



CITY OF HOUSTON

Municipal Courts Department
Houston Police Department

Annis D. Parker

Mayor

Hon. Barbara E. Hartle
Director & Presiding Judge
P.O. Box 4996
Houston, Texas 77210-4996

T. 713.247.5479
F. 713.247.4775
www.houstontx.gov/courts

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2015

Contacts:

Gwendolyn Goins, Public Information Officer
Municipal Courts Department
(713) 247-4114

HPD Media Relations
(713) 308-3200

Texas Municipal Courts, Law Enforcement Agencies Unite For Statewide Warrant Round- Up

HOUSTON, Texas – The City of Houston’s Municipal Courts Department and Houston Police Department (HPD) announce their participation in the **2015 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up (WRU)**. They will be among 300 jurisdictions across the state that will engage in this annual law enforcement campaign that begins **Saturday, March 7, 2015**. Neighboring jurisdictions joining this statewide initiative as regional participants include Harris, Galveston, Fort Bend, and Waller Counties.

“We do everything possible to encourage individuals to resolve their court matters well before they become delinquent, but when all else fails, we turn to law enforcement to execute outstanding warrants,” said Director and Presiding Judge, Barbara E. Hartle. *“Participating in the statewide WRU program simultaneously with other jurisdictions helps bring about greater public awareness, which will hopefully encourage people to resolve their case or cases before they are arrested,”* Judge Hartle explained.

HPD will be assisted by the Texas Attorney General’s Fugitive Apprehension Unit to search for individuals with outstanding warrants. Once the Warrant Round-up period begins on March 7, 2015, HPD and other law enforcement agencies will aggressively target those defendants on the warrant list. Authorities warn that arrests can take place at any location, including the defendant’s home, school or workplace.

Additionally, a special task force will focus solely on locating defendants with outstanding warrants through a License Plate Recognition program whose parked vehicle has been documented multiple times at specific locations.

“The License Plate Recognition program has been in force since September of 2011 and has been extremely helpful in allowing us to locate scofflaws,” stated Judge Hartle.

Houston Municipal Courts offered an Amnesty Program in November 2014 to encourage individuals to clear delinquent court matters at considerable cost savings. At that time, certain cases in delinquent status were

discounted by the dismissal of the Failure to Appear fine. The 2014 Amnesty Program assisted in clearing more than 9,000 outstanding Municipal Court warrants; however, there will be no amnesty offered during the Warrant Round-Up period. Individuals are being urged to resolve cases to avoid arrest.

Notices are being mailed to all Houston Municipal Court defendants with active warrants. Individuals with warrants in jurisdictions other than the City of Houston should contact those jurisdictions for information about how to clear outstanding warrants. A complete list of participating regional partners can be found at www.houstontx.gov/courts.

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

2015 Great Warrant Round-Up FAQ's

Why are you doing this?

To close cases for which all other means of resolution have been unsuccessful.

Why do this now?

Statewide cooperation with other entities provides broader public awareness. Tax refund season creates better opportunity for some defendants to have the ability to pay their fines.

How many warrants are outstanding?

This number is not constant and changes all the time. In the month of January, in the City of Houston alone, there was an average of about 300,000 active warrants in the court's system. Some defendants have multiple warrants.

How can I find out if I have warrants?

For Houston Municipal Court warrants, dial Houston's Helpline at 3-1-1, visit the website at www.houstontx.gov/courts or visit any City of Houston Municipal Court location (see chart below). For information about warrants issued out of the Harris County Justice Courts, visit the Justice Court's website at www.jp.hctx.net. For warrants issued out of surrounding municipal and justice courts, contact the Court in that particular jurisdiction for further information.

What are my options if I find out I do have warrants?

You may pay the fine and court costs, or post a bond and have your case(s) reset for a new court date. You may also seek legal advice from an attorney.

If I come to court to pay, will I be arrested?

No, defendants are encouraged to come in voluntarily to resolve cases during the Warrant Round-Up.

Will there be an amnesty offered to reduce the cost of any of the fines or fees?

Not at this time.

If I want to pay for my warrants, what are my payment options?

Payment options for warrants issued by the City of Houston Municipal Courts are as follows:

- ONLINE – www.houstontx.gov/courts/OnlineTicketPayments.html
- BY PHONE – Call 713.221.0288 (24 hour payment line)
- BY MAIL - Municipal Courts, P.O. Box 4996, Houston, TX 77210-4996
- WESTERN UNION (use code: Ticket Texas)
- IN PERSON – at any of the six court locations listed:

| COURT LOCATIONS | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| MAIN LOCATION | HOURS | PHONE |
| <i>Herbert W. Gee Municipal Courthouse</i> 1400 Lubbock Houston, TX 77002 | Monday - Friday 8am to 10pm Saturday 8am to 4pm | 713.247.5479 |
| ANNEX LOCATIONS | HOURS | PHONE |
| <i>Acres Homes/North Command Station</i> 9455 West Montgomery Houston, TX 77088 | Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm | 281.405.5319 |
| <i>Clear Lake Sub-Station</i> 2855 Bay Area Boulevard Houston, TX 77058 | Thursday 8am to 5pm | 281.283.4946 281.283.4947 |
| <i>Kingwood (Municipal Court Annex)</i> 3915 Rustic Woods Kingwood, Texas 77339-5203 | Wednesday 7:30am to 4:30pm | 281.361.6574 |
| <i>Southeast Command Station (Courts 13 & 14)</i> 8300 Mykawa Houston, TX 77048 | Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm | 713.731.5155 713.731.5156 |
| <i>Westside Command Station (Court 18)</i> 3203 South Dairy Ashford Houston, TX 77082-2320 | Monday - Friday 8 am to 9pm | 281.584.4889 |
| NOTE: All courtrooms are closed Noon to 1 P.M. | | |

For payment options for warrants in other jurisdictions, please contact the appropriate court in that area.

What forms of payment do you accept?

We accept cash, checks, money orders, American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.

After I pay, how long will it take for the information to be removed from DPS records?

The Department of Public Safety will clear holds on driver’s licenses within 7 to 10 business days.

2015 Great Texas Warrant Round Up Regional Participant List

Addison Municipal Court

[Alvin, City of](#)

[Angleton Municipal Court](#)

[Austin County JP 3](#)

Bay City Municipal Court

[Baytown Marshals Office & Court](#)

Bellaire Police Department

[Brenham Municipal Court](#)

Bryan Municipal Court

Colorado County Court

[Colorado County Justice Court PCT 3](#)

Columbus Municipal Court

[Conroe Municipal Court](#)

[Deer Park Municipal Court](#)

Diboll Municipal Court

[Dickinson Municipal Court](#)

[Friendswood Municipal Court](#)

[Fulshear Municipal Court](#)

Galveston Co. Sherriff's Department

[Galveston Police Department](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 1](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 2](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 3](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 4](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 5](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 6](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 7](#)

[Harris County Constable PCT 8](#)

[Harris County District Clerk's Office](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 1 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 1 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 2 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 2 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 3 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 3 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 4 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 4 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 5 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 5 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 6 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 6 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 7 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 7 PLC 2](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 8 PLC 1](#)

[Harris County Justice Court PCT 8 PLC 2](#)

Hempstead Municipal Court
[Houston Municipal Court](#)
[Humble Municipal Court](#)
Jefferson County JP, PCT 2
[Katy Municipal Court](#)
Kemah Municipal Court
LaMarque Municipal Court
LaPorte Municipal Court
[League City Municipal Court](#)
Lufkin City Marshal's Office
Matagorda Co. JP, PCT 2, PL1
[Missouri City Municipal Court](#)
[Montgomery County Collections Dept.](#)
Nacogdoches County JP PCT 1
[Oak Ridge North Municipal Court](#)
Piney Point Village Municipal Court
Roman Forest, City of
[Rosenberg Municipal Court](#)
Seabrook Municipal Court
[Sealy Municipal Court](#)
[Silsbee Municipal Court](#)
[Southside Place, City of](#)
Sugarland Municipal Court
Stafford Municipal Court
Taylor Lake Village Municipal Court
[Texas City Municipal Court](#)
Tomball, City of
Waller Co. JP, PCT 2
Waller Co. JP, PCT 4
[Waller Municipal Court](#)
Ward County JP, PCT 1
Ward County JP, PCT 2
Ward County JP, PCT 4
[Washington County JP PCT 3](#)
Webster Municipal Court/PD