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Judges Cleared 120 Warrants for 57 Individuals During Hennepin County's Warrant Resolution Day

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Minneapolis, Minn. – Hennepin County's Warrant Resolution Day resulted in judges clearing 120 outstanding warrants for 57 individuals.

"Resolving a warrant can provide relief to a defendant while also helping reduce the number of cases pending before the court," said Hennepin County District Court Chief Judge Kerry Meyer.

Sixty percent of the warrants processed May 3 were resolved administratively by scheduling a future court date. Forty-eight warrants – or 40 percent of those processed – were resolved completely, bringing those cases to a close. While the majority of warrants resolved involved gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor cases, judges also resolved outstanding warrants in 11 felony cases.

Judges issue a warrant when a defendant fails to appear for a court hearing or allegedly violates a condition of probation. An individual with an outstanding warrant can be arrested and could result in other collateral consequences, such as restricting an individual from obtaining housing, employment, and other services.

The warrant resolution day resulted in many positive outcomes for several individuals who attended the May 3 event. One person who resolved her warrant said she is looking forward to being able to travel again without fear of being arrested. Another person who is now warrant-free was grateful that he can now rent a better apartment.

"By working with people to resolve their warrants, in a supportive and non-punitive environment, we put people at ease, prevent unnecessary interactions with law enforcement, and promote safety and well-being for the entire community," said Minnesota Freedom Fund deputy executive director Jana Kooren.

Members of the public interested in learning whether and what type of warrant they may have can contact the Warrant Helpline at (612) 543-WRNT (9768). Court dates can be set through the Helpline for people who did not participate in the May 3 warrant resolution.

In addition to clearing outstanding warrants, individuals could also learn more about driver's licenses, child support, and the possibility of sealing a criminal record through an expungement at the event.

Multiple organizations partnered to make the event possible at the Hennepin County Government Center. They included Minnesota Freedom Fund; ACLU of Minneapolis; Hennepin County District Court; Hennepin County Public Defender's Office; Hennepin County Probation (DOCCR); Hennepin County Suburban Prosecutors Group; Legal Rights Center; Minneapolis City Attorney's Office; Hennepin County Attorney's Office; MN DPS: Driver and Vehicle Services Division; Minnesota Attorney General's Office; and NAACP of Minneapolis.

About Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District

The Fourth Judicial District consists solely of Hennepin County. Seventy-five judicial officers serve the district, which is the largest of Minnesota's 10 judicial districts.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.mncourts.gov/district/4/.

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