



CITY OF HOUSTON

City Council

To: Judge J. Elaine Marshall

Subject: Night Court Hearing Request

CC: Chief Troy Finner
Tina Paez
Kathryn Bruning

From: Sallie Alcorn, At-Large 5
Abbie Kamin, District C
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, District D

Date: May 3, 2023

Judge Marshall,

As you recall in discussions drafting the updates to chapter 30, the subject of officers missing court dates for noise citations arose. Unfortunately, we continue to hear this complaint, most recently for a court date set for March 15, 2023, for a noise violation occurring at Tribeca. When officers don't appear, it is very frustrating for the complaining witnesses as they work diligently to track the scheduled court hearing and re-arrange their daily schedules to make time to be present.

The most offensive bad-actors are typically violating the ordinance during nighttime hours and night shift officers respond to calls and write citations. Related court hearings are set during daytime hours and as has been explained to us by HPD command staff, officers may experience difficulty making the dates because they are officially off duty, resting, and tending to families.

As city council considers new regulations, such as the BYOB ordinance, to address nighttime nuisance issues, we respectfully ask you to consider offering an evening/night court to address club and noise-related citations. This may be a way to ensure better attendance by officers working nighttime hours and lead to successful prosecution of repeat violators.

Thanks for your consideration. Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to your input.

Handwritten signature of Sallie Alcorn in blue ink.

Sallie Alcorn
At-Large 5

Handwritten signature of Abbie Kamin in black ink.

Abbie Kamin
District C

Handwritten signature of Carolyn Evans-Shabazz in black ink.

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
District D