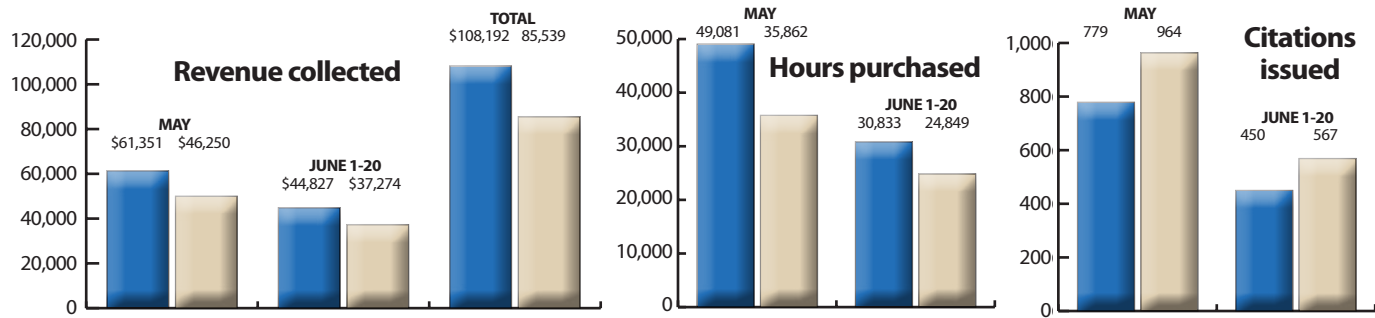


Some downtown merchants say the city's new method of collecting parking fees is frustrating their customers and driving them away. City officials say while kinks need to be worked out, returning to the system prior to the city's taking over the parking in April is impractical and unnecessary.



OLD SYSTEM: Required payment immediately and locked you into a spot. The old system also made one pay again if the vehicle was moved, even if you still had time paid for in that space, city officials said.

NEW SYSTEM: Allows 15 minutes free to everyone and has the ability to pay once by the license plate and move around the downtown area.

