

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EXTENSION TO DECEMBER 31, 2022 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 JUNE 30, 2020

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2019, Council Item No. IX.L declared a penalty reduction program for the period July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 for defendants with class “a” offenses that occurred prior to July 1, 2017 in warrant status; on April 14, 2020, Council Item No. X.B extended the program to end on December 31, 2020; and on December 22, 2020, Council Item No. XI. B extended the program to June 30, 2021; and on June 22, 2021, Council Item No. XI.B extended the program to December 31, 2021; and on January 18, 2021, Council Item No. IV.B extended the program to June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the penalties associated with cases in warrant status have escalated beyond the original amount owed and may include an additional charge of failure to appear; and

WHEREAS, the penalty reduction program is designed to allow defendants to close their class “a” case in warrant status by a single payment at a reduced cost thereby lifting the pending warrant; and

WHEREAS, as an example, the citation penalty for speeding 1 to 10 miles per hour over the limit that has gone to warrant is \$420.00 with a possible additional \$193.00 for the companion charge of failure to appear, for a total of \$613.00; and

WHEREAS, the penalty reduction program would allow a defendant to resolve, for example, the aforementioned speeding case for a single payment of \$155.00 in fines and costs at a total savings of 63% for the speeding citation and would dismiss any Failure to Appear without costs for a total savings of 75% (as shown in the attached table); and

WHEREAS, as of May 23, 2022, 5,916 cases have been closed, 2,033 failure to appear charges have been dismissed and \$929,780 have been collected through the penalty reduction program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma mandates a Rule 8 Hearing if a defendant is financially unable to pay and this program will not and is not intended to impede or circumvent that process; and


WHEREAS, this program is ordered extended by the Presiding Judge as shown in the attached Judicial Order and will be administered by the Court Administrator.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of The City of Oklahoma City declares an extension to the penalty reduction program to December 31, 2022 during which the Court Administrator may accept a single reduced payment to close such cases and lift such warrants as set out in the attached Judicial Order issued by the Presiding Judge thereby allowing defendants with a warrant for a class "a" offense that occurred on or before June 30, 2020, to have such cases closed with a single reduced payment subject to the mandates of Rule 8 regarding a defendant's ability to pay.


ADOPTED by the Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City this 21st day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:


THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY


CITY CLERK




Vice MAYOR

REVIEWED for form and legality.


Deputy Municipal Counselor