



## 7. CURB PENALTY FEES

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FILLING EMPTY PARKING METERS TO SIDE-STEP PARKING TICKETS **DISRUPTS** CAPITALISM'S ABILITY TO COLLECT GOVERNMENT REVENUE

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**THE LOWDOWN:** Parking meters are a fitting symbol for government's remarkable revenue-collecting efficiency. Dotted almost every major city block, these piggy banks accrue a big sack of coins for government coffers. And if someone doesn't pay, the revenue gained through government penalty fees is no small joke. Large cities, like New York, collect upwards of \$500+ million on parking fines each year.<sup>166</sup>

## DISRUPTING CAPITALISM'S ABILITY TO COLLECT GOVERNMENT REVENUE

- A) REBEL:** This strategy is a play on the capitalist principle of investing. Placing a quarter into someone's empty parking meter impedes a meter maid from being able to issue a hefty citation.<sup>167</sup> 25 cents to save someone 30 or more dollars... now that's a good return on investment. The numbers add up even faster when rebels organize. An organized group canvassing multiple blocks with a scout to track the meter maid can quickly amount to thousands of dollars diverted from government bank accounts.
- B) DISRUPT CAPITALISM:** As benign as putting a quarter into a stranger's empty parking meter may seem, lots of local governments consider this a crime. They say you are "aiding and abetting" a criminal. Why does government have such a chip on their shoulder about something so seemingly trivial? Like businesses, government also requires a constant stream of revenue to operate. The success of a government is partly based on how efficiently they can collect revenue. Rebels' organizing together around meter feeding demonstrates how easy it is to disrupt long-established assumptions around revenue enforcement.
- C) HAVE FUN:** Ever gotten an annoying parking ticket and wished you could have retribution? Here's your chance: have fun saving people a shitload of money. For more fun, leave a note a note on someone's windshield (where a ticket would have gone) to explain what you did.

### BONUS POINTS (A+B+C):

While some people will cry foul that curbing parking penalty fees is unfair, here's a sneaky little secret: it's estimated that the wealthiest Americans avoid paying \$100 billion in tax revenue each year.<sup>168</sup> In the spirit of rebel archetype Robin Hood, how about finding a fun way to publicly call out this wild tax discrepancy between fat cats and we the people?

**WARNING:** THIS STRATEGY IS INTENDED TO BE ILLUSTRATIVE IN NATURE IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF REVENUE COLLECTION. ACTUALLY ADDING CHANGE INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPIRED METER IS ILLEGAL AND A REBEL'S HANDBOOK DOES NOT CONDONE OR ENCOURAGE DOING SO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

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*"NO ONE HAS EVER BECAME POOR BY GIVING."* ANNE FRANK