

## **CRIMINAL TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANOR CASES – DIVISION X**

Beginning the week of August 2, 2021, all criminal traffic and misdemeanor proceedings (including arraignments, dispositions, violation of probation hearings, motion hearings, non-jury trials, and jury trials) will be conducted in-person in Courtroom 3 at the Plant City Courthouse.

**There is one exception:** If your case was previously set for hearing on a date after August 2, 2021 and you were advised to appear via Zoom, you may either appear in-person at the Courthouse or via “Zoom” video-conference.

You will receive a written notice, through U.S. mail from the Clerk of the Court, advising you as to your scheduled court date. If the notice does not tell you to appear via “Zoom” video-conferencing, then you must appear in-person at the Plant City Courthouse for your court date.

**If you fail to appear at the scheduled time, a warrant may be issued for your arrest.**

### ***“Zoom” Information and Procedure***

Zoom requires a phone or computer with microphone and video capabilities. You will need to download the Zoom app to your phone or computer before your court date to avoid delays. The Zoom app is available for free for all devices, phones and computers. The Zoom website is <https://support/zoom.us>. To appear through Zoom video-conferencing at the date and time of your court proceeding, you will first need to join the Zoom Meeting link at <https://zoom.us/j/6519848351>. When prompted, you will then enter the Meeting ID number of 651 984 8351. **YOU MUST CONNECT TO AUDIO.** Please make sure to activate the audio settings so you can hear and speak during the hearing.

Please enter the Zoom session 10 minutes early to allow time to be moved from the waiting room into the court session.

### *Pleas in Absentia*

Assuming there is no objection from the Office of the State Attorney, Judge Weis will accept a plea *in absentia* for any criminal traffic or misdemeanor proceeding. A fingerprint card will be required for any sentence which includes incarceration and/or probation or for any enhanceable offense. The plea and sentence will be placed on the record with the presence of the defendant waived. **The original plea and fingerprint card must be provided to the Court at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.**

### *Questions?*

If you have any questions about this procedure or whether your case will be conducted via “Zoom” video-conferencing or in-person, please contact either your attorney or Judge Weis’ judicial assistant, Andrea Paxton, at [paxtonaw@fljud13.org](mailto:paxtonaw@fljud13.org) or (813) 272-6187.