

COURT OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE NIGHT TRAFFIC COURT SESSIONS

Henderson, KY (September 22, 2009) – Local court officials jointly announced today that a new evening session of the Henderson District Court would be held once a month for traffic offenses. The new court will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

The session will be reserved for “pre-payable” offenses, such as speeding tickets and other minor traffic infractions, where the defendant has the option of paying a scheduled fine instead of going to court. The evening session will not include offenses where the defendant could have been arrested, such as D.U.I., No Insurance or Operating on Suspended License charges, which officials say take significantly longer to handle.

“Many people choose to come to court on these offenses rather than pre-paying them because they have a good driving record and want traffic school or just want to talk to the County Attorney about a possible reduction in the charge,” said District Judge Charlie McCollom. “By separating these cases from more time-consuming ones, we can get these people in and out much more quickly.”

McCollom, whose division handles traffic court, said that the officials have been discussing implementing the evening session for some time.

“We’ve got the logistics ironed out and it is time to give this a try and see if it benefits our community,” he said.

Citing the downturn in the economy, officials said that the increased speed of the court and the later time will benefit those who work day jobs.

“Good jobs are scarce these days and if we can help people keep their jobs by working ours a little later, then I’m all for it,” said County Attorney Steve Gold.

Gold also pointed out that each of the agencies involved – the County Attorney’s Office, the Circuit Clerk’s Office, the Sheriff’s Court Security Officers, and Judge McCollom – have worked to make the change without additional cost to taxpayers. Elected officials do not receive overtime pay and any necessary staff will be rescheduled so that they will not work any additional hours.

Circuit Clerk Ruth London also announced that her office would be open during this the evening session for renewal of operator’s licenses.

“I’ve wanted to make the office available for evening renewals for quite some time and this was a perfect opportunity,” said London.

###

###

###