

Report to Pine Lake City Council on Public Safety and Judicial Practices in the City (Version 3)

In response to council and community concern for social justice, the Mayor and Council began studying the impact that traffic citations given by the Pine Lake Police and adjudicated in the Pine Lake Municipal Court have on the surrounding community. The resulting report was completed in early September 2020. The high level summary that follows was added in mid-October to improve accessibility.

Highlights of the Report

Background

- Pine Lake is a small city in Dekalb County with less than 800 residents.
- Rockbridge Road, a main artery to I-285 and the greater Atlanta area, runs through the city with over 7 million cars driving through each year.
- This portion of Rockbridge Road is Pine Lake's only commercial district and the site of the Post Office where all residents receive their mail, since there is no home mail delivery in Pine Lake.
- The population of Pine Lake is mainly White while the population of the surrounding community mainly African American or other POC.

Citation Revenue

- In 1999, Pine Lake became well-known for aggressive policing and for financing the city from citations revenues. According to the AJC in 1998 citation revenue was \$865,000 or 72% of the city's revenue.
- Over the last twenty years, citation revenue, with a couple of exceptions, has been at 20% of total revenue or less.
- Over the three years 2017-2019, citation revenue averaged \$210,850 or 18.7% of total revenue. Court costs averaged \$156,177 and the cost of the Police Department was \$257,894.
- Pine Lake's total annual revenue for the past three years has averaged \$1.1 million. The single largest source of revenue in Pine Lake is property tax at just under 50% of the total.
- Because Pine Lake is so small and has relatively little commercial property, its millage rate is the highest in the Dekalb county.

Who receives Citations?

- An aggregation of the five zip codes that abut Rockbridge results in racial composition of 88% Black and other POC and 11.9% White.
- The percentage of citations issued is 92.7% to POC and 7.3% to whites. It is difficult to determine if this 5% disparity is significant given the lack of accuracy in estimating the racial composition of the traffic.
- Pine Lake residents make up approximately 2.5% of the traffic, and on average over the past three years the percentage of tickets given to Pine Lakers was 2.5%.
- Of the approximately 7 million cars traveling through Pine Lake annually an average of 936 citations are issued. That is that is a little more than one ticket per 8 hour police shift.

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- The top five most common citations given in Pine Lake are 1) Expired tag (28%), 2) Running a red light (13.%), 3) No insurance (9%), 4) Distracted Driving (7%) and 5) Probation Violation (6%).

What happens in Court

- Of those receiving citations, 91.4% have their tickets adjudicated in Pine Lake's court.
- The judge first informs the defendant of their right to a trial, lawyer and/or interpreter. She does not proceed until she is sure that the defendant understands these rights.
- Each defendant is given an opportunity to not only plead their case, but also to inform the judge of any hardships or special circumstances that they may have.
- Sentence amounts are reduced an average of 40.8% from the city's standard fine schedule.
- 14.6% of citations are for Basic Rules Violation. This indicates that the original charge was reduced to a less serious charge - "Basic Rules."

Probation

- If a defendant is not able to pay their fine on the day of court, generally that person is sentenced to "pay-only" probation.
- Pine Lake uses a private probation provider to supervise the collection of the fine.
- If the fine is paid within the first thirty days, there is no probation fee.
- The probationer has one year to pay the fine. By law, the maximum probation fee that can be imposed is \$150.
- If the probationer does not make a good faith effort to pay, or in some other way violates probation, the probation officer can bring him back to court where the judge may modify the probation or sentence the offender to jail time. Jail time is not given for inability to pay, but in exceptional cases for not making a good faith effort to pay.

Role of Mayor and Council

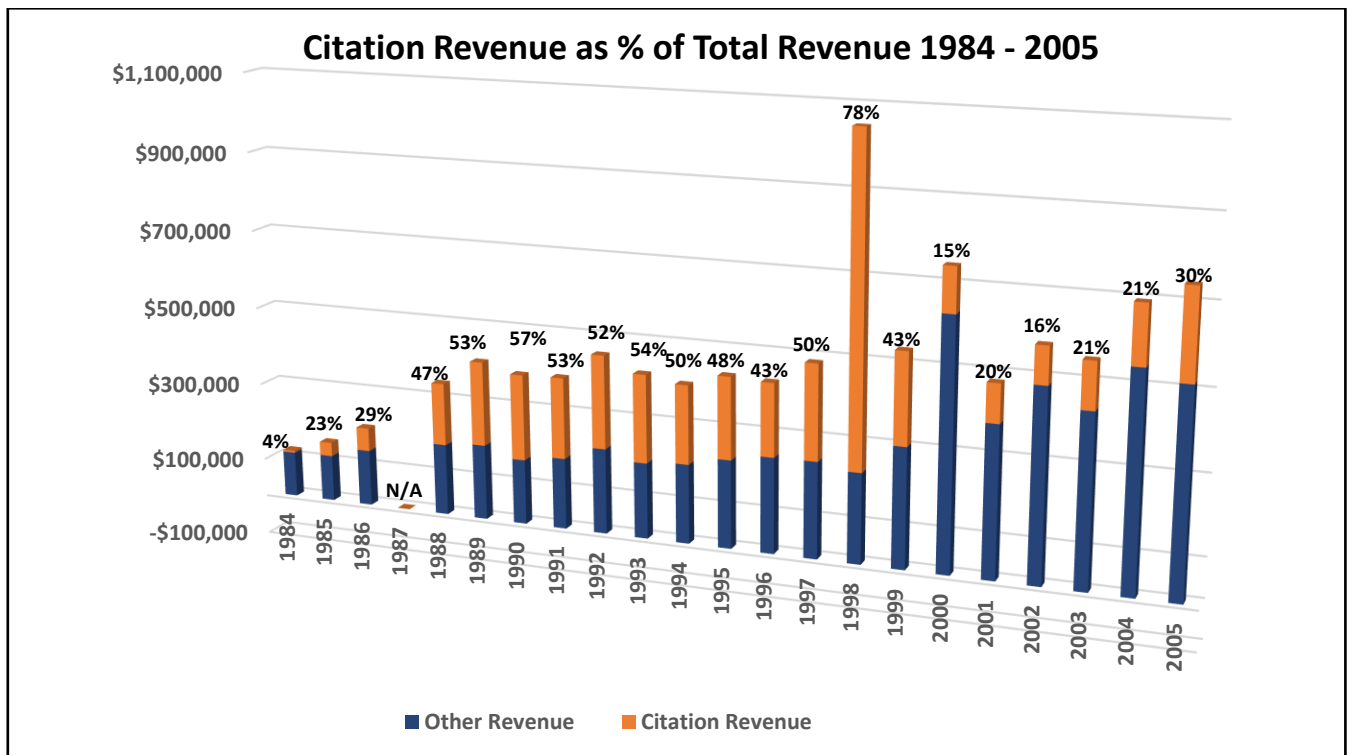
- The Mayor and Council hire the judge and police chief and exercise general oversight across all these and all city departments.
- The chief and the judge run their departments independently and ethically, based on their respective professional standards.
- Elected officials do not become involved in the day to day decision making of these departments. This separation is maintained to avoid any actual or perceived budgetary pressure to increase citation revenue.
- Elected officials approve the departmental budgets. The budget for citation revenue is estimated based on previous years' history and is not a consideration in the budgeting of expenses for the court or the police.

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History

Pine Lake, Georgia, the smallest city in Dekalb County, was chartered in 1937 and has had a police presence from its inception. In the early days, Chief Purvis did the job on his own and from all accounts provided a Mayberry-style of community policing expected at that time.

Over the years, as Dekalb County grew up around Pine Lake and Rockbridge Road became a popular artery headed toward the perimeter, policing became more about traffic on Rockbridge. Still, the size of the police department remained relatively small (2-4 officers plus the Chief) until a new police chief was hired in August of 1997. By 1998 the force had increased to 10 officers and citation revenue had quadrupled. This lasted about a year, then the force came back down to the 2-4 level up to the present.



In early 1999 Pine Lake started to draw extensive criticism for using citation revenue to reduce taxes and spend extravagantly. According to the AJC, in 1998 the police generated about \$865,000 in citation revenue, which was 72% of the annual budget. At the same time the millage rate was 9, versus 21.53 today.

Pine Lake’s response was swift. By early June of 1999 the AJC was reporting that Pine Lake had hired a female African-American judge to replace the former judge, who had resigned after serving since 1982. The city also announced plans to cut the overall budget by 40 % and to reduce the police force and traffic fines (AJC, “Pine Lake replaces its judge, cuts fines”, [June 4, 1999](#)). In a little-noticed line of that AJC article, it is stated that the police chief also served as the city’s

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director of administration. This may have been a source of the problem, as it is an extremely poor practice to have someone involved in budgeting also serve as police chief. By October 1999, the police chief had resigned, plans were in place to double the millage rate and the city was looking for any way it could find to balance its budget. (AJC, "Pine Lake asks state for bailout", [October 24, 1999](#).)

Pine Lake Looks Forward

Fast forward: Pine Lake made it through the crisis and has enjoyed 20 years without major incident. But today elected officials, residents, and community members, who are concerned about social justice, want to know how Pine Lake's public safety and judicial systems interact with the community that they serve. We have collected data from our court records as well as interviews with the police chief, judge, court clerk and probation officials (private as well as public) to paint a broader and more in-depth picture of this interaction.

In 2014 the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri by a white policeman incited protests, looting, vandalism and violent clashes with police. In 2015 the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division released a 105-page investigative report on the [Ferguson Police Department](#). In the summary of the report it is stated: "Ferguson's police and municipal court practices have sown deep mistrust between parts of the community and the police department, undermining law enforcement legitimacy among African Americans in particular." Municipalities across the country have used the recommendations of this report to improve their own practices. This is especially important for Pine Lake because of the historical context of aggressive ticketing.

The Georgia Municipal Association has developed [Municipal Courts: A Guide for Elected Officials](#) which includes a 14-page "Self-Assessment of Municipal Court Best Practices". We are currently in the process of working through this self-assessment. In addition, we have done an analysis of citation statistics using information from our court records, as well as records from our private probation provider, to determine if there are any indications that abuses have crept back into the system in Pine Lake. The results of our analysis are contained in the following report.

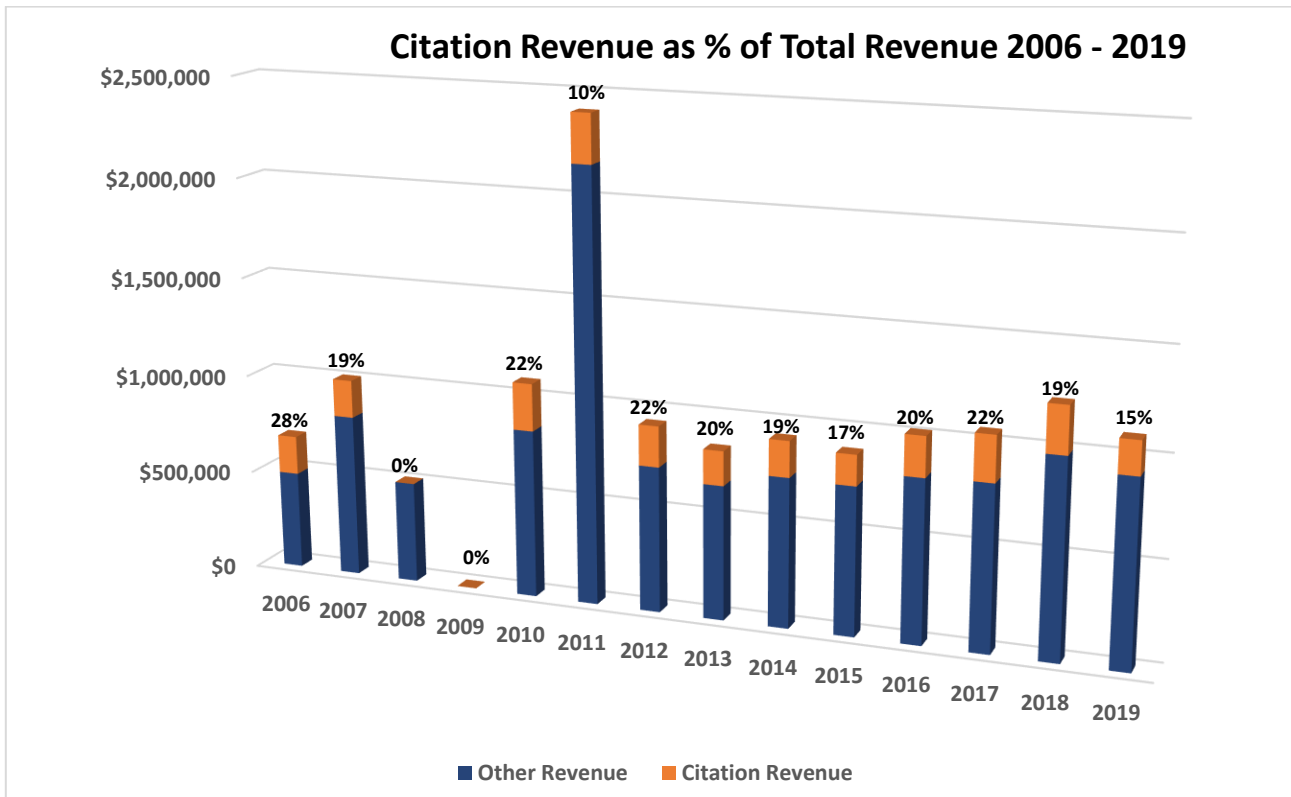
Citation revenue as percentage of Total Revenue

The ceiling for citation revenue set by Missouri in its post-Ferguson reforms was 20% of total revenue. Pine Lake's average over the past three years (2017 -2019) is 18.7% (*See Appendix Table 1.) This statistic is often used to compare cities because it is easy to find this data for almost any city. But not all cities are created equal. The total revenue depends on many factors, including the number of services offered by the city, intergovernmental revenue, special taxes etc. It works better to compare one city from year to year, but even here it breaks down when unusual revenue items occur, such as grant money, special taxes, or changes in service agreements with other jurisdictions.

* In the first release of this report, the Total Revenue for 2019 was overstated by \$167,771 the correction changed the average Citations as a % of Total Revenue from 17.8% to 18.7%.

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This can be seen in the graph below. In 2011 when Pine Lake’s total revenue nearly doubled because of a federal grant for [Streambank Improvements on Snapfinger Creek](#), the ratio of citation revenue to total dropped to 10% from 22% the previous year, with virtually the same amount of citation revenue. A more recent example is in 2018 when Pine Lake contracted with Dekalb County to provide Solid Waste management. Because that revenue is now collected by Dekalb County, Pine Lake’s total revenue was reduced by approximately \$150,000. That single unrelated change increased the % of citation revenue by approximately 1.5% over 3 years(see Appendix Table 2.)



Citation Revenue Impact on Court and Public Safety Expense

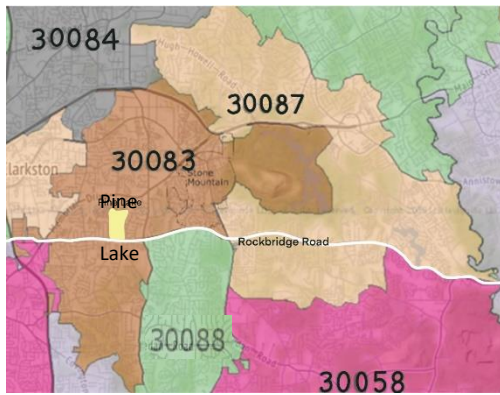
An alternate way to look at whether citation revenue is funding the general budget for a city is to determine what part of the court and public safety costs are covered by citation revenue, since presumably these costs are directly related to the fines being collected. In comparing city to city, this removes the ambiguity about what is included in total revenue and focuses on the line items that are related to writing citations, the court which exists basically to adjudicate citations and the police whose job is partially related to citations, but is also a broader public service to the residents of the city. For Pine Lake, on average across the periods 2017-2018, the cost of court is covered 100% and 27.7% of public safety is covered. When 2019 is added in it goes down to 21.8%.(See Appendix Table 3). Comparing several cities where we have only 2017-2018 data, Avondale is at 34.4% and Stone Mountain is 57.7% (for additional cities see Appendix Table 4.)

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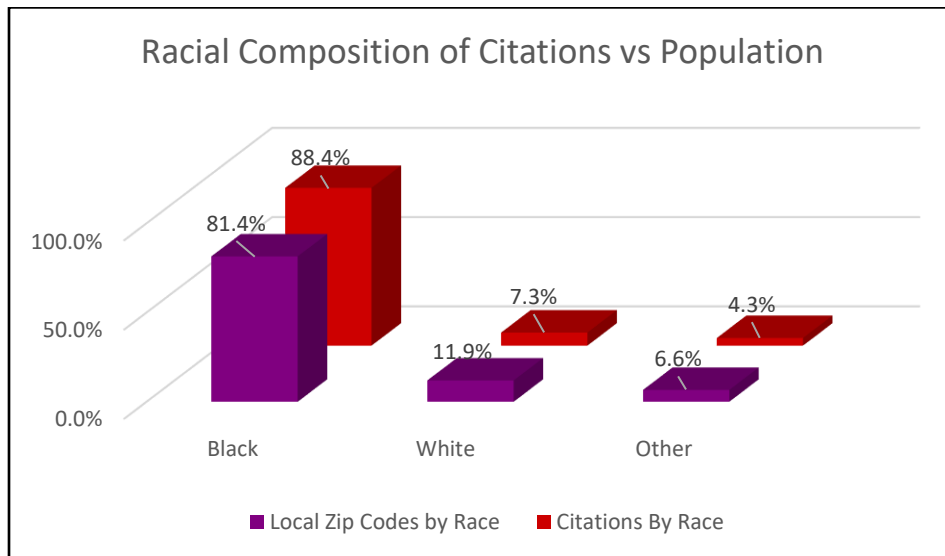
Citations issued to Pine Lake drivers vs others

Pine Lake is a mostly residential city, having only one collector road, Rockbridge, running through a small (0.4 mile) commercial district on its south side. This road averages 22,000 cars per day heading to I-285 and the greater Atlanta area. Assuming 1 ½ cars per household, Pine Lake drivers, at maximum represent 556 of the 22,000 or 2.5 % of the cars passing through or driving in Pine Lake each day. Over the past 3 years (2017 -2019) the percent issued to Pine Lake drivers has ranged from 2.2% - 3.2% and has averaged 2.5% (See Appendix Table 5.)

Racial Composition of Drivers receiving citations in Pine Lake



Most of the traffic on Rockbridge comes from the east traveling toward the metro area. In addition to Pine Lake there are four zip codes abutting Rockbridge Rd. Racial composition of these five zip codes is shown in Appendix Table 6. As seen in the chart below, the percent of citations issued to black drivers (see Appendix Table 7) was 7 points higher than their representation in the area population. Alternatively, the percent issued to white drivers was 4.6 points lower than their representation in the area population



Median income in Pine Lake vs. Surrounding Areas

Although the racial composition of Pine Lake is nearly the inverse of the surrounding community, (See Appendix Table 6) when looking at median household income, Pine Lake at \$55,114 fits quite well into the rest of the community with the weighted average of the adjacent zip codes of \$52,672 (See Appendix Table 8.)

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Citations on Rockbridge Road

The second most common citation in Table 15 is a “Basic Rules Violation.” This is not a violation for which a ticket is written, but rather, a proxy for the original charge that has been recommended by the solicitor and approved by the judge to reduce the impact of the original violation. This may be to reduce points against the offender’s license, to avoid license suspension or for any other reason that the solicitor and judge see fit.

To more accurately reflect the actual citations given, in Table 16 I have replaced the Basic Rules citation code with the code for which the ticket was originally issued. In table 17 I have re-summarized citations with the actual citation code issued by the police. The most common violation in the period 2017 - 2019 was still Expired Tag and the second most common was for Running a Red Light as in Table 15. But in the corrected chart, the third most common citation was for No Insurance, which moved up from number 8. This is likely because if the person comes to court with proof that they have acquired insurance, the charge is reduced to a less costly alternative – “Basic Rules Violation.”

Number of citations written per shift.

The Pine Lake police department covers two shifts per day, with the third shift covered through governmental agreement by Dekalb County police. During first and second shift, Pine Lake police respond as needed to nearby 911 calls in Dekalb County as well as Pine Lake. They do code enforcement throughout the city, patrol the businesses on Rockbridge as well as the residential areas and, as needed, issue citations in both areas. In the summer months they are kept particularly busy maintaining the safety and order of our very popular public lake and beach. Over a three year period (2017–2019) Pine Lake police averaged 1.3 tickets per shift (see Appendix Table 9).

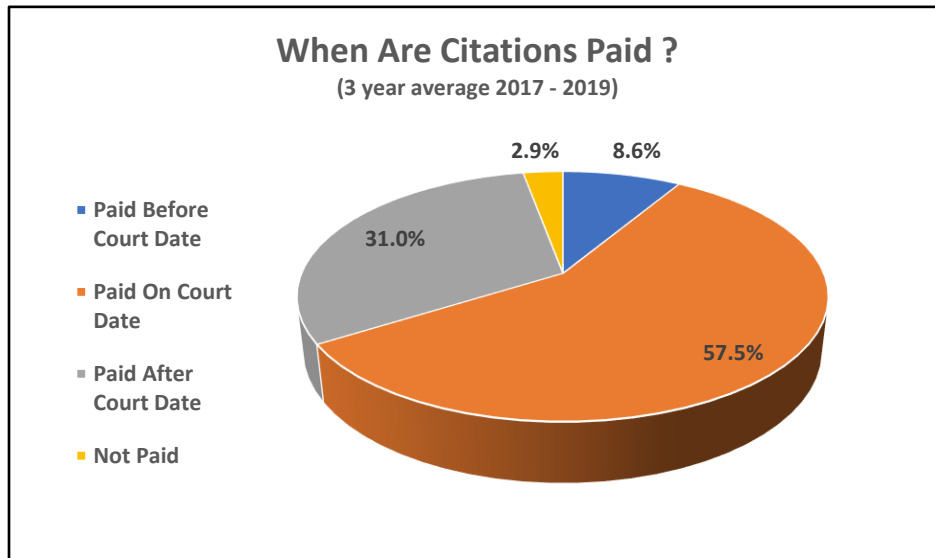
What happens in court

Of the citations issued, 8.6% are paid prior to court (see Appendix Table 11.) Those who come to court have an opportunity to speak with the solicitor who represents Pine Lake and communicate their plea, special circumstances, ability to pay, other hardships or any other relevant information. At that point, the solicitor may reduce or change the charge and/or make sentencing recommendations to the judge. The judge ensures that the defendant understands not only the charges, but also the options available to them. She explains that they have the right to a public defender and/or interpreter to assist them and that they have the right to either a bench or jury trial. Only when she is assured that they understand their rights does she allow them to make their plea. Once the plea is made, the judge again explains what will happen next and gives the defendant a chance to change the plea if that was not what they were expecting. At each decision point along the way the judge makes sure that the defendant is making an informed decision. Note: This description is based on actual observations of the court as well as some role-play scenarios that were included in a class given by the judge to provide basic information to the Mayor, Council, and residents regarding Municipal Court.

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Probation

Of those who come to court, 57.5% can pay their fines immediately. This leaves 34% who are not able to pay immediately or who have some condition imposed by the judge that needs supervision. Traffic citations in the state of Georgia are misdemeanors. This means that the



court's jurisdiction is up to \$1000 fine and/or up to 12 months confinement. Probation is the state's alternative to imprisonment when the defendant cannot comply with his/her sentence at the time of sentencing. In 2015, following the Ferguson Report Georgia passed [HB 310](#) to strengthen oversight over probation (both private and public.) and in 2016 additional reforms were passed in [SB 367](#). Pine Lake uses a private probation service that works within the regulations of those bills.

HB 310 created a category of probation for traffic offenses and other minor misdemeanors, which is primarily intended to ensure payment of a fine that the violator is not able to pay at the time of sentencing. This is called pay-only or early termination probation because as soon as the fine is paid the probation period is ended. Providers of probation supervision, both public and private, charge administration fees, which are legislatively capped at \$50 per month. The maximum probation period for any citation is 12 months, but for pay-only probation the fees can only be charged for three months. Pine Lake's private probation provider, Professional Probation Services (PPS), also waives the fee for the first 30 days. This means that if the probationer can pay within the first month s/he will not pay any additional fees. For the next three months, fees will be added on and for the last eight months everything that the probationer pays goes directly towards his/her fine with no additional administrative fees. When there is more than one ticket, the judge can extend the probation to 12 months per ticket, which could extend the time to pay to 24 or 36 months and so on, depending on the number of citations, again with only the first three months'

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administrative fees added on. See Appendix table 13 for average Fines and Fees paid per citation and Appendix Table 14 for average time spent on probation per case.

Probationers are also required to check in monthly and to follow certain rules during their probation period. They are required to notify their probation officer immediately if they are traveling out of state or if their address has changed. If the probationer does not comply with the regulations by not reporting when required or by not attempting to pay the fine and/or fees, the probation officer may present a petition to revoke probation. Once a petition is filed, the defendant is entitled to a hearing and is offered an attorney to afford the defendant legal representation at the hearing. If defendant waives his/her right to an attorney, the petition is heard and the defendant is given the opportunity to question the probation officer, and to provide his/her circumstances for the alleged violation. If the judge finds that the violations are accurate and are willful rather than due to an inability to comply with the probation order, a range of options are available to the judge, including a revocation of the probation, which may result in the probated sentence being served in confinement; a reinstatement of the probated sentence; a commutation of the sentence to community service, etc.

Role of Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council hire the judge and police chief and to remove only for cause, however, both the chief and the judge run their areas based on their professional standards. This separation is critical to avoid the possibility of budgetary pressure to increase income for the city by increasing citation revenue. In addition, the Mayor and Council approve the budget for these departments. The budget for citation revenue is based on previous years' history, but it is not a consideration in the budgeting of expenses for the Court or the Police Department. It is the role of The Mayor and Council to review various elements of the public safety and judicial systems, such as the contract for private probation, the bond schedule, the use of technology in the court, and other issues as they come up to ensure appropriate public policy.

This report is intended to assist the Mayor and Council in their oversight capacity regarding Public Safety and Judicial Practices in Pine Lake.

Prepared By : [Jean Bordeaux, Mayor pro tem](#)
Tracey Brantley, Council Member

Version 1 September 18th 2020

Version 2 -September 21st 2020

- Correction of 2019 Total Revenue in Table 1 and in graphs.
- Addition of Bond schedule Amount is Table 15 for comparison to average fines.

Version 3 – October 12th 2020

- Addition of Executive Summary
- Addition of Table 16 and 17 breaking out “Basic Rules Violation” into the citation codes for which the original ticket was issued.
- Addition of Table 18 comparing millage rates for Dekalb cities and Unincorporated Dekalb.
- Other minor text changes

Citation Statistics -Appendix

Table 1

Citation Revenue as a Percent of Total Revenue							
	2017		2018		*2019		3 Yr Avg
Total Revenue	1,055,469		1,226,106		1,096,419		1,125,998
Citation Revenue	229,096		235,683		167,771		210,850
Citation Revenue as % of Total	21.7%		19.2%		15.3%		18.7%

* In the first release of this report, the Total Revenue for 2019 was overstated by \$167,771 the correction changed 2019 Citations as a % of Total Revenue from 13.3% to 15.3%.

Table 2

Example of Effect of Revenue swings*							
	2017		2018		2019		2 Yr Avg
Revenue w/ Sanitation added back	1,055,469		1,376,106		1,246,419		1,225,998
Citation Revenue	229,096		235,683		167,771		210,850
Citation Revenue as % of Total	21.7%		17.2%		11.9%		17.2%
Difference from Table 1	0.0%		2.1%		3.4%		1.5%

*in 2018 Pine Lake contracted with Dekalb County to provide Solid Waste management. Because that revenue is now collected directly by Dekalb County total revenue was reduced by approximately \$150,000. That single unrelated change increased the % of citation revenue by approximately 2%. This is intended only as an illustration that the statistic: "Citation Revenue as a percent of Total Revenue" can be misleading and certainly should not be compared City to City since every city has a different revenue structure and provides more or less services to its constituency.

Table 3

Citation Revenue Impact on Court and Public Safety Expense - Pine Lake*							
	2017		2018		2019		3 Yr Avg.
General Revenues	1,055,469		1,226,106		1,096,419		1,125,998
Total Citation Revenue	229,096		235,683		167,771		210,850
% of Total Revenue	21.7%		19.2%		15.3%		18.7%
Municipal Court costs	164,815		163,427		140,290		156,177
Balance after court costs covered	64,281		72,256		27,481		54,673
Public Safety Expenses	236,605		256,610		280,468		257,894
% of Public Safety paid by fines	27.2%		28.2%		9.8%		21.2%

* An alternate way to look at whether Citation Revenue is too extensive is to determine what part of the Court and Public Safety costs are covered by Citation Revenue. The Court presumably exists only to adjudicate the citations given in the city. The cost of the Court is completely covered by Citation Revenue and the balance covers 21.2% of Public Safety.

Table 4

Compare Cities - Citation Revenue Impact on Court and Public Safety Expense 2017 -2018*							
	Pine Lake	Avondale	Stone Mtn.	Lilburn	Chamblee		
Population	762	3,160	6,328	12,675	28,305		
General Revenues	2,281,575	8,587,284	9,517,119	18,575,046	50,688,864		
Total Citation Revenue	464,779	1,010,317	1,860,526	2,073,450	3,271,337		
% of Total Revenue	20.4%	11.8%	19.5%	11.2%	6.5%		
Municipal Court costs	328,242	185,532	438,430	669,155	732,261		
Balance after court costs covered	136,537	824,785	1,422,096	1,404,295	2,539,076		
Public Safety Expenses	493,215	2,395,218	2,464,213	6,131,612	17,124,853		
% of Public Safety paid by fines	27.7%	34.4%	57.7%	22.9%	14.8%		

* Cities were selected by proximity and similarity to Pine Lake, however several cities such as Clarkston had not reported data thus could not be included.

Citation Statistics -Appendix

Table 5

Percent of Tickets issued to Pine Lake Residents vs % of traffic from PL Residents							
	2017		2018		2019		Average
Citations issued	1124		956		727		936
To PL Residents	27		21		23		24
% To PL Residents	2.4%		2.2%		3.2%		2.5%
# of Pine Lake Drivers	556		556		556		556
(371 Households X 1.5 drivers each)							
Cars on Rockbridge /day	22,000		22,000		22,000		22,000
% of traffic = PR Residents	2.5%		2.5%		2.5%		2.5%

Table 6

Racial composition of Pine Lake and zip codes adjoining Rockbridge east of Pine Lake								
(Based on 2018 ACS)	30072	%	30058	30083	30087	30088	Total	%
Black	147	20.2%	53,464	45,448	25,461	27,528	152,048	81.4%
White	557	76.6%	1,650	7,837	11,091	1,136	22,271	11.9%
Other	23	3.2%	2,544	5,038	3,451	1,320	12,376	6.6%
Total Population	727	100.0%	57,658	58,323	40,003	29,984	186,695	100.0%

Table 7

Tickets by Race By Year								
	2017	%	2018	%	2019	%	Total	%
Black	984	87.8%	866	89.8%	631	88.8%	2481	88.4%
White	88	7.5%	61	7.0%	57	6.5%	206	7.3%
Other	52	0.5%	29	0.2%	39	0.5%	120	4.3%
Total	1124	100.0%	956	100.0%	727	100.0%	2807	100.0%

Table 8

Median Household Income of zip codes adjoining Rockbridge east of Pine Lake						
(Based on 2018 ACS)	30058	30072	30083	30087	30088	Total
Number of Households	20,013	371	19,711	14,333	10,099	64,527
Median Household Income	\$51,470	\$55,114	\$40,489	\$72,805	\$50,171	\$270,049
# of Households X Median	1.E+09	2.E+07	8.E+08	1.E+09	5.E+08	3.E+09
Weighted Average Five Zip Codes						52,672

Table 9

Average Number of Tickets issued / shift							
	2017		2018		2019		3 Yr. Avg
# of 8 hr. Shifts / Year	730		730		730		730
# of Citations	1,124		956		727		936
Average # of Citations / shift	1.54		1.31		1.00		1.28
Average Number of Stops resulting in tickets issued / shift*							
# of 8 hr. shifts / year	730		730		730		730
# of Traffic Stops	903		780		627		770
Average # of Stops / Shift	1.24		1.07		0.86		1.05

* One traffic stop may result in more than one ticket.

Citation Statistics -Appendix

Table 10

Percent of Tickets Resulting in Probation							
	2017		2018		2019		3 Yr. Avg
Total Citations issued	1124		956		727		936
Citations Resulting in Probation	358		337		158		284
% Resulting in Probation	31.9%		35.3%		21.7%		30.4%

Table 11

Tickets Paid Prior To, On Day of Court or Later								
	2017	%	2018	%	2019*	%	3 Yr. Avg	%
Paid Before Court Date	113	10.1%	32	3.3%	97	13.3%	81	8.6%
Paid On Court Date	640	56.9%	582	60.9%	391	53.8%	538	57.5%
Paid After Court Date	353	31.4%	309	32.3%	209	28.7%	290	31.0%
Not Paid	18	1.6%	33	3.5%	30	4.1%	27	2.9%
Total	1124	100.0%	956	100.0%	727	100.0%	936	100.0%

Note: Normally, those paying after Court Date should be approximately the same number as those who were put on probation. For some period During 2019, violators were given 2 weeks after their Court Appearance to pay their fine without going on probation. This became too burdensome for the Court Clerk to manage and was discontinued. Probation fees are waived for the first month, so on probation the violator would have 4 weeks to pay with no additional charge.

Table 12

Percentage of Citations Pay-only vs Supervised Probation (by Year of Termination)					
		2018		2019	
		Tickets	%	Tickets	%
Pay-only Probation		333	83.9%	207	91.6%
Supervised Probation		64	16.1%	19	8.4%
All Probation		397	100.0%	226	100.0%

Table 13

Fines and Fees Paid During Pay-only vs Supervised Probation (by Year of Termination)								
	2018				2019			
	Fines Paid	Average/ Ticket	Fees Paid	Average/ Ticket	Fines Paid	Average/ Ticket	Fees Paid	Average/ Ticket
Pay-only Probation	\$ 101,852	\$ 306	\$ 17,676	\$ 53	\$ 62,095	\$ 300	\$ 12,435	\$ 60
Supervised Probation	15,679	245	8,703	136	5,968	314	3,020	159
All Probation	117,531	296	26,379	66	68,063	301	15,455	68

Table 14

Average Days Elapsed on Pay-only vs Supervised Probation (by Year of Termination)								
	2018				2019			
	Count of Probation Cases	Average Days per Case	Approx. Months/ case		Count of Probation Cases	Average Days per Case	Approx. Months/ case	
Pay-only Probation	245	149	5		145	208	7	
Supervised Probation	41	273	9		14	503	17	
All Probation	286	167	6		159	234	8	

Note: Tables 12-14 use data from PPS, our private probation provider. The data available was for cases terminated in 2018 and 2019 so it will not sync up to other tables based on our internal data.. Tables 12 and 13 are based on the number of tickets, while Table 14 is based on the number of cases, which could consist of one or more tickets for a given probationer.

Citation Statistics -Appendix

Table 15

Frequency of Violations (violation dates 2017 - 2019)					
Violation Code	Violation Name	Count 2017 - 19	Percent of Total	Average Fine	Bond Schedule
40-2-8	EXPIRED TAG	783	27.9%	254	255.00
40-6-1	* BASIC RULES VIOLATION	409	14.6%	299	400.00
40-6-20	FAILURE TO OBEY A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	277	9.9%	150	250.00
42-8-38	PROBATION VIOLATION	175	6.2%	66	NO BOND
40-6-241(c)	HANDS FREE LAW	167	5.9%	50	50.00
40-2-20	UNREGISTERED VEHICLE	91	3.2%	177	255.00
40-6-15	SUSPENDED REGISTRATION	77	2.7%	84	750.00
40-6-10	NO LIABILITY INSURANCE - MOTOR VEHICLE	72	2.6%	170	700.00
40-5-29A	NO LICENSE ON PERSON	65	2.3%	9	25.00
40-5-121	LICENSE: DRIVING WHILE LIC. SUSPENDED	55	2.0%	248	1,000.00
40-8-26	NO OPERATING BRAKE LIGHTS/SIGN	54	1.9%	70	175.00
40-5-32	EXPIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE	38	1.4%	181	150.00
40-6-49	FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY	36	1.3%	210	250.00
40-6-226	VIOLATION OF HANDICAPPED PARKI	34	1.2%	183	255.00
40-2-5	AQUIRING TAG TO CONCEAL IDENTI	28	1.0%	237	657.00
40-8-25	NO BRAKE LIGHTS OR WORKING TUR	26	0.9%	50	175.00
40-8-76.1	SEAT BELT VIOLATION (ADULT)	25	0.9%	26	15.00
40-6-72B	FAILURE TO STOP AT STOP/YIELD	22	0.8%	101	250.00
40-5-20	LICENSE: DRIVING WHILE UNLICEN	22	0.8%	219	600.00
40-2-29	7 DAYS TO REGISTER VEHICLE	20	0.7%	149	255.00
40-6-46	PASSING IN NO-PASSING ZONE	20	0.7%	204	250.00
16-13-2	POSSESSION OF OUNCE OR LESS OF	19	0.7%	233	1,000.00
40-8-76.1E3	SEAT BELT VIOLATION (AGES 8 TO	16	0.6%	28	200.00
40-6-10A4	NO PROOF OF INSURANCE	14	0.5%	7	700.00
40-8-76	CHILD RESTRAINT VIOLATION (0-7	13	0.5%	50	50.00
50-19	DISORDERLY CONDUCT - CITY ORDI	13	0.5%	281	500.00
40-6-47	WRONG WAY ON ONE-WAY STREET	13	0.5%	192	250.00
40-8-22	HEADLIGHT REQUIREMENTS	12	0.4%	85	175.00
40-5-24	OPERATING W/LEARNER'S PERMIT	10	0.4%	186	290.00
	ALL OTHERS	201	7.2%		
	TOTAL	2807	100.0%		

* In Table 15, The second most common offense is code 40-6-1 - Basic Rules Violation. This code is used by the court to reduce the severity of the offense, often to prevent loss of license for the offender. Table 16, below shows what underlying offenses resulted in the Basic Rules Violations.

Table 16

Basic Rules Violations by Original Violation Code (violation dates 2017 - 2019)					
Original Violation Code	Violation Name	2017 - 19	Total	Fine	Schedule
40-6-10	NO LIABILITY INSURANCE - MOTOR VEHICLE	152	37.2%	377	700.00
40-6-20	FAILURE TO OBEY A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	89	21.8%	194	250.00
40-5-121	LICENSE: DRIVING WHILE LIC. SUSPENDED	40	9.8%	595	1,000.00
40-6-241(c)	HANDS FREE LAW	23	5.6%	63	50.00
40-5-24	OPERATING W/LEARNER'S PERMIT	12	2.9%	119	290.00
	ALL OTHERS	93	22.7%		
	TOTAL	409	100.0%		

Table 16 shows what underlying offenses resulted in the Basic Rules Violations.

Citation Statistics -Appendix

Table 17

Frequency of Violations with Basic Rules Violations replaced by Original Violation Code (violation dates 2017 - 2019)					
Violation Code	Violation Name	Count 2017 - 19	Percent of Total	Average Fine	Bond Schedule
40-2-8	EXPIRED TAG	785	28.0%	254	255.00
40-6-20	FAILURE TO OBEY A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	366	13.0%	161	250.00
40-6-10	NO LIABILITY INSURANCE - MOTOR VEHICLE	238	8.5%	292	700.00
40-6-241(c)	HANDS FREE LAW	190	6.8%	51	50.00
42-8-38	PROBATION VIOLATION	175	6.2%	66	NO BOND
40-5-121	LICENSE: DRIVING WHILE LIC. SUSPENDED	95	3.4%	394	1,000.00
40-2-20	UNREGISTERED VEHICLE	91	3.2%	177	255.00
40-6-15	SUSPENDED REGISTRATION	85	3.0%	110	750.00
40-5-29A	NO LICENSE ON PERSON	66	2.4%	10	25.00
40-8-26	NO OPERATING BRAKE LIGHTS/SIGN	54	1.9%	70	175.00
40-6-49	FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY	44	1.6%	202	250.00
40-5-32	EXPIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE	39	1.4%	177	150.00
40-6-226	VIOLATION OF HANDICAPPED PARKI	36	1.3%	175	255.00
40-2-5	AQUIRING TAG TO CONCEAL IDENTI	34	1.2%	250	657.00
40-5-20	LICENSE: DRIVING WHILE UNLICEN	31	1.1%	286	600.00
40-6-46	PASSING IN NO-PASSING ZONE	29	1.0%	205	250.00
40-6-72B	FAILURE TO STOP AT STOP/YIELD	27	1.0%	114	250.00
40-8-25	NO BRAKE LIGHTS OR WORKING TUR	26	0.9%	50	175.00
40-8-76.1	SEAT BELT VIOLATION (ADULT)	25	0.9%	26	15.00
40-5-24	OPERATING W/LEARNER'S PERMIT	22	0.8%	149	290.00
40-6-47	WRONG WAY ON ONE-WAY STREET	22	0.8%	173	250.00
40-2-29	7 DAYS TO REGISTER VEHICLE	20	0.7%	149	255.00
16-13-2	POSSESSION OF OUNCE OR LESS OF	20	0.7%	221	
40-8-76.1E3	SEAT BELT VIOLATION (AGES 8 TO	16	0.6%	28	200.00
40-6-71	FAIL TO YIELD WHILE TURNING LEFT	14	0.5%	167	250.00
40-8-76	CHILD RESTRAINT VIOLATION (0-7	13	0.5%	50	50.00
50-19	DISORDERLY CONDUCT - CITY ORDI	13	0.5%	281	500.00
40-8-22	HEADLIGHT REQUIREMENTS	12	0.4%	85	175.00
40-6-123	FAILURE TO SIGNAL WHILE TURNING	10	0.4%	160	175.00
40-6-40	FAIL. TO MAINTAIN LN./WRONG SI	10	0.4%	134	225.00
	ALL OTHERS	199	7.1%	0	
	TOTAL	2807	100.0%		

Note: in Table 17, Basic Rules Violations are shown as their original violation code and merged with the other citations in order to get a more accurate count of citations and their relative frequency.

Table 18

Compare Dekalb Cities and Unincorporated Dekalb - Millage Rate 2019				
	County	School	City	Total
Avondale	13.0630	23.0800	9.8000	45.9430
Brookhaven	13.6140	23.0800	3.4200	40.1140
Chamblee	13.0390	23.0800	6.2500	42.3690
Clarkston	13.6970	23.0800	15.8900	52.6670
Decatur	10.3350	20.2500	13.9200	44.5050
Doraville	13.0230	23.0800	10.0000	46.1030
Dunwoody	13.6140	23.0800	2.7400	39.4340
Lithonia	20.8100	23.0800	-	43.8900
Pine Lake	13.9620	23.0800	21.5300	58.5720
Stonecrest	20.8100	23.0800	-	43.8900
St. Mountain	13.0530	23.0800	21.0000	57.1330
Tucker	19.6280	23.0800	0.9000	43.6080
Un-Incorporated Dekalb	20.8102	23.0800	-	43.8902