



City of Parma Heights, Ohio  
Parma Heights Police Department  
*Office of Chief Steve Scharschmidt*



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**PRESS RELEASE**



**The City of Parma Heights Mayor's Court and the Parma Heights Police Department will be having a two week Mayor's Court Warrant Absolution Event from August 3, 2020 to August 14, 2020.**

**Reason for the event:** 495 people have warrants with the Parma Heights Mayor's Court that are dated before January 1, 2020. Most of those persons now have warrant blocks/forfeitures on their BMV records and are unable to renew registrations, renew their driver's licenses and run the risk of physical arrest during any encounter with police.

**How it helps the public:** It provides a method for people to be accountable for their citations and court cases without the risk of jail. It also allows a flat, reduced fee to resolve their case so they do not have to appear in court. It gives citizens a fair chance to get back on the right track with legal matters and get a fresh start.

**Who is eligible:** All ADULTS who have received a traffic or misdemeanor charge in the Parma Heights Mayor's Court with an initial appearance that was due before January 1, 2020 and have not completed their obligation to the court. These include persons with a Failure to Appear warrant for NON-VIOLENT offenses and those with a Failure to Pay warrant when they are in default with a payment plan with the court. In addition, if a driver's license was forfeit for unpaid obligations or a person's name blocked from obtaining registration with the BMV for unpaid obligations with Parma Heights Mayor's Court – they may be eligible.

**Who is NOT eligible:** Warrants for any offense of violence, warrants with a business/individual as a victim that restitution is still owed as part of the case to any party and anyone who has a current felony warrant or municipal court warrant with the Parma Heights Police Department.

**Cost for Absolution:** \$200.00 for a single case. \$300.00 total for two cases.

**Payment:** Payment must be made **IN FULL**. Parma Heights Mayor's Court will accept cash, bank certified checks, money orders and credit cards. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED**. The money must be dropped off at Parma Heights City Hall during business hours on the dates of the program. Cash only payments will be accepted at the Parma Heights Police Department after business hours for city hall during the program's dates. No payment plans will be allowed. Business Hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am to 3:30pm.

**Further Info:** **The individual with the warrant need not be present.** (If you live out of state, now is the time to have someone you know resolve your warrant with Parma Heights) Once the warrant is paid for absolution, the individual will be given a letter showing the case was adjudicated to resolution and the warrant cleared. In addition, if the individual has a warrant block or forfeiture, a letter, signed by the Magistrate, resolving the block will be completed so the individual can take it to the BMV. The person named in the warrant will **NOT** need to appear again in Parma Heights Mayor's Court for the case. A bank certified check or money order may be mailed to the Parma Heights Mayor's Court in lieu of personal appearance. Those sending via mail must include their name/driver's license number to locate their record and a current mailing address to return the adjudication forms and the envelope must be postmarked within the event period.

More information can be found on the Parma Heights Police Department Facebook page, the city of Parma Heights webpage and Facebook page.

If you are unsure if you have a warrant you can call the clerk of courts for Parma Heights at (440)884-9603

*“When a person receives a citation whether it is for traffic or non-traffic misdemeanor offense and the citation is ignored or unpaid, most often it is because the person did not have the money to pay the court fines/costs. Once they miss court and a warrant is issued or their license blocked, it can cause a snow-ball effect to play catch-up trying to do the right thing. Sometimes the person cited may live out of state and not want to come home to visit family because of the possibility they could be arrested. Other people live worried about the possibility of lights and sirens behind them because they know they have a warrant. This program offers them a way to begin a fresh start by eliminating their outstanding obligation with the Parma Heights Mayor's Court. In essence we are giving an incentive during tough times for compliance. But once the August Absolution event is over, officers will seek out the outstanding offenders again, so we are hoping all 495 names on that list are crossed off as complete.” - Chief Steve Scharschmidt*