

AGENDA



Thursday, March 6, 2008

**Municipal Court
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 5**

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 a motor vehicle if the vehicle owner, but not dual owners, has 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.

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 registration of an individual with outstanding arrest warrant(s) because he or she failed to appear in 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 request vehicle ownership information from TXDOT for those individuals with outstanding traffic warrants. Court will compare ownership information with warrant records and report individuals with outstanding traffic warrants to TXDOT to withhold vehicle registration renewal. No dual owner vehicles will be reported unless both owners have outstanding traffic arrest warrants out of the Austin Municipal Court. Court will also send letter to those vehicle owners advising of the action taken and listing their options to resolve his or her cases at Court. After resolving his or her cases at Municipal Court, the warrants will be cancelled and 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, TXDOT will release the hold prior to registration renewal.

Only persons with outstanding traffic warrant are included in this program.