

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

b. Budget Issues

- i. Update regarding state increasing traffic fees

## MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2009

TO: City Manager Judie Zimomra  
FROM: Police Chief William Tomlinson  
RE: Traffic Citation / Revenue Sharing

This memorandum is in response to your request to determine how the recent changes by the Florida Legislature affects revenue sharing from traffic citations issued on Sanibel.

Historically, the City of Sanibel has not pursued traffic infractions as a method for generating revenue. The purpose for traffic enforcement has always been used as a tool to maintain and improve public safety. In the past three years, the City of Sanibel has received an average of approximately \$50,000 per year from traffic fine revenue sharing from the State of Florida.

Effective Feb 1, 2009, the Florida Legislature approved an increase in traffic fines in various amounts depending upon the infraction violated. The fine changes will be especially significant regarding violators inability to reduce the fine with the driving school option. For example, the fine for a speeding infraction 25 mph over the posted limit has increased from \$223 to \$258.

The increased fine amounts will be distributed in the same manner in which State of Florida Statute infractions have been distributed in the past.

The City of Sanibel receives varying fees and percentages of the fine paid by offenders for their civil and criminal infractions. The revenue sharing is between 16% and 25% of the amount paid by the offender. For example, if an offender receives a traffic citation for violation of a traffic control device, the fine amount is \$134 and the City receives \$23.11 from the State. If an offender receives a traffic citation for Unlawful Speed at 58 mph in a 35 mph zone, the fine amount is \$269 and the City receives \$66.29 from the State.

The fine amounts have varied significantly in the past due to traffic school option. In addition to raising the fines for various traffic infractions, the State Legislature has eliminated the option a violator can invoke to attend traffic school in lieu of paying the original fine amount and receiving points against their license effective February 1, 2009.