

Fellow traveler, thou hast fallen victim to the king's ransom and we were unable to save ye from his heavy tariff. Fear not! There is still a method of redress, that may save you and other friendly people of Keene.

Consider a challenge to this injustice by taking the ticket to the court. There are many benefits to challenging the ticket:

1. The cost to prosecute the ticket will be higher than the dollar amount of the ticket. If the king decides to take you to court, the costs will outweigh the benefit to him.
2. Therefore, there is a good chance that the ticket will be dropped. If you challenge the ticket and do not hear from the king's men in 90 days, the case is likely dropped. As more people challenge tickets, there is an increased chance of the king dropping your ticket as the caseload on the court is already too high.
3. There is low risk in taking the citation to court because even if you lose the case, you will only owe the original ticketed amount.
4. If the king decides to take your ticket to trial, the parking tax collector who wrote the ticket must appear in court, which takes him or her off the streets of Keene for some time and reduces the number of tickets being issued.
5. A quick challenge prevents the fine from rising. Plus, you get to keep your money longer. It may be months until the court settles the matter. Further, you could request community service instead of paying a monetary amount.
6. You will gain valuable court experience with little risk. The king wants you to just pay it because that costs him nothing. Make him work for your money and help bring an end to the meter monopoly!



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How to challenge the ticket:

Go to the Keene Police Dept. at 400 Marlboro St. weekdays 8a-4p with the ticket ASAP and tell the staff at the parking window that you wish to challenge the ticket. Request documentation proving their receipt of your challenge. Be warned - the staff will do everything they can to dissuade you from taking the ticket to court. They may tell you to talk to the enforcer, to just pay the ticket, tell you that you will lose in court, etc. The city does not want to go to court over a parking ticket. Insist that you want to challenge the ticket.

The court process: If the king wishes to take the ticket to court, his men will schedule a “pre-trial conference” (PTC) and notice should be sent to your address. The prosecutor will likely offer you a deal at the PTC. You don’t have to agree to it and can always counter-offer to a better deal. While at the PTC, if you intend to go to trial and clog the system further, submit a written request for discovery to the prosecutor and court clerk. This will require the prosecution to deliver a copy of all evidence and a witness list to you.



If you make it to trial, the parking enforcer will present his or her case against you. You will have the opportunity to question the enforcer. You do not have to take the stand. If you are found guilty, consider asking for community service instead of paying the fine. By doing community service you are helping the community instead of enriching the king - frustrating his men to the point where the ticketing may someday halt entirely!

-Robin Hood of Keene & the Merry Men

Visit RobinHood.FreeKeene.com; Email robinhoodofkeene@gmail.com

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