day.**