

September 24, 2018
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Dear Mr Carson:

I am concerned about equal justice. The gap between rich and poor continues to grow and equal access to justice is suffering. The DOJ report on criminal justice in Ferguson was eyeopening with a court system focused more on repressing and taxing the poor than on improving society. While this example may be extreme, excessive fees not tailored to the ability to pay have also been a problem here. This makes a minor infraction only a minor problem for someone with money but a lengthy burden for someone without and creates more barriers to an integrated society while setting up the court system as an adversary rather than a support service for poor communities. I understand that the current fee system provides only a small percentage of any agency's budget in Alameda so that now is the time to end this practice before falling into the disaster that befell Ferguson.

Please assure me that you will vote to eliminate fees in the Alameda justice system.

I am very proud to be a Berkeley resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson