

REQUESTING A THUMBPRINT ON CITATIONS

SUBMITTED BY
FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS



Dallas Police Department

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PROBLEM

- **SUSPECTS ARE FRAUDULENTLY USING THE IDENTITY OF OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE WRITTEN A CITATION BY A DALLAS POLICE OFFICER.**
- **CITIZENS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THIS CRIME, ARE SOMETIMES ERRONEOUSLY ARRESTED AND MUST GO THROUGH A LENGTHY EXONERATION PROCESS.**
- **ADDITIONAL POLICE ACTION IS REQUIRED AS VICTIMS REQUEST IDENTITY THEFT OFFENSES BE MADE. MUNICIPAL COURT ACTIONS ARE ALSO NEGATIVELY EFFECTED.**
- **IDENTIFICATION OF THESE SUSPECTS BY OFFICERS IS DIFFICULT. THERE IS NO RELIABLE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE WITH WHICH TO DETERMINE THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TRUE VIOLATOR OR EXONERATE THE VICTIM.**
- **AT LEAST 330 WRONG DEFENDANT CASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 06/07.**
- **OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, IDENTITY THEFT RELATED CRIMES HAVE INCREASED 18%.**

REQUESTING A THUMBPRINT

- **OFFICER DISCRETION IS NOT AFFECTED. VIOLATOR COULD STILL BE JAILED FOR THE OBSERVED VIOLATION.**
- **WOULD BE PLACED ON THE BACK OF THE CURRENT OR THE NEW MUNICIPAL COURT COPY OF CITATION.**
- **WOULD ONLY BE RETRIEVED ON REQUEST BY A CITIZEN OR PURSUANT TO A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.**
- **WOULD USE WIPE-AWAY INK PADS. NO STAINING.**

POSITIVE IMPACTS

- **VICTIMS COULD EASILY PROVE INNOCENCE**
- **SUSPECTS ENCOURAGED TO BE TRUTHFUL**
- **ADDITIONAL CHARGE IF AVOIDING WARRANT**
- **PROVIDE PROSECUTION PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**
- **ASSIST POLICE AND PROSECUTORS**
- **INCREASE REVENUE / FEWER ERRORS**

THUMBPRINT POLICY SCENARIO

- **TRAFFIC VIOLATOR DOES NOT HAVE IDENTIFICATION**
- **CITATION IS ISSUED / OFFICER ATTAINS THUMBPRINT**
- **CITIZEN DISCOVERS OUTSTANDING TICKET**
- **PROSECUTOR VERIFIES “WRONG DEFENDANT”**
- **SUSPECT PRINT/CITATION IS FORWARDED TO DPD**
- **SUSPECT INFORMATION ROUTED BACK TO OFFICER**
- **OFFICER MAKES OFFENSE REPORT OF FAILURE TO I.D.**

WHEN TO REQUEST A THUMBPRINT- OPTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

**OFFICERS MAY REQUEST A
VOLUNTARY THUMBPRINT WHEN
ANY VIOLATOR DOES NOT
POSSESS A VALID FORM OF
IDENTIFICATION OR POSSESSES
QUESTIONABLE IDENTIFICATION.**

WHAT IS QUESTIONABLE I.D.?

- IS IT FAMILIAR TO THE OFFICER?
- IS IT RETRIEVABLE BY MOBILE DATA COMPUTER (MDC)?
- DOES IT MATCH INSURANCE?
- DOES IT MATCH REGISTRATION?
- IS THE PICTURE THE SAME?
- DOES IT APPEAR ALTERED?
- VIOLATOR STATEMENTS?

VALID FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION

- Any government issued identification card (example: ID Card, Driver's License, and Matricula Consular)
- Matricula Consular has been accepted by police personnel since August 2002 as valid identification documentation. The Matricula is not a substitute for a valid Texas Driver's License.

OTHER THUMBPRINT PROGRAMS

- **MESQUITE, TX - NO WRITTEN POLICY**

STATES WITH THUMBPRINT LAW

- **CALIFORNIA**
- **FLORIDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT ADOPTS A POLICY THAT ALLOWS AN OFFICER TO REQUEST A VIOLATOR PLACE A THUMBPRINT ON THE BACK OF A CITATION WHEN THAT VIOLATOR DOES NOT POSSESS IDENTIFICATION OR POSSESSES QUESTIONABLE IDENTIFICATION.



QUESTIONS?