



Maricopa County Justice Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2019

White Tank Justice Court to hold 'Night Court'

Assistance for those who work during regular business hours

PHOENIX – Judge David Osterfeld of the White Tank Justice Court will host 'Night Court' several times in the coming months, keeping the courthouse doors open past 5 p.m. for the first time in years to assist litigants in resolving their cases.

Judge Osterfeld recognized that from time to time, people with upcoming court appearances worried they would not be able to take time off from work or arrange child care during the regular court hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. He worked with Judicial Branch Security and other justice partners to extend court an additional two hours a few nights throughout the year.

The Judge and staff are currently setting hearings and planning for walk-ins and rescheduled arraignments. The most common type of case heard will be an *Order to Show Cause*- which is a hearing after someone fails to appear for a previously-scheduled court date or fails to pay fines or fees. The next step may be the issuance of an arrest warrant.

"We want to help the public avoid these more serious consequences," Osterfeld said. "We hope that holding court at night will send the message that we are willing to work with you to resolve court cases and put it all behind you."

Other Justice Courts in Maricopa County have held night court in the past, but White Tank is the first to bring back the service at this time. Litigants whose cases are in the jurisdiction of the White Tank Justice Court may call or email court staff to ask if their case qualifies to be heard at night. The White Tank Justice Precinct is in the West Valley, covering parts of Avondale, Buckeye, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, and Luke Air Force Base. Court contacts may be found at <http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov>.

The next '*Night Court*' will take place Thursday, October 10th, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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ABOUT:

There are 26 Justice Courts throughout Maricopa County. Each is presided over by an elected Justice of the Peace. These 'limited jurisdiction' courts handle civil lawsuits (\$10,000 or less, small claims cases (\$3,500 or less), evictions, misdemeanor offenses (shoplifting, writing bad checks, etc), and the full range of civil and criminal traffic offenses, including DUIs. Like other trial and municipal judges, they also preside over orders of protection and injunctions against harassment.

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