



Menifee Police Department MEDIA RELEASE

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Pursuant to Cal Govt. Code Sect. 6254(f)
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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know traffic citations are written to change driver behavior and reduce traffic collisions, not to generate revenue? In fact, it is common for law enforcement agencies to not have a net gain in citation revenue.

We know this is contrary to some opinions that are out there. We often see and hear comments such as, “That’s easy money”, “This is a big source of revenue for the city”, and “The department writes citations to pay for their toys.” This belief is likely caused by the assumption the issuing law enforcement agency receives the entire fine.

The reality is the issuing law enforcement agency in Riverside County receives a percentage of the “base” fine, only if the person does not contest the ticket or is found guilty of the violation in court.

For example, the total fine for a speeding (≥ 26 MPH over the limit) ticket is \$490.00. The base fine is \$100.00. If a Menifee Police Officer writes a speeding ticket, our agency would receive 65%, or \$65.00 of the \$100.00 base fine. The County of Riverside receives the other 35% or \$35.00 of the base fine.

The remaining \$390.00 is distributed to several other County and State accounts (See Chart below):

Distribution of Base Fines & Penalties

	Base Fine		
	100.00		
Criminal Justice Construction	CJC	20.00	Issuing agency and county percentage of base fine pursuant to PC 1463.002 County Agency 140.00 State Agency 250.00
Courthouse Construction Fund	CCF	24.00	
Forensic Laboratory, 10 Pen	FLF	1.00	
Automated Fingerprint Fund	AFF	5.00	
Emergency Medical Fund	EMF	20.00	
Emergency Medical Service	EMS	20.00	
DNA Identification Fund	DIF	10.00	
DNA State Penalty	DSP	10.00	
DNA State Penalty Increase	DSI	20.00	
DNA State Penalty Increase	DPI	10.00	
Emergency Medical Air Transportation	EMA	4.00	
State Courthouse Construction	SCC	26.00	
Immediate Needs Construction	INC	24.00	
State Surcharge 20%	SSC	20.00	
Court Fee Security	CFS	40.00	
State General Fund	SGF	100.00	
Immediate Needs Infraction Fee	INI	35.00	
Night Court Fee	NCF	1.00	
Total		490.00	

If the City of Menifee does receive the \$65.00 from the base fine of the speeding ticket, it in no way covers the actual cost of writing the citation. Some of those costs are vehicle operation and maintenance, officer regular salary and benefits, administrative functions of processing the citation, and potential officer overtime costs to appear in court.

Although the Menifee Police Department will continue to write citations until we have no more collisions or poor driving behaviors on our roadways, we will always write the citations with the intent of changing driver behavior and reducing collisions. If you do not want to receive a citation, pay a fine, or have to worry about where the fine goes, it’s simple, drive safe, and within the law.

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 Pat Walsh, Chief of Police