



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IV. B
6/21/2022

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Judiciary Committee

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.

Judiciary Committee

Background:

On June 18, 2019, 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, Item No. X.B, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2020. On December 22, 2020, Item No. XI. B, City Council extended the program to June 30, 2021. On June 22, 2021, Item No. XI.B, City Council extended the program to December 31, 2021. On January 18, 2022, Item No. IV.B, City Council extended the program to June 30, 2022.

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.

The temporary penalty reduction program allows defendants to resolve class “a” citations issued prior to July 1, 2017 and in warrant status by paying a reduced rate and having the associated failure to appear charge dismissed. 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.

The penalty reduction program will not impede or circumvent the Rule 8 Hearing process. If a defendant indicates they are unable to pay the reduced amount in full, a Judge will make a determination regarding the defendant’s 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 Order 20-05, Judicial Order 20-09, Judicial Order 21-03, Judicial Order 22-01, and now by Judicial Order 22-06 extending the program date to December 31, 2022.

Review:
Municipal Court

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.