

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 07, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Municipal Court Review of Non-Adjudicated Cases**

On Monday, December 10, 2018, you will be briefed by Daisy Torres Fast, Interim Assistant Director of Court & Detention Services, Rodney Patten, Chief Prosecutor, and Preston Robinson, the Administrative Judge of the Municipal Court.

This briefing will provide an overview of outstanding cases that have yet to be resolved. Included is the process for non-adjudicated cases, tools and options to encourage defendants to respond to their citation(s), practices of other Texas municipal courts and a recommendation to review these outstanding cases.

The briefing materials are attached for your review. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Fortune".

Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)
Carol Smith, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager & Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors

Municipal Court Review of Non-Adjudicated Cases

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

December 10, 2018

**Daisy Torres Fast, Assistant Director (I)
Court and Detention Services**

**Rodney Patten, Chief Prosecutor
City Attorney's Office**

**Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Judiciary**



Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- Background
- Process for Non-Adjudicated Cases
- Recommendation
- Next Steps

Purpose

Provide an overview of outstanding cases that have not resulted in adjudication

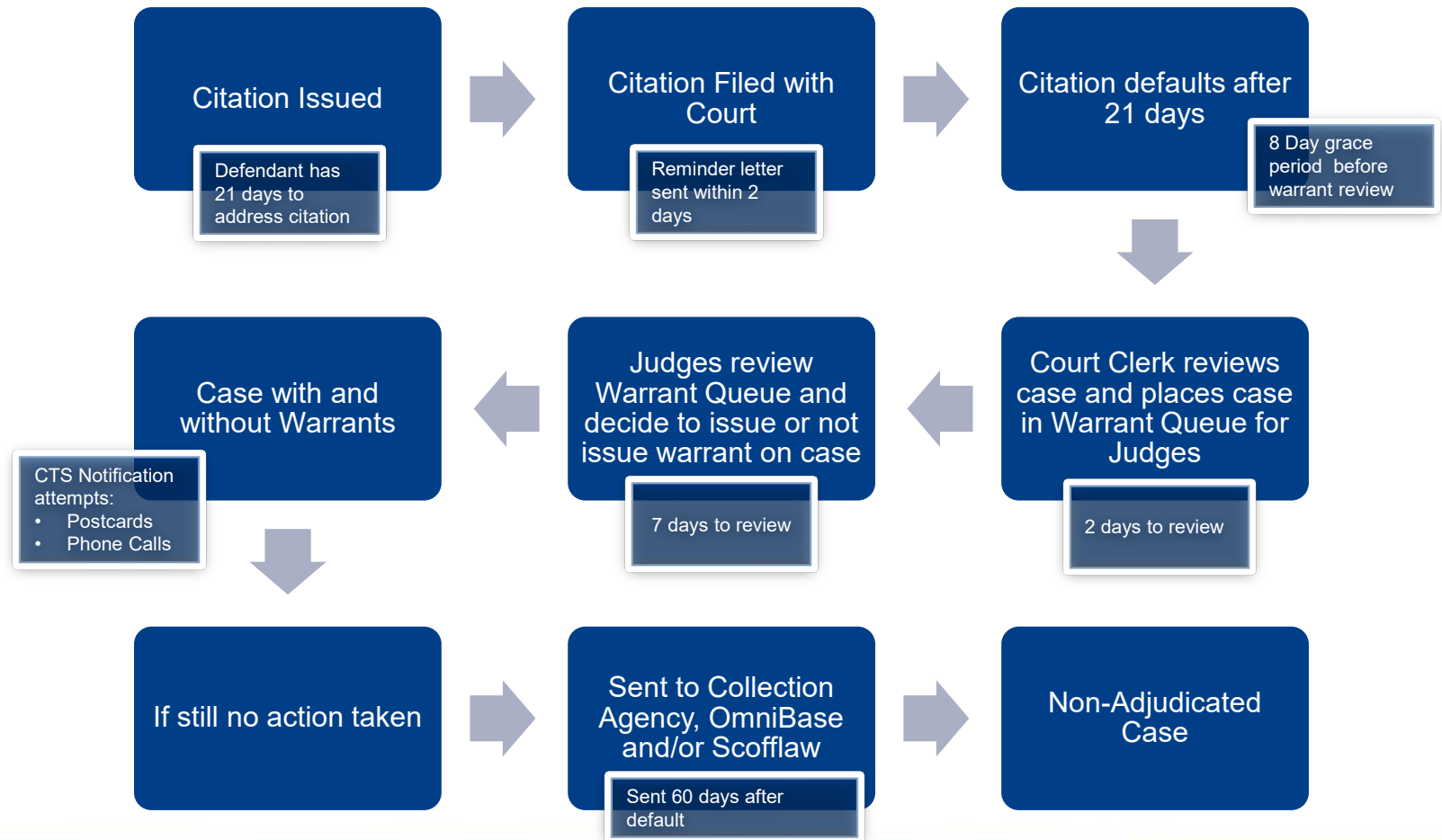
Background

Dallas Municipal Court

- Administers Traffic, Class C Misdemeanor and City Ordinance Citations
- Disposes of More Cases Each Year Than are Filed
- Offers Several Options to Resolve a Case:
 - In person
 - On-line
 - By mail
 - By phone, and
 - Cash payments at local retail stores via a call center

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Process for Non-Adjudicated Cases



Process for Non-Adjudicated Cases

- Dallas Municipal Court Encourages Response to Outstanding Cases Through
 - Both Internal and Third- Party Collections
 - A Hold on a Driver's License (Omnibase) and/or Vehicle Registration (Scofflaw)
 - Warrant Round-Ups
- Practices of Other Texas Municipal Courts
 - Standing Judicial Orders
 - Routine purging of cases
 - Written policies and procedures related to purging

Recommendation

- Dallas Municipal Court Will Use a Phased-In Approach to Administratively Address Cases That Fall in the Following Categories
 - Inactive Officers/Deceased Officers (Traffic Offenses only)
 - Cases without a Complaint (Charging Instrument)
 - Cases that are aged (i.e. >10 years) (62% of cases)
- Family Violence, Assault and Theft cases Will Be Excluded

Next Steps

Upcoming Initiatives

- Increase the focus on Warrant Round-Ups in FY 2018-19
- Continue collaboration with surrounding counties, especially Dallas County, to expedite disposition of City cases while defendant is in County Jail

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