



Hundreds of D.C. Fugitives Surrender Safely

Close to 800 individuals with outstanding warrants in the District of Columbia surrendered voluntarily during the DC Safe Surrender program in August at the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse.

Through the program, people with outstanding bench warrants for nonviolent felonies or misdemeanors were given the opportunity to surrender voluntarily during three consecutive Saturdays, starting August 13.

A total of 673 people surrendered over the course of those three Saturdays, while another 124 turned themselves in on the weekdays between August 8 and August 30. Of those numbers, 99 percent were able to return home the same day.

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield called the program “an initiative focused on increasing public safety,” adding that its goal this year was to build on the success of the 2007 program when more than 500 people surrendered.

“By taking responsibility for their actions, participants of Safe Surrender can show their friends, family, and the judge that they are taking the appropriate steps toward becoming responsible members of the community,” Satterfield said.

DC Safe Surrender is a partnership between the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, D.C. Superior Court, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Metropolitan Police Department, Office of the Attorney General, D.C. Public Defender Service, Pretrial Services Agency, U.S. Attorney’s Office, and U.S. Marshals Service.—K.A.