

## NOTICE TO THE BAR AND PUBLIC

### DISMISSAL OF NEARLY 300,000 MUNICIPAL CASES MORE THAN 27 YEARS OLD AND RECALL OF DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS

By Order of May 21, 2021, the Supreme Court dismissed nearly 300,000 unresolved, minor municipal court cases that are more than 27 years old (Dismissal Order). These dismissals were ordered by the Court following review by municipal prosecutors of the cases to be dismissed. The dismissed cases are those in which driver's license suspensions had been issued to defendants for a failure to appear prior to January 1, 1994 which were still active on May 21, 2021. Some matters also had arrest warrants for failure to appear attached. In those matters, all driver's license suspension will be rescinded, and arrest warrants recalled.

The dismissed cases include parking offenses, motor vehicle offenses, municipal ordinances, and other minor municipal matters. The Dismissal Order exempts certain more serious municipal court cases from dismissal – for example, disorderly persons and petty disorderly persons offenses, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, and refusal to submit to a chemical test.

This May 21, 2021 Dismissal Order is the first in a series of orders that will address approximately 1.7 million minor, unresolved municipal court cases involving the same types of charges. The series of orders will include almost 1.1 million matters that involve a driver's license suspension; more than 300,000 matters with an open arrest warrant at least 10 years old; and approximately 270,000 matters with both an open arrest warrant and a driver's license suspension. The unresolved, minor matters have been pending for more than 10 years. R. 7:8-5(c). Dismissing the 1.7 million matters simultaneously would be impracticable. They will therefore be dismissed in separate groups, with an order addressing each group, with the groups delineated by the age of the matters.

The Judiciary has created a webpage to assist the public in identifying what matters are included or not included in this Dismissal Order. The webpage, located at [www.njcourts.gov/courts/mcs/dismissals.html](http://www.njcourts.gov/courts/mcs/dismissals.html), includes a database that can be searched to determine whether or not a particular case is one of those included in the Dismissal Order. The webpage also includes the list of charges that are **not included** in the Dismissal Order; further details on charges that are **included** in the Dismissal Order; a set of Frequently Asked Questions; and an explanation of how

an individual can, if necessary, contact the Motor Vehicle Commission to restore a suspended license.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn A. Grant", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: May 24, 2021