



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IV.
A
12/17/2024

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Judiciary Committee

Resolution declaring an extension to December 31, 2025, of the penalty reduction program, that originally began July 1, 2019, for defendants with cases in warrant status for class “a” offenses that occurred on or before December 31, 2022.

Judiciary Committee

Background:

On June 18, 2019, with Item No. IX.L, City Council declared a penalty reduction program for the period July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 for defendants with cases in warrant status for class “a” offenses that occurred prior to July 1, 2017. On April 14, 2020, with Item No. X.B, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2020. On December 22, 2020, with Item No. XI.B, City Council extended the program to June 30, 2021. On June 22, 2021, with Item No. XI.B, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2021. On January 18, 2022, with Item No. IV.B, City Council extended the program to June 30, 2022. On June 21, 2022, with Item No. IV.B, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2022. On November 22, 2022, with Item No. IV.E, City Council extended the program to June 30, 2023. On June 20, 2023, with Item No. IV.F, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2023. On December 19, 2023, Council Item IV.A, extended the program to December 31, 2024.

At the commencement of the penalty reduction program, there were approximately 116,000 class “a” citations in warrant status for offenses that occurred prior to July 1, 2017. When a case goes into warrant status because the defendant failed to pay or failed to appear, the penalty amount increases beyond the original amount and an additional charge of failure to appear may be added.

This temporary penalty reduction program allows defendants to resolve class “a” citations that occurred on or before December 31, 2022 and are in warrant status by paying a reduced rate and any associated failure to appear charges will be dismissed. As of November 18, 2024, 9,877 cases have been closed, 3,329 failure to appear charges have been dismissed and \$1,585,479.00 have been collected through the penalty reduction program.

The penalty reduction program will not impede or circumvent the Rule 8 Hearing process. If a defendant indicates an inability to pay the reduced amount in full, a Judge will make a determination regarding financial status in a Rule 8 Hearing.

The penalty reduction program was ordered by the Presiding Judge through Judicial Order 19-05, extended by Judicial Orders 20-05, 20-09, 21-03, 22-02, 22-06, 22-07, 23-02, 23-05 and now by Judicial Order 24-XX extending the program to December 31, 2025.

Review:

Municipal Court

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.