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Ticket amnesty is extended

Tom Greenwood / The Detroit News

In an effort to reach more motorists, Detroit's 36th District Court has extended its traffic ticket amnesty program until May 29.

The court has also expanded the program by including payable misdemeanor tickets, including expired driver's licenses, failure to display a valid operator's license, driving with no proof of insurance and 124 other infractions.

More than 460,000 cases are eligible for 36th District's amnesty program, but parking tickets are not included.

"We're doing this because of the economy," Chief Judge Marilyn E. Atkins. "I've received lots of letters from citizens asking for this amnesty program."

"We've discovered that a lot of people still have outstanding tickets to resolve that are payable misdemeanor in nature," Court Administrator J. Otis Davis said. "We really want to do all we can to help people with outstanding tickets that may hinder them from obtaining employment."

Under the terms of the amnesty, the court offers a 50-percent reduction on the city fine, the state and ordinance late fees, the court's costs and the late penalty on eligible civil infraction tickets.

The statute, ordinance cost and warrant costs and the attorney fees on eligible payable misdemeanor tickets will also be cut in half.

Tickets must be in default or had a judgment between Jan. 1, 2002, and Dec. 31, 2008.

During the amnesty period the court will stay open late, until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and offer help via telephone from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at (313) 967-7400.

Payments can be made in person, by mail, using the drop box in the court lobby, by telephone or using Western Union Quick Collect. Tickets also can be paid through the Web site, www.36thdistrictcourt.org, if the tickets are not in suspension.

Anyone who does not settle their outstanding tickets by May 29 will be liable for the original fines, costs, fees as well as any other penalties allowed by law.

No further consideration will be given once the amnesty period ends.

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