STEERING CLEAR:
A DRIVER’S LICENSE DIVERSION PROGRAM

PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
SHERIFF’S OFFICE
CRIMINAL COURT CLERK’S OFFICE
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK’S OFFICE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
JUVENILE COURT
STATE TRIAL COURTS
JUSTICE INTEGRATION SERVICES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

METRO NASHVILLE WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT AT J.U.M.P.
LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FUND AT
URBAN HOUSING SOLUTIONS
PROJECT RETURN
SAFE HAVEN FAMILY SHELTER
MAGDALENE HOUSE
ROOM IN THE INN
OPERATION STAND DOWN
4:13 STRONG
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

AND THE LIST GOES ON……..

Improving Public Safety AND Economic Opportunities
DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS HURT PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY

KEVIN

MS. BROWN
LAWS TIE DRIVER’S LICENSE TO $$\$$

LITTLE CONNECTION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

DISPARATE IMPACT ON THE POOR

Driver's license suspensions push poor deeper into poverty, report says

Los Angeles Times

Additional fees added onto traffic fines can push the total hundreds of dollars above the base penalty. (Ken Hively, Los Angeles Times)
Unpaid Costs

Court Costs

CYCLE OF DEBT

Criminal Charge

Need to Drive

DL Suspension
Clogging Our Courts

36,259 Defendants cited in Nashville for DL offense in 2015

- **12,570** (34%) Driver's License Offense ONLY
- **23,959** (66%) Other Offense

Average of 114 cases per court day
WE’RE DOING A LOT...FOR LITTLE GOOD
WE CAN DO BETTER -- FOR EVERYONE

STEERING CLEAR OFFICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Launched in 2007

Findings 3 years in:
- 57% Driver’s License Recovery Rate
- 75% clients were in their 20s and 30s
- 100% clients living at or below poverty

Driver’s License Critical to Employment

Wisconsin Model

CENTER FOR DRIVER’S LICENSE RECOVERY AND EMPLOYABILITY
(licenserecovery.org)
THE BENEFITS of this SOLUTION

MORE EFFICIENT
- Fewer cases in court
- Fewer collections and suspensions
- Problem-solving relationships

IMPROVED OUTCOMES
- More licensed drivers
- More insured drivers
- Avoid arrest record/criminal history
- Improved economic opportunities
STEERING CLEAR PROGRAM

OUR ASK

- 6 FTEs ($238,000 annual)
  - 1 Lawyer
  - 4 Paralegals
  - 1 Clerk/Secretary
- Physical office space in central location
- Public/Private Partnership, possibly with Workforce Development at JUMP
- Launch: end of FY17/start of FY18
- Proactive service agency, like Wisconsin