

Baltimore parking: Lower fines proposed for double parking

By Julie Scharper, *Baltimore Sun*, October 4, 2010

Three months after city officials approved higher parking fines, two Baltimore City Council members have proposed lowering fees for double parking.

When council members voted to increase fines for obstructing traffic or "blocking the box" at intersections, they more than tripled the penalty for double parking — from \$77 to \$250.

Councilman William H. Cole IV and Councilman James B. Kraft, who represent Central and Southeast Baltimore neighborhoods where parking is scarce, introduced a bill at Monday night's council meeting that would lower the fine to \$100.

Cole said his office had fielded five calls from residents in the past week who complained about receiving the pricey tickets.

"Their unloading their groceries or carrying their kid in and they come back and find a \$250 ticket," he said.

Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young proposed raising the fines to the current levels to help close a \$121 million hole in the city's budget. The council's taxation and finance committee will schedule a hearing on the bill in the coming weeks.