



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting April 8, 2025

**DATE:** April 8, 2025  
**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager  
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**Resolution reauthorizing an interlocal governmental agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for five years relating to motor vehicle registration refusal for failure to appear or failure to pay**

### **CAPTION:**

Resolution reauthorizing the renewal of a five-year interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for the Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program to refuse motor vehicle registration for individuals who failed to appear for or pay a traffic law violation.

### **SUMMARY:**

This Resolution reauthorizes a five-year interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for the Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program. The Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program allows for the refusal of motor vehicle registration for individuals who failed to appear for or pay a traffic law violation.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program (also known as Scofflaw) is a program authorized by Transportation Code Chapter 706 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The program enables the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (to deny motor vehicle registrations for Municipal Court defendants that have outstanding cases, failure to appear, or have failed to comply with judicial orders (warrant cases and warrant status). Some examples include moving vehicle violations (speeding, running a stop sign, failure to yield).

The program works by way of Municipal Court submitting data to the State after cases meet certain criteria. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles then places a hold on vehicles registered under the absconded offenders anywhere in the State of Texas. When the offenders attempt to register any vehicle in their name either online or by mail, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles will deny their registration. In sum, the Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program (Scofflaw) is an additional tool available to municipal courts across the state to help violators in resolving their outstanding violations.

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP., is the Municipal Court's current Collection Agency.

They submit the data on the City's behalf to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles on cases already referred to them for collections. Municipal Court cases are sent to Linebarger on a weekly basis. Linebarger uses their resources, staff, and time to fund the project.

In addition, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. will include collection notifications and language notifying offenders that they may be denied vehicle registration by the State as a first step measure to encourage compliance. When violators appear in court and resolve their violations, the registration holds will be lifted. The most recent interlocal agreement was approved in December of 2019 and expired in January 2025. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. has agreed to continue submitting data to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles on the City's behalf on a month-to-month basis until the interlocal agreement is renewed.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative to approving this program would be to continue using the current tools through Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. to work only the collections of delinquent cases. However, the Motor Vehicle Registration Refusal Program through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles benefits the City as it provides another means to help the Municipal Court resolve cases and bring them to finality.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact to the City for the renewal of the five-year interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. The City's collection agency (Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.) posts the deposits to Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for this program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of this Resolution reauthorizing an interlocal governmental agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for five years relating to motor vehicle registration refusal for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine on a traffic law violation, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Resolution – TX DMV Scofflaw  
City of Corpus Christi - Scofflaw Contract Renewal