



CITY OF HOUSTON

Municipal Courts
Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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2010 Warrant Round-Up Closes Over 33,000 Delinquent Cases

HOUSTON, Texas – The City of Houston Municipal Courts Administration Department reported that **33,081** delinquent cases were closed during the “2010 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up.” The program, which began March 6, 2010 and officially ended March 15, 2010, is being touted as the reason behind a record-breaking year for case closures and arrests for the City of Houston as compared to the previous three years of participation.

“The unified approach between Municipal Courts, the Houston Police Department, Harris County Constables and over 70 other Gulf Coast participants helped this initiative tremendously,” stated Chief Donald McKinney. “Having regional partnerships showed the effectiveness of a coordinated, multi-agency effort.”

After weeks of televised news reports and radio announcements to notify the public of the statewide initiative, many of Houston’s warranted public responded by coming forth early to handle their court matters. Unfortunately, not everyone heeded the warning, and for thousands, a trip to jail was not avoided.

“We offered a grace period from February 19, 2010 through March 5, 2010 in hopes that defendants would come to us voluntarily to pay their fines and/or to learn about their court cases,” said Sahira J. Abdool, Director & Chief Clerk of the Municipal Courts Administration Department. “We did everything we could to inform the public of what was to come and the various options available to them to handle court matters,” Abdool stated.

The threat of arrest remains in effect for defendants who did not take care of their delinquent case(s) and may still have active warrants pending against them.

“It is an unfortunate reality that our Courts must rely on the periodic intervention of law enforcement to assist us in resolving cases in warrant status. We make every effort to offer individuals various options and

customer-driven services to facilitate the successful resolution of their court matters and to avoid arrest,” said Presiding Judge Berta A. Mejia, “I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the officers who participated in the Warrant Round-Up for their invaluable assistance.”

No amnesty was offered in conjunction with the Round-Up effort. The Office of the Chief Clerk provided the following statistics concerning the Warrant Round Up:

	Arrests	Warrants Cleared	<u>Fines Paid</u>
Traffic/Non-Traffic	5992	33081	\$2,376,083

Court locations and answers to frequently asked questions may be found at www.houstontx.gov/courts, or by contacting the City of Houston Helpline at 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- ONLINE – www.texasonline.state.tx.us
- BY PHONE – Call 713.837.0311 or 3-1-1 (6am- Midnight daily)
- BY MAIL - Municipal Courts, P.O. Box 4996, Houston, TX 77210-4996
- WESTERN UNION
- IN PERSON – at any of the six court locations listed:

COURT LOCATIONS		
MAIN LOCATION	HOURS	PHONE
<p>* Municipal Courts Monday - Saturday 7am to 10pm 713.247.5479</p> <p>1400 Lubbock Houston, TX 77002</p> <p>*Day courts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 & 12 – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. *Night courts: 1, 3, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17 – Monday through Friday, 4 p.m.– 10 p.m. *Annex court: 99 - Monday through Friday, 8a.m. - 10 p.m. *Weekend court: 1, 11 and Annex 99 - Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>		
NOTE: Locations below closed 12 P.M. to 1 P.M.		
ANNEX LOCATIONS	HOURS	PHONE
<p>Acres Homes/North Command Station 9455 West Montgomery Houston, TX 77088 Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm 281.405.5319</p> <p>Clear Lake Sub-Station 2855 Bay Area Boulevard Houston, TX 77058 Thursday 8am to 5pm 281.283.4946 281.283.4947</p> <p>Kingwood (Municipal Court Annex) 3915 Rustic Woods Kingwood, Texas 77339-5203 Wednesday 8am to 5pm 281.361.6574</p> <p>* Southeast Command Station (Courts 13 & 14) 8300 Mykawa Houston, TX 77048 Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm 713.731.5155 713.731.5156</p> <p>* Westside Command Station (Court 18) 3203 South Dairy Ashford Houston, TX 77082-2320 Monday - Friday 8 am to 5pm 281.584.4889</p>		