

AGENDA



Thursday, November 29, 2007

**Municipal Court
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 12**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation to deny registration of motor vehicles if the vehicle owner(s) have an outstanding arrest warrant out of the Austin Municipal Court due to a failure to appear or a failure to satisfy a fine on cases involving traffic law violations.

Amount and Source of Funding: No unanticipated financial impact.

For More Information: Rebecca Stark, Clerk of the Municipal Court, 974-4690

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Council Judicial Committee.

The attached Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT") will allow the City of Austin Municipal Court to request that TxDOT deny the renewal of motor vehicle registrations of individuals with outstanding arrest warrants because they failed to appear at court or failed to satisfy a fine on a citation that involves the violation of a traffic law. The agreement is made in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 791 and Texas Transportation Code Section 702.003.

Under the Interlocal Agreement, Municipal Court will report individuals with outstanding arrest warrants (on traffic cases) from Municipal Court to TxDOT. If TxDOT can match the reported individuals to vehicles, then TxDOT will prevent that vehicle from being registered after the current registration expires. The individual will need to resolve his or her case(s) at Municipal Court in order to register the vehicle. After resolving his or her case(s) at Municipal Court, the Court will notify TxDOT to allow the vehicle to be registered. In Travis County, the individual will be given a receipt so that he or she can go immediately to the Tax Assessor/Collector to renew his or her vehicle registration. In other counties, it may take two to three days for TxDOT to release the hold on the registration renewal.

Based on data provided by the City of El Paso, Texas, the only large court currently participating in this program, the court expects to pay approximately \$36,000 to submit all of court's current traffic warrants and those issued during the remainder of this fiscal year. Court anticipates revenue of approximately \$286,000 from these cases.

TxDOT requires the City to authorize the City's participation in the program through a City Council resolution.