



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Sheriff's Office, constables rolling out new e-citation system

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NEW BRAUNFELS — In the coming weeks, Comal County Sheriff's Office deputies and constables from two precincts will be the first to use a new electronic citation system that should save time and money for law enforcement, the court system and drivers.

The e-citation system will allow deputies to enter information from a traffic stop into a mobile device and upload it to county servers – eliminating several steps from a process that currently includes handwriting a citation and entering by hand the information into a computer at both the Sheriff's Office and the county's justice courts.

“It's going to improve not only the efficiency of the deputies,” said Sheriff Mark Reynolds, “but then help the court system, especially the justices of the peace.”

Under the new system, deputies will use the mobile device to scan or swipe a driver's license to check for warrants, scan the vehicle's registration sticker, take any necessary photos, enter the relevant information from the stop, and print out a warning or citation with a wireless printer.

The device would store the information until the deputy uploaded it onto county servers at the end of his or her shift. The information would then be available to both the Sheriff's Office and the relevant court.

In addition to allowing a faster, and therefore safer, interaction at the side of the road, Reynolds said, the system also should eliminate the necessity to input deputies' handwritten data and eliminate the potential for human error during the transcription process.

“We're excited to roll this out and make our workflow faster, more efficient and more convenient, both for our deputies and court employees, and for the public,” he said.

While some devices are being field-tested this month, they are expected to be in deputies' hands in February.

The initial rollout will comprise 20 devices for sheriff's deputies, two for the Precinct 1 Constable's Office and three for the Precinct 2 Constable's Office. Assuming a smooth transition, additional devices would be phased in until all patrol deputies and constables have one.

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