

December 2015

For every crime there is a victim. That is why justice demands accountability, but there must also be balance. Highly respected organizations such as the American Bar Association, Vera Institute, President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and Florida TaxWatch are all recommending that law enforcement agencies create alternatives to arresting individuals who commit minor crimes. Alternatives are being called for in recognition that an arrest, even for a first-time minor offense, has life-long negative consequences that limit employment, school opportunities, and housing. This package of extensive information provides materials that document why alternatives to arresting individuals who commit low-level misdemeanor offenses are important for criminal justice reform.

Two years ago, criminal justice and community leaders in Leon County, Florida started a “first-in-the-nation” pilot program that uses pre-arrest, non-criminal citations with evidence-based assessments and appropriate intervention services as an alternative to arrest for certain first-time, misdemeanor offenses. The Adult Civil Citation program implemented in Leon County is a public/private program that requires *no* government funding. Success of the program rests with law enforcement officers having the discretion to issue citations and knowing that evidence-based assessments and appropriate intervention services delivered by a private provider can actually change behavior and reduce criminal recidivism. The program provides a unique opportunity to hold the person accountable for their actions, while at the same time effectively intervening in their lives at the earliest possible time with services designed to change behavior and reduce the likelihood of additional criminal behavior. Initial outcome data is very encouraging with approximately 80% of participants successfully completing the program with only a 6% recidivism rate.

Due to the length of research documents included in this package, the following information can be used by readers to quickly find reports of interest and the portions of reports that pertain directly to finding alternatives to arrest for misdemeanants:

Tab	Document Title	Specific Reference
1	<i>Adult Civil Citations with Intervention Services: A "Pre-Arrest" Model</i>	Overview of the Tallahassee/Leon County Adult Civil Citation program.
2	<i>Minor Crimes, Massive Waste: The Terrible Toll of America's Broken Misdemeanor Courts</i>	Provides information about problems within misdemeanor courts in the United States. See recommendations related to increasing diversion programs - Pg. 7 and Pgs. 28-29
3	<i>Three-Minute Justice: Haste and Waste in Florida's Misdemeanor Courts</i>	Research specific to Florida misdemeanor courts and the need for reform - Pgs. 15-19
4	<i>American Bar Association - State Policy Implementation Project</i>	Policy paper supporting the use of civil citations for minor offenses. Cites Florida's success with juvenile civil citations and endorses the expansion to adults.

5	<i>Incarceration's Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America</i>	Presents data showing the growing use of jails for minor offenses and the consequences to those incarcerated - Pgs. 14-18
6	<i>Final Report: The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing</i>	Comprehensive report detailing recommendations for reforming the U.S. criminal justice system. Action item 4.1.1 relates to finding alternatives to arrest for minor offenses - Pg. 43
7	<i>The Edge of Stigma: An experimental Audit of the Effects of Low-Level Criminal Records on Employment</i>	An academic paper documenting the consequence of having an arrest record and the impact on employment - Pgs. 628-631 and Pgs. 648-650
8	<i>Jail or No Jail: Alternatives to Arrest and Prosecution for Low-Level Offenders</i>	Policy research from the Texas Public Policy Foundation describing the need for direct law enforcement diversion programs.
9	<i>The Cost of Crime to Society: New Crime-Specific Estimates for Policy and Program Evaluation</i>	Economic estimates for the cost of crime published by the National Institute of Health.
10	<i>Minor Crime Convictions Proving Harmful to Student Ambitions</i>	Describes the impact a criminal records has for minority college students.
11	<i>Briefing: An Adult Civil Citation Program Can Save Taxpayer Dollars</i>	Policy recommendation that tax savings could result by expanding Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation program to adults.
12	<i>2011-2012 Policy Paper: Courts Are Not Revenue Centers</i>	Recommended principles for court funding - Pg. 7 and Pg. 11
13	<i>Florida Police Chief Magazine: Adult Civil Citation Pilot Program</i>	General interest article about the start of the Tallahassee/Leon County Adult Civil Citation program.
14	<i>Leon County Sheriff's Office, Crime Watch Newsletter: Leon County Adult Civil Citation Program</i>	General interest article informing Leon County residents about the Adult Civil Citation program - Pgs. 6-7
15	<i>Adult Civil Citations: A Practical Tool in the Sea of Reform</i>	General interest article about the Tallahassee/Leon County Adult Civil Citation program published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Chief Magazine.
16	<i>Prearrest Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement</i>	Analysis of legislation submitted for approval during the 2016 Florida legislative session.

Even a cursory review of the information in this package will lead the reader to clearly see the need to find alternatives to arresting and prosecuting low-level misdemeanants. Because of the successes seen with the Tallahassee/Leon County Adult Civil Citation program, an avenue for information sharing and program advocacy was needed so other communities could learn about how the program operates. As a result, the Civil Citation Network was created to advocate for the expanded use of pre-arrest diversion

alternatives. The Network is a non-profit organization supported by a private foundation and staffed with subject matter experts in the areas of law enforcement, criminal justice, and behavioral health. The Adult Civil Citation program implemented in Tallahassee and Leon County is establishing a successful track record as a model program that can be replicated in other communities. The staff at the Civil Citation Network stand ready to assist should you need additional information or technical assistance.

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