



For immediate release: Oct. 3, 2018

## Dates set for Hearings to Dismiss Old Municipal Court Warrants in Minor Matters

Hearings to consider the dismissal of dated unresolved municipal court cases involving minor offenses have been scheduled to be held in the coming weeks.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner issued an order in July establishing a three-judge panel to consider the dismissal of more than 787,000 cases that have remained open for 15 years or more without being prosecuted. Those matters include parking violations, minor motor vehicle offenses and local ordinance violations.

The panel for the upcoming hearings will listen to testimony on why those older minor municipal court complaints should not be dismissed. Individual cases will not be discussed.

The morning sessions will be open to members of the public and public interest groups.

The afternoon sessions will be open to comments from local representatives, such as mayors and municipal attorneys and prosecutors.

Those interested in speaking at a session must submit a request and written comments. Instructions can be found in [an order](#) released Monday by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The hearings, before Assignment Judges Ronald Bookbinder of the Burlington Vicinage, Ernest Caposela of the Passaic Vicinage and Yolanda Ciccone of the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage, are scheduled for 10 a.m. for the following dates and locations:

- Monday, Oct. 22 at the Essex County Veterans Courthouse, 50 W. Market St., Courtroom 1114 – 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Newark
- Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the Somerset County Courthouse, 20 N. Bridge St., Courtroom 301, Somerville
- Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the Burlington County Olde Courthouse, 120 High St., Courtroom 1, Mount Holly.

Chief Justice Rabner's [July 19 order](#) noted that dated warrants “raise questions of fairness, the appropriate use of limited public resources by law enforcement and the courts, the ability of the state to prosecute cases successfully in light of how long matters have been pending and the availability of witnesses, and administrative efficiency.”

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