

### OFFICE OF THE KANKAKEE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

JIM ROWE STATE'S ATTORNEY 450 East Court Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Kankakee, IL 60901 (815) 936-5800

January 24, 2018

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

Kankakee County State's Attorney Announces Warrant Forgiveness Program: "If you have a traffic or misdemeanor warrant, this is your chance to resolve it without arrest."

KANKAKEE, IL – On Fri., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sat., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, individuals with pending traffic or misdemeanor warrants will be given the opportunity to quash their warrant without arrest. The *Warrant Forgiveness Program* will be held at the Kankakee County Courthouse.

The Kankakee County State's Attorney, Circuit Clerk's Office, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender, Office of the Chief Judge, Judge Tom Cunnington, Judge Susan Tungate, and the Court Reporter's Office have partnered to offer this program. Participants should arrive at the courthouse on Friday, 2/2/18 between 1:30-4:30pm, or Saturday, 2/3/18 between 9am-12pm. Individuals with active traffic and misdemeanor warrants will be able to have their warrant quashed without arrest; their case will not be dismissed and they will be given a new court date. Felony warrants are NOT eligible for this program.

There are over 5,000 active traffic and misdemeanor warrants in Kankakee County, most of which were issued when defendants failed to appear in court on charges such as disorderly conduct, retail theft, traffic tickets, etc. State's Attorney Jim Rowe said "warrant arrests and the pursuits that follow create a dangerous situation for both the arresting officer and the target of the warrant, resulting in additional charges, injuries or worse. Additionally, the cost to taxpayers for the manpower and time involved in executing a warrant can be substantial, not to mention the backlog of cases that linger in the system while the warrant remains active. Those who are arrested for missing a court date also face unintended consequences such as job loss, childcare concerns and additional fines." Rowe is encouraging anyone with a pending misdemeanor or traffic warrant to "take advantage of this program; if you have a misdemeanor or traffic warrant this is your chance to resolve it without being taken into custody. Come to the courthouse on these days and we will quash the warrant without arrest and give you a new court date."

You can check the status of any pending case using the Circuit Clerk's *Online Court Case Search* at: http://www.co.kankakee.il.us/circuitclerk.html An active traffic and misdemeanor warrant list, current as of January 23, 2018, can be found at http://bit.ly/2DBMtdQ. Please be sure to read the disclosures when accessing that information.

For further information, contact the State's Attorney's Office at (815) 936-5800.



# Fri., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30-4:30pm, Courtroom 200 Sat., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm, Courtroom 109

**Kankakee County Courthouse** 450 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

Check warrant status on Circuit Clerk's Online Court Case Search at: http://www.co.kankakee.il.us/circuitclerk.html

## Kankakee County State's Attorney's

#### **Participating Partners Include:**

- **Chief Judge Michael J. Kramer**
- **Judge Thomas W. Cunnington**
- **Judge Susan S. Tungate**
- Circuit Clerk Sandra Cianci
- **Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim Rowe**
- √ Kankakee County Public Defender Gus Regas
- ✓ Kankakee County Court Reporters

PLEASE NOTE: This program is only for misdemeanor & traffic warrants in Kankakee County. This program does NOT include juvenile warrants or felony warrants.

For More Info Call: (815) 936-5800

misdemeanor

warrant

Kankakee County Sheriff Mike Downey forgiveness

day