



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Police

Date February 12, 2007  
To: Public Safety and Regulatory Services  
Referral to: Ways and Mean/Budget

**Subject: Automated Pawn System**

### Recommendation:

1. Authorize staff to implement an annual access fee of \$240 for all query only agencies, and
2. Authorize staff to eliminate monthly access fees for query only agencies when the following conditions exist: a) Minnesota enacts a statute related to scrap metal dealers; and b) that statute sets minimum regulations for scrap metal dealers; and c) that statute requires scrap metal dealers to report certain transactions to the Automated Pawn System; and d) use of the Automated Pawn System is supported through APS fees on scrap metal transactions.

### Previous Directives:

- Petition 262848, June 27, 1997 granting on-going authority to enter into APS Automated Pawn System® Service and Software License Agreements
- Petition 268647, March 23, 2006 approving a multi-tier fee structure for query only APS Automated Pawn System subscribers

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Approved by: Asst Chief Sharon Lubinski	<i>Asst Chief Sharon J. Lubinski</i>
Presenters in Committee: Phil Hafvenstein	<i>2-14-07</i>

### Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial Impact

- **No financial impact**
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Budget or \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves

- Action is within the Business Plan
- Action requires a change to the Business Plan
- Other financial impact
- Request provided to the Finance Department when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact**

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

**Supporting Information**

When Minneapolis first implemented the APS Automated Pawn System project in 1995, one of its key goals was to develop a system that enabled police agencies to share pawn transaction information, electronically. Now, even though 167 agencies subscribe to APS, staff continues to pursue that goal because sharing critical crime solving and criminal identifying information is what APS is all about.

APS has two types of users. Contributing jurisdictions are those with businesses that are required to report transactions to APS. Query-only users do not have any reporting businesses, but need access to the data in APS to help solve crimes in their communities.

APS is one of the police department’s intellectual property initiatives promoted as part of the Government to Government Solutions Consortium. It is fully self-sustaining, supported through transaction fees from contributing jurisdiction and monthly access fees from query-only agencies – both set by council action. In 2006, query-only monthly access fees accounted for 12.7% of APS revenues.

Our current fee structure for query-only agencies consists of six tiers and three rates Tiers are based on agency population and size ranking by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The one time setup and connection fee for all query-only agencies is \$240.

Current monthly fees are:

Tiers 1 & 2 (Population 100,000+)	\$72	Tiers 3 & 4 (10,000 to 100,000)	\$54	Tiers 5 & 6 (2,500 to 10,000)	\$36
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This request is for:

1. authority to implement a single annual access fee of \$240 for all query only agencies, and;
2. authority to eliminate monthly access fees for query only agencies when the following conditions exist:
  - a. Minnesota enacts a statute related to scrap metal dealers; and
  - b. that statute sets minimum regulations for scrap metal dealers; and
  - c. that statute requires scrap metal dealers to report certain transactions to the Automated Pawn System; and
  - d. that use of the Automated Pawn System is supported through APS fees on scrap metal transactions.

The single rate annual access fee for query-only agencies is intended to help grow participation among tier five and six agencies – the ones least able to afford anything. As new contributing agencies join APS, the smaller agencies that typically surround them need to be able to see and use that data.

The elimination of query-only access fees is a top priority for APS because doing so will help achieve our primary goal of sharing critical information. While no one knows with any certainty just how many transactions scrap metal dealers may be required to report, those transactions, along with the continued increases in transactions reported by pawn shops, are anticipated to fully offset any decreases in query-only access fees.