



## Weld County Sheriff's Office

1950 "O" Street, Greeley CO 80631

1-800-436-9276 or 356-4015 ext 2853

or Cell # 970 590 6832

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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Monday, November 07, 2005

Weld County Sheriff John Cooke announced today that his office in conjunction with other Weld County agencies will sponsor an amnesty program for Misdemeanor Warrants. The other agencies include Weld County Combined Courts, the Weld County District Attorney and numerous Municipal Courts within Weld County. Weld County Amnesty Week will start November 13th, 2005, through November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Sheriff Cooke stated that there are currently 10,000 warrants for individuals in Weld County; 5,300 warrants for misdemeanors, traffic related misdemeanors, and petty offenses. The Municipal Courts within Weld County have approximately 2,700 warrants of the same type. This means there are around 8,000 active misdemeanors or petty offense warrants in Weld County.

Sheriff Cooke, in a coordinated effort with most of the Municipal Police Chiefs, Weld County Combined Courts and the participating Municipal Courts are offering defendants a

chance to clear up their active warrants and get back into the judicial system. The Courts have agreed to dismiss the warrants and the cash bond for people turning themselves in to local law enforcement. The person will be issued a new court date and given a personal recognizance bond in an amount equal to the amount previously set by the court. The general idea is that if a person was on a bond for a specific crime and they fail to appear, fail to comply, or had some other problem, they will be granted a “PR” or personal recognizance bond for the same amount they were on and the warrant for their arrest will be cancelled.

Not all warrants will be cancelled. There are specific guidelines that are in the attached order from the court that have to be followed or the defendant will be arrested. No felony warrants are eligible for the Amnesty Program.

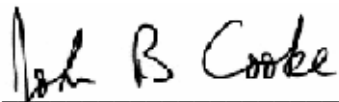
Sheriff Cooke urges anyone who wants to know if they have a warrant, from any jurisdiction, to call that Law Enforcement agency. People can also check Weld County Court warrants through the Weld County Sheriff’s Office Web Site, [WWW.WELDSHERIFF.COM](http://WWW.WELDSHERIFF.COM), and follow the links. Sheriff Cooke wants everyone to remember that it is their responsibility to work with the law enforcement agency and turn themselves in to get their warrant cancelled. If a person is contacted for another reason and found to have an active warrant, they will be arrested.

The Weld County Sheriff’s Office has a main office and 2 sub-stations. The main office is located at 2110 ‘O’ Street, Greeley and is open 24 hours a day. The Southwest sub-station is located at 4209 Weld County Road 24.5 Longmont, DelCamino and is open 8:00 am to 8:00

pm Monday through Friday the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Persons may use these facilities or may go directly to the Office of the Clerk of the Weld County Court located at 915 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Greeley, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Municipal warrants may be taken care of at either of the Sheriff's Office sites or at any participating municipal court during their normal business hours.

Potentially reducing the number of outstanding arrest warrants without making a physical arrest benefits local law enforcement and the Sheriff's Office. Fewer warrants keep municipal officers and deputies available in their communities and patrol districts instead of driving prisoners to the jail for booking. "This program allows some responsible people to take responsibility for themselves. The objective is to get people to court. If that happens without an officer's time and effort to transport and book them at the jail, it's even better," said Sheriff Cooke. "It also makes better use of jail bed space that is already crowded.

Sheriff Cooke and the participating Municipal Police Chiefs of Weld County hope that those wishing for another chance will take advantage of this program. If you have any questions, please contact the Weld County Sheriff's Office or any of the participating Municipal Police Department.

  
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JOHN B. COOKE  
SHERIFF