2025 - 26 Master Fee Schedule

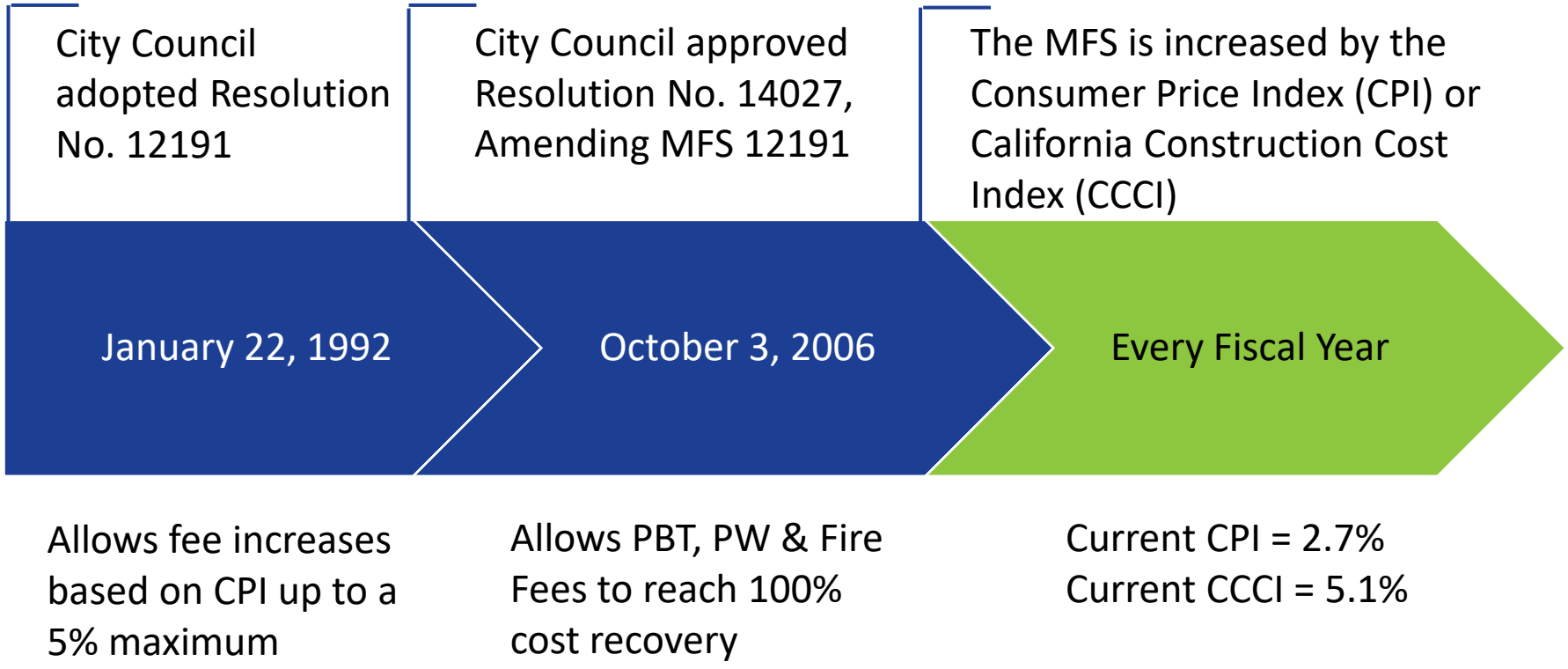
June 3, 2025

City Council

ALAMEDA

Background:

Master Fee Schedule 101



Recommendation: Adopt the proposed Master Fee Schedule to keep City fees market-aligned and sustain essential services amid rising costs.

Library Fees

- Eliminated lost library card fee to reduce the burden on low-income patrons
- Removed the processing fee for lost/damaged items
- Added replacement fees for lost laptop equipment/accessories

Police Department Fees

- Carry Concealed Weapons (CCW) Permit

  New application **$ 400**
  20 hours = background investigation
  4 hours = inspection/processing

  Renewal **$ 200**
  2.5 hours = inspection/processing

- Changing production reports and microfilm fees to a flat rate

Planning Fees

- Planning fees increase by an average of 0.7% to reflect updated developer deposits.
- New Planning fee categories introduced to comply with state housing laws (e.g., SB 35, SB 330).
- Technology Fee increased from 5% to 6% to support digital permitting tools and future system replacement.
- Overall adjustment: 0.4% fee increase in addition to the 2.7% CPI.
- Fees remain mid-range compared to nearby cities per the 2024 fee study.

Building Fees

- Building permit fees decrease by 0.3% overall, but with more detailed, tiered categories based on project complexity.
- Home improvement fees (e.g., retrofits, remodels) are reduced to reflect actual staff time and promote upgrades.
- New MEP inspection fees added for residential and commercial projects.

Code Enforcement Fees

Unpermitted Work: Replaced the discontinued 4x multiplier with hourly cost-based fees

Non-Construction Violations: General Fund to subsidize ~35% of enforcement costs (e.g., noise, signage)

Vacant Property Fee: New **$2,906/year** fee for vacant buildings to support blight monitoring

Tobacco License: New **$981/year** fee for tobacco retailers to cover enforcement and inspections

Fire Prevention Fees

- **Goal**: Achieve full cost recovery in 7 years while maintaining accessible, compliant, and equitable services.

- **Construction & Inspection Fees**: Increased to meet 100% cost recovery; annual/biannual inspections capped at 55%, and 11–20 unit residential/business inspections raised to 30% recovery.

- **New Rates**:
  Business inspection fee set at **$235**, residential (11–20 units) at **$404**.

- **Fee Adjustment**: Non-EMS fees increased by **9.12%** (includes 2.7% CPI and 6.42% catch-up).

Fire EMS Fees

- **EMS Billing Reform**: First Responder Fee consolidated into a **bundled transport rate** ($4,953.89 base + other charges) to comply with **AB716**.

- **Equity Policies**: EMS services remain **free** under specific conditions (e.g., assist-only calls, DOA, crime victims).

How does Alameda Compare?

- **Fire Department Comparison agencies:**
  - Oakland, San Ramon, San Jose, San Leandro, Fremont, among others…
- **Reasonable attempt to compare readily available information**
- **Caveats:**
  - Differing cost recovery policies or procedures
  - Varied terminology for the provision of similar services
  - Basis of fees and policy goals differ among jurisdictions

Public Works Fees

- Parking Citations:
  - $75 for parking in bike lanes (CVC 21209)
  - $45 for unauthorized use of EV parking (AMC 8-8.9)
  - $40 for parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk (CVC 22500(n)(1)(A))

- Meter Fee Removal:
  Daily meter fees removed from the MFS; rate changes managed administratively per AMC 12-4.4 to support parking occupancy goals.

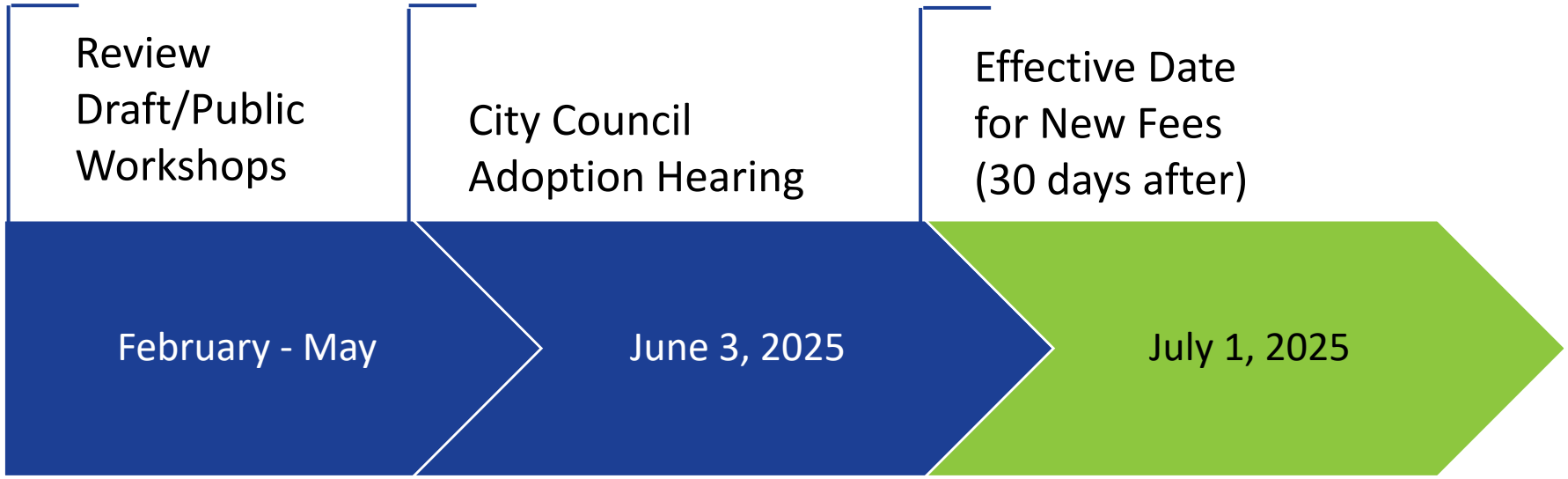
All others

- Alameda Recreation & Parks Department (ARPD) fees are not being revised. These will be revised in December 2025.
- Special Event permit fees have been adjusted by 2.7% CPI.
- Affordable Housing Fees increased by April CPI of 1.3%.

Recommendation

Adopt the proposed Master Fee Schedule to keep City fees aligned with the market, allowing us to:

- Manage inflation and rising costs
- Continue to provide essential services.

Next Steps:

Adopt the proposed 2025-26 Master Fee Schedule