



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 29, 2026

## **Chattanooga Parking Authority Launches Parking Amnesty and Community Support Programs – No Vehicle Booting Until October 1**

*Residents with outstanding parking Chattanooga Parking Authority citations have until September 30 to resolve balances at a discount — with options including hardship assistance and a Food Bank donation program*

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.** — The Chattanooga Parking Authority (CPA), the parking enforcement affiliate of the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA), today announced the launch of its Amnesty and Community Support Programs for individuals with outstanding parking citations in Chattanooga. The programs — available now through September 30, 2026 — provide multiple options for resolving unpaid CPA citations before enforcement begins on October 1, 2026.

The programs were made possible by the Consumer Protection & Parking Compliance Ordinance adopted by the City of Chattanooga on April 14, 2026. The ordinance creates fair and consistent parking rules for lots and garages that choose to participate, caps parking rates and fines, protects customers from excessive fees and unfair enforcement practices, and helps improve parking availability for businesses and visitors downtown. Fines collected through the program support Chattanooga's free electric shuttle system.

"We're giving people time and options before a single boot goes on a car. That's intentional. These programs offer a clear path to resolve their outstanding citations at a significant discount, get financial assistance if needed, or even support the Chattanooga Area Food Bank," said Scott Wilson, CARTA Chief of Staff. "When parking spaces turn over the way they should, downtown Chattanooga merchants win. That's what parking enforcement is meant to do."

### **MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT AFFECTED — HERE IS WHO QUALIFIES**

Before anything else, residents should know: the vast majority of people with a CPA parking ticket or two have nothing to worry about. Booting applies only to drivers with three or more unpaid citations that have been outstanding for more than 60 days. If you have one or two tickets, or if your tickets are recent, you are not subject to enforcement under this program.

To check whether you have outstanding CPA citations, visit [parkchattanooga-tn.com](http://parkchattanooga-tn.com) and search by license plate number. If you have used more than one license plate since 2019, search each plate separately. If your name is assigned to a plate, you are responsible for any tickets associated with it.

### **THREE WAYS TO RESOLVE YOUR OUTSTANDING CITATIONS**

If you do have three or more CPA tickets outstanding for more than 60 days, the following programs are available through September 30, 2026. Programs cannot be combined — choose the option that works best for you.

#### **1. Discount Period (June 1 – August 31, 2026)**

Individuals who pay their outstanding CPA balance in full — or enroll in a payment plan — during this window can receive a discount based on when they act:

- 35% off — Pay your full outstanding balance by June 30, 2026
- 25% off — Pay your full outstanding balance by August 31, 2026
- 10% off — Enroll in a 6-month payment plan by August 31, 2026

Discounts cannot be combined. Participants must select one option.

#### **2. Hardship Program (June 1 – September 30, 2026)**

For individuals facing financial difficulty, the Hardship Program offers a 90% reduction of the total outstanding balance and an extended payment plan of up to 12 months.

Individuals are automatically eligible with documentation of:

- Section 8 housing
- SSI or SSDI (Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance)
- SNAP or WIC

Individuals with household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level may also qualify through income verification.

The Hardship Program cannot be combined with the Discount Period or Food for Fines Program.

#### **3. Food for Fines Program (June 1 – September 30, 2026)**

The Food for Fines Program lets participants reduce their outstanding balance by making a monetary donation to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank — and doubles the impact.

- Every \$1 donated = \$2 credit toward your outstanding balance

- Up to 25% of your total outstanding balance may be resolved through this program
- Monetary donations only — no food items accepted

The Food for Fines Program cannot be combined with the Discount Period or Hardship Program.

### **BOOTING RULES — EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026**

Beginning October 1, 2026, vehicles may be immobilized (booted) only when a driver has three or more unpaid citations that have been outstanding for more than 60 days. If a vehicle is booted, the driver must pay the applicable boot removal fee of up to \$75, plus a minimum of 25% of the total outstanding balance, and enter into a payment plan for the remainder. No vehicles will be booted before October 1.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Information about all three programs, eligibility details, and application links are available at [chattanoogaparking.org](http://chattanooga parking.org). Residents with questions or complaints may also contact the Chattanooga Parking Authority at (423) 648-4031 or visit 1362 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402.