



CITY OF HOUSTON

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Houston Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Hundreds of Law Enforcement Agencies Across Texas **Unite For the 2013 Warrant Round Up**

HOUSTON, Texas – In the largest united effort of Texas law enforcement agencies to date, the **2013 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up** was announced in Houston today. The City of Houston's Municipal Courts Department and Houston Police Department (HPD) will be among more than 300 law enforcement jurisdictions across Texas that will participate. Along with HPD, the Texas Attorney General's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, and Harris and Galveston Counties will join other regional participants in this statewide annual event to look for individuals with outstanding warrants beginning Saturday, March 2, 2013.

As the regional coordinator of this effort for the past seven years, the City of Houston Municipal Courts Department has thousands of active warrants it is seeking to clear. Municipal Courts officials are encouraging defendants to take advantage of the options available to resolve outstanding warrants.

The Amnesty program previously announced by the City of Houston Municipal Courts in January ends tomorrow, and no amnesty is being offered during the Warrant Round-Up effort.

"We made an announcement last month for those with delinquent citations to make every effort to take advantage of the Amnesty Program to resolve cases. Many did just that. We then extended the program for an additional week to give more people the opportunity to participate," stated Presiding Judge Barbara E. Hartle. *"Now that today is the last day for Amnesty, the window of opportunity is rapidly closing for discounted rates. The Amnesty ends at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, February 16th, after which there will only be a two-week period before stepped-up efforts for arrests begin,"* said Judge Hartle.

Once the Warrant Round-up period begins March 2nd, 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 and whose parked vehicle has been documented multiple times at specific locations.

"The License Plate Recognition program has been in force since September, 2011 and has been helpful in allowing us to locate scofflaws," stated Judge Hartle. *"With the assistance of law enforcement, we fully intend to use the entire scope of our resources, and we want to make everyone aware that ignoring your court matter is not an acceptable practice,"* she added.

Notices are being mailed to all Houston Municipal Court defendants with active warrants. Citizens with warrants in jurisdictions other than the City of Houston should contact those jurisdictions for information about how to clear those 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 website at www.houstontx.gov/courts or contact City's Helpline at 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston.

2013 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?

The current Amnesty program will end at 11:59pm, Saturday, February 16, 2013. No other Amnesty will be offered during the Warrant Round Up period.

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.texas.gov/COHTicketPay
- 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
Herbert W. Gee Municipal Courthouse 1400 Lubbock Houston, TX 77002	Monday - Saturday 7am to 10pm	713.247.5479
ANNEX LOCATIONS	HOURS	PHONE
Acres Homes/North Command Station 9455 West Montgomery Houston, TX 77088	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	281.405.5319
Clear Lake Sub-Station 2855 Bay Area Boulevard Houston, TX 77058	Thursday 8am to 5pm	281.283.4946 281.283.4947
Kingwood (Municipal Court Annex) 3915 Rustic Woods Kingwood, Texas 77339-5203	Wednesday 8am to 7pm	281.361.6574
* Southeast Command Station (Courts 13 & 14) 8300 Mykawa Houston, TX 77048	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	713.731.5155 713.731.5156
* Westside Command Station (Court 18) 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, contact the appropriate Court for 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.

2013 Great Texas Warrant Round Up Regional Participant List

[Alvin, City of](#)
[Angleton Municipal Court](#)
[Austin County JP 3](#)
Bay City Municipal Court
[Baytown Marshals Office & Court](#)
[Bellaire Police Department](#)
Brazoria Co. PCT 3
[Brenham Municipal Court](#)
[Bryan Municipal Court](#)
[College Station, City of](#)
[Columbus Municipal Court](#)
[Conroe Municipal Court](#)
Danbury Municipal Court
[Deer Park 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 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](#)
[Houston Municipal Court](#)

[Humble Municipal Court](#)
[Katy Municipal Court](#)
[Kemah Municipal Court](#)
[LaPorte Municipal Court](#)
[League City Municipal Court](#)
[Magnolia Municipal Court](#)
Matagorda Co. JP, PCT 1
Matagorda Co. JP, PCT 2, PLC 1
[Missouri City Municipal Court](#)
[Nacogdoches County JP PCT 1](#)
[Oak Ridge North Municipal Court](#)
[Texas Attorney General-Fugitive Apprehension Unit](#)
[Prairie View Municipal Court](#)
[Roman Forest, City of](#)
[Rosenberg Municipal Court](#)
[Sealy Municipal Court](#)
[Southside Place, City of](#)
[Stafford Municipal Court](#)
[Texas City Municipal Court](#)
Tomball, City of
Waller Co. JP, PCT 1
Waller Co. JP, PCT 2
[Waller Municipal Court](#)
[Washington County JP PCT 3](#)
[Webster Municipal Court/PD](#)
Woodville Municipal Court