

Traffic Arraignment Procedures

You are at an Arraignment session for traffic violations. **Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices. Gentlemen please remove your hats. Parking tickets issued while handling court matters are no longer dismissed pursuant to Ordinance 11.5.105.**

There are three procedures available to you today designed to resolve your ticket as quickly and efficiently as possible.

First: you may plead guilty to the original or a reduced charge, and pay the fines and costs assessed by the judge. Second: you may waive your right to a speedy disposition and reset your case for a pretrial conference at another date and time. Third: you may plead not guilty and obtain a date for a trial to a judge or a jury. A jury trial will require a \$25 deposit to be paid by you within 20 days of today.

The Prosecutor may have already offered you a reduction of the points on your traffic ticket. You may accept the plea offer that has been extended to you today. You may reject the plea offer and set your case for trial, or you may choose to speak with the Prosecutor.

To accept the plea offer, you must enter a guilty plea today to the charge listed on your plea offer. If you plead guilty today, the Judge will assess a fine and the costs associated with the charge. The fine and costs assessed will be determined only by the Judge, not the Prosecutor. If you plead guilty to any violation today, the points associated with that charge will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Please remember, the effect of a conviction on your driving record can only be determined by your insurance company if and when they review Motor Vehicle records. Municipal Court will only report a conviction carrying points to the Department of Motor Vehicles, not to your insurance company. If you do not wish to accept the plea offer today, you can contest your ticket in front of a judge or a jury at another date and time. Trial dates will be set approximately three to six weeks from today.

You may speak to the Prosecutor today about your ticket. Only the Prosecutor can alter or reduce the points on your ticket. The Prosecutor represents the City of Colorado Springs. The Prosecutor is NOT your attorney. You may tell the Prosecutor as little or as much as you wish about your circumstances. Please remember that the Prosecutor cannot tell you what fine and costs are going to be assessed against you today if you plead guilty. All fines and costs are assessed by the judge here today.

There are certain fees this Court must impose and cannot change. There is a surcharge that will be imposed on all traffic tickets that supports the school crossing guard program and

other school safety programs. Colorado Springs City Council has mandated that certain violations must carry mandatory minimum fines that cannot be reduced or suspended, even if the violation points are reduced in a plea agreement. You will be notified if you are charged with a violation that carries a mandatory minimum fine. If you have missed a previous court appearance causing a warrant to be issued for your arrest, additional costs will be assessed against you, even if you have already paid money to be bonded out of jail.

If you are charged with no proof of insurance, you will be required to provide proof of an active insurance policy today. This information will be verified today with your insurance company. Please do not present fraudulent proof of insurance. If you do, you may be charged with a felony offense.

After you speak to the judge today, you will be ordered by the judge to report either to the Violations Bureau or the Probation Department. The Violations bureau is located on the first floor in Room 108. You will report to Room 108 to pay your fines and costs or to schedule your future court dates. You may be ordered to report to the Probation Department to sign up for classes or to make payment arrangements. The Probation Department is located on the second floor, in Room 230. There may be an additional fee imposed if you need to make payment arrangements.

You must report to the appropriate area immediately upon leaving the courtroom. If you do not, a bench warrant may be issued for your arrest, and additional costs may be assessed against you.

The Prosecutor will now briefly discuss their procedures with you regarding your plea offer. The courtroom clerk will then instruct you further.

If you have any questions, our staff will be available to assist you. Every effort will be made to resolve your case today. Comment cards are available throughout the courthouse if you wish to let us know your feelings about your time today in the Robert M. Isaac Municipal Court building. Thank you for your attention and patience today.