Administrative Office of the Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Safe Surrender Program for People with Warrants by Magistrate, Metro Courts

ALBUQUERQUE—People with an outstanding bench warrant issued by any magistrate court in New Mexico or the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court can avoid arrest by turning themselves in at the Barelas Community Center in Albuquerque on Friday or Saturday, Oct. 14-15.

The Safe Surrender Program will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

The program offers individuals an opportunity to appear before a judge to clear a warrant and potentially resolve their case. By voluntarily surrendering, people with an outstanding warrant can seek favorable consideration of their case and avoid a future arrest in front of family members, friends or an employer.

Attorneys from the Law Office of the Public Defender will be at the community center to advise their clients before an appearance before a judge.

To determine if you have an active warrant, go to the Judiciary's web site (https://caselookup.nmcourts.gov/caselookup) and search by your name to determine if you are a party to a court case. You can view a summary of actions in a court case, including whether a warrant has been issued.

There are 48 magistrate courts in New Mexico. Magistrate courts and the Metropolitan Court have limited jurisdiction and handle DWI cases, misdemeanors, traffic violations and civil actions up to $10,000, and conduct first appearances for defendants charged with felonies.

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