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BAKERSFIELD MOVES TO MODERNIZE CITYWIDE CITATION SYSTEM



Bakersfield Moves to Modernize Citywide Citation System

By [Francisco Ramirez](#)
March 31, 2025 | Bakersfield, CA

BAKERSFIELD — In a step toward streamlining municipal enforcement, the Bakersfield City Council voted to modernize how the city handles administrative citations, approving a new system that will bring consistency, automation, and digital tools to multiple departments.

The decision came during the [council's March 26 meeting](#), where **Park Ranger Manager Billy Owens** and city staff presented a proposal to contract with **Data Ticket**, a third-party vendor that specializes in citation management and collections. The change is expected to impact operations in several departments, including Code Enforcement, Public Works, Fire, Animal Control, and Parking Enforcement.

The new system will standardize how citations are issued, tracked, paid, and appealed. Key features include an **online payment portal**, **independent adjudication**, and **automated notifications** for violations such as illegal dumping, unpermitted fireworks, parking infractions, and zoning violations.



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“This isn’t just about enforcement—it’s about improving service delivery and transparency,” Owens told the council.

City officials emphasized that the current process varies by department, often resulting in inconsistent experiences for residents. The new system will centralize all functions, improve efficiency, and provide better data tracking.

Councilmembers generally supported the effort but raised questions about balancing enforcement with public education. Some expressed concern that automation could lead to over-enforcement or alienate residents unfamiliar with the system.

“We need to make sure we’re not just issuing tickets—we’re informing the public and giving them a fair chance to comply,” one councilmember noted.

City staff responded that departments would continue to use discretion and follow their existing education-first protocols, particularly in code enforcement cases.

The [council voted to approve the proposal and referred the project](#) to a committee for further development of **oversight metrics**, including public feedback and performance benchmarks.

Implementation is expected to roll out over the coming months, with updates provided as departments begin training and integrating the new system.

Do you think digitizing citation management will make Bakersfield’s services more efficient—or more impersonal?