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200 people turn themselves in during safe surrender program in Washington

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WASHINGTON — More than 200 people wanted for nonviolent felonies in the District of Columbia turned themselves in as part of a program aimed at resolving outstanding arrest warrants.

Saturday was the first day of the so-called “D.C. Safe Surrender” program. The program allows people wanted on a bench warrant, a probation or parole violation or a traffic offense to turn themselves in and avoid arrest.
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Individuals can surrender at other times, but the weekend program is intended to streamline the process with judges and defense attorneys on hand to handle the cases. The program will also operate for the next two Saturdays.

All but about 2 percent of the 226 people who turned themselves Saturday were able to go home the same day.

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