


Memorandum



Date: October 30, 2009
To: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair
and Members of the Public Safety Committee
Subject: Scofflaw Vehicle Registration Denial Program

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Scofflaw Vehicle Registration Denial Program on Monday, November 2, 2009.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

- c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
 - Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
 - Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
 - Tom Perkins, City Attorney
 - Craig Kinton, City Auditor
 - C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
 - Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
 - A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
 - Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
 - Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
 - Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office

Scofflaw Vehicle Registration Denial Program

Court and Detention Services
Briefing
City Council Public Safety Committee
November 2, 2009



Scofflaw

- “One who habitually violates the law or fails to answer court summonses”

Source: American Heritage College Dictionary

- “The owner of a vehicle who has an outstanding warrant from that municipality for failure to appear, or failure to pay a fine on a complaint that involves the violation of a traffic law”

Source: Texas Transportation Code

Purpose

- Improve court collections
- Improve court compliance through:
 - Full Payment of fines and State court costs and/or
 - Non-payment options, including work release and community service
 - Dismissal
- To comply with mandated State Collection Improvement Program requirements
 - Chapter 103 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Timeline of Dallas County Program

- Dallas County
 - Feb 2009 - Dallas County “Wanted”
 - Dallas County’s database tied to all County payment systems of unpaid fees/fines. It will also include individuals from participating cities, in Dallas County, with unpaid traffic violations.
 - Dec 2009 – Garland - First City to implement
 - Feb/March 2010 – Dallas - Second City to implement

Implementation Costs / Revenue

- June 5, 2009 - Scofflaw program recommended as part of the Municipal Court Efficiency Study presented to the City Council
- FY 09/10 Efficiency Study Recommendation Costs / Revenue:
 - Revenue \$2.9M
 - Costs \$1.7M

Implementation Costs / Revenue

■ Scofflaw Program Costs / Revenue:

■ Revenue	\$549,049
■ Program Costs	<u>\$326,014*</u>
■ Net Revenue	\$223,000

* Includes Staffing, Media Campaign, and Dallas County Contract Costs

Process

- County Tax Assessors-Collectors may refuse registration of vehicles if the owner of the vehicle:
 - Has an outstanding warrant 60 days from delinquency for a Class C misdemeanor violation of a traffic law for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine - Chapter 702 of the Transportation Code
 - Speeding
 - Running a red lightAnd / Or
 - Has failed to pay civil violations as provided in Chapter 707 of the Transportation Code
 - Safelight
- Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and Dallas County will block Texas motor vehicle registration records with the scofflaw “flag”
- Dallas County will place Scoffed case on Dallas County “Wanted” website
- Registration is not eligible for scofflaw block if the defendant does not own or no longer owns the vehicle
 - The license plate identified on the citation must match current TXDOT vehicle registration records

Process

- City will provide defendant a clearance letter to present to Dallas County when case is resolved, as directed by judicial order, and
- City will send electronic clearance notices daily to Dallas County
- Scofflaw will be removed from Dallas County “Wanted” website within two business days of clearance letter or upon receipt of electronic update received at Dallas County
- Case resolved when:
 - In final disposition

Next Steps

- Nov 2009 - Requires Interlocal Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)
- Nov 2009 – Requires Interlocal Agreement with the Dallas County
- Feb/March 2010 – Implementation of Program
- In the future:
 - Pursue agreements with other counties
 - Pursue reporting of Safe Light delinquent citations

Next Steps

- Required wording is already included on citations
- Media campaign
 - Inform the public about scofflaw requirements
 - Explain when registration or re-registration will be denied
 - Explain procedures to clear registration block
 - Publicity required on 3 of 5 sources:
 - Daily on City's Website
 - Daily on City's cable channel
 - Quarterly in City's newsletter
 - Signage in Court Building
 - Water Bill (depending on availability)