



CITY OF HOUSTON
 Municipal Courts Administration

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NEWS RELEASE

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Municipal Courts Finishes Amnesty, Closes Over 6,000 Delinquent Cases

HOUSTON, Texas – The City of Houston’s Municipal Courts 2009 Amnesty Program ended Friday, May 22, 2009 at 11:59 p.m., ending 3 weeks of cost reductions for citizens with delinquent citations. Thousands participated in the program, clearing more than 6,000 cases.

Municipal Courts Administration Director and Chief Clerk Sahira Abdool commented “We are pleased to have been able to assist citizens by offering them alternative payment options for taking care of their business with Municipal Courts or Parking Management.”

The program was intended to motivate citizens to handle delinquent citations by taking advantage of this opportunity to clear warrants, avoid jail time and save money. Citizens were given discounts through the waiver of fees and certain costs. Options to pay for tickets include using the internet (www.houstontx.gov), calling 3-1-1, mail-in and paying in person at all court locations.

“It is our responsibility and commitment to our constituents to provide quality service with efficiency,” Abdool said. The 2009 Amnesty Program statistics are as follows:

| | Fines Paid | Cases | Defendants |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| TRAFFIC/NON-TRAFFIC | \$ 525,863 | 3,279 | 1,304 |
| PARKING | \$214,741 | 2,861 | 2,078 |
| Total | \$740,604 | 6,140 | 3,382 |

Eligible persons who did not choose to participate in the Amnesty Program are again subject to HPD’s Warrant Sweep. All applicable fees and court costs of the original citation, and any warrants issued are active and may be served at any time.

For more information about citations, visit the website at www.houstontx.gov, or contact City’s Helpline at 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston.

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