

THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SEATTLE



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gary Ireland, Public Information Officer, (206) 684-8710

Gary.Ireland@seattle.gov

Seattle Youth Traffic Court Honored with Spirit of Community Award

The Seattle Youth Traffic Court program has been honored with the 2016 Spirit of Community Project Award by the Seattle University Center for Community Engagement. This special recognition was awarded at the 12th Annual Spirit of Community Celebration on May 3, 2016.

The Seattle Youth Traffic Court is a partnership of Seattle Municipal Court, Seattle University Law School, Garfield High School and the Seattle Police Department. Eligible teen drivers are provided an opportunity to maintain a clean driving record by opting to have their case heard by a court of their peers. Youth participate as judges, jurors, defense attorneys and prosecutors within an actual courtroom. Seattle University Law students mentor and train the high school students and manage the court process. Teen drivers coming to Youth Traffic Court have the unique opportunity to directly interact with and learn from Seattle Police officers who provide first-hand accounts of accidents and traffic investigations. Seattle Youth Traffic Court is held monthly at the Seattle Municipal Court.

Teen drivers who opt in to Youth Traffic Court are required to complete a court order that helps restore the harm their violation caused on the community. This includes community service, writing a letter of apology, conducting research on the dangers of their particular violation and/or serving as a juror on future Youth Traffic Court cases. Youth who successfully complete the program have the charged violation dismissed and it will not appear on their driving record.

"The Seattle Municipal Court is a proud partner of the Seattle Youth Traffic Court program" said Hon. Karen Donohue, Presiding Judge, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Seattle Youth Traffic Court. "With over 80 youth opting in each school year and numerous others participating as attorneys, jurors and judges, Youth Traffic Court is making a difference in how teens view driving and their responsibility for keeping the roads safe."

By providing first-hand experience with the justice system, Seattle Youth Traffic Court participants learn and apply due process, equal protection, and rule of law principles. Teen drivers learn about the consequences of their actions and ultimately increase community safety.

The Spirit of Community Project Award recognizes an innovative and collaborative project that responds to a community-identified need. Nominations come from students, faculty, staff, community partners, and alumni.

For more information on the Seattle Youth Traffic Court program, visit:
<http://www.seattle.gov/courts/youthcourt/youthcourt.htm>.

For more information on the Seattle University Center for Community Engagement and the Spirit of Community celebration, visit: <https://www.seattleu.edu/cce/events/spirit-of-community-celebration/>.

About Seattle Municipal Court

The Seattle Municipal Court provides a forum to resolve alleged violations of the law in a respectful, independent and impartial manner. Seattle Municipal Court processes more cases than any other municipal court in the State of Washington with seven elected Judges and five appointed Magistrates. The Court adjudicates all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes, infractions, and civil violations authorized under the Seattle Municipal Code and certain Revised Code of Washington statutes. For more information visit: www.seattle.gov/courts.

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