

Norris Hin Lung Ng

OFFICE OF TSUEN WAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR 荃灣郊區議員辦事處

伍顯龍

7 June 2017

By Hand and Email

Legislative Council Secretariat c/o Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat 2/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submissions on Two Proposed Resolutions under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance and the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance

I write to support increasing the fixed penalty under the two ordinances.

The deterrent effects of the fixed penalty of \$320 has weakened after two decades of inflation. Paying fixed penalty may be seen by some offending drivers as paying "rent" to the government, for parking wherever they see fit. Bus stops, pedestrian pavements are however frequently occupied by illegally parked vehicles, for the reason of dropping by a nearby convenient store or restaurant, as it happens in our district. These selfish acts pose danger to pedestrians, especially for those with a baby stroller or wheelchair, as they are forced board or alight at an outer lane or to bypass through the vehicular road.

Even with the Police strengthened their enforcement actions, traffic obstruction due to illegal parking remains chronic and rampant. Although some members of the public spoke to request for even more frequent enforcement actions against these traffic offences instead of raising the fixed penalty to deter illegal parking, devoting further manpower in handling such matters unnecessarily increase the workload of the Police, if raising the fixed penalty is an alternative. There are just too many for the Police to deal with. Duties protecting lives of the citizens should takes priority over standing roadside driving illegal parked vehicles away.

Illegal parking based on the reason of insufficient parking spaces can hardly be justified. In contrast to a home, a private car, in most area of Hong Kong having public transportation connection, is not deemed as a necessity. There are opinions regarding the problem of illegal parking as a result of the redevelopment of multi-storey carpark buildings. In light of limited land resources, particularly in urban area, turning carpark buildings into residential or commercial use is understandable. In fact, reducing the number of parking space in urban areas is an initiative, of a global trend, against urban congestion and pollution.



NORRIS HIN LUNG NG OFFICE OF TSUEN WAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR 在顯龍 荃灣郊區議員辦事處

For the above reasons, our office support the proposal to increase the fixed penalty under the two ordinances.

Yours faithfully,

Norris H. L. Ng

Tsuen Wan Rural District Councillor

Ref: TR/160113/STIllegalParking/Legco