

# ***Fugitive Safe Surrender in Washington, D.C.***

**Fugitive Safe Surrender in D.C. Begins on  
Thursday, November 1**

**Nearly 6,000 Offenders with Warrants Surrender  
Throughout the Country**

**Web Site, Television and Radio Ads Available at  
[www.dcsafesurrender.org](http://www.dcsafesurrender.org)**

**Telephone Answering System at 202-585-SAFE  
(7233)**

**For Immediate Release, October 22, 2007. Contact Leonard Sipes, (federal) Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency 202-220-5616 (office) or 240-882-8274 (cell), or Bernard Graham, US Marshals Service at 202-359-5766 (cell)**

*Fugitive Safe Surrender* is a highly successful initiative that encourages persons wanted for **non-violent felony** or **misdemeanor** crimes to surrender voluntarily to faith-based leaders and law enforcement in a faith institution. Parole, probation and pretrial violators are eligible for the program.

The program has been successfully implemented by the U.S. Marshals Service in six cities and is now coming to Washington, D.C. (see [www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender](http://www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender)). Approximately 6,000 warrants have been executed.

Authorized by Congress in July 2006, *Fugitive Safe Surrender* is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation.

## **Fugitive Safe Surrender in Washington, D.C.**

**When:** The program will commence on Thursday, November 1 and run through Saturday, November 3. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** The location is the Bible Way Church, 1100 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 at the intersection of New York and New Jersey Avenues. The closest Metro stop is “Convention Center” on the green and yellow lines (a four block walk East on M street).

The Washington D.C. implementation of Fugitive Safe Surrender is part of the US Marshals Service’s national effort. The DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is providing local coordination. Partners include the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), the Metropolitan Police Department, the Pretrial Services Agency, the U.S. Parole Commission, the D.C. Superior Court, the U.S. Attorney’s Office the D.C. Public Defender Service, the Office of the Attorney General and the D.C. Department of Corrections.

- Defense attorneys will be available for anyone surrendering through FSS.
- Participating offenders will be offered referrals to social services and substance abuse/employment assistance.
- Childcare will be provided.
- Family members are welcomed to accompany those surrendering.

#### **The Criteria for Surrendering:**

- Wanted for a non-violent offense in the District of Columbia
- Have no history of violence
- No extensive criminal history
- No domestic violence cases
- Juvenile, child neglect and child support cases are excluded

#### **Why Would Non-violent Offenders Surrender?**

Staff conducted interviews with offenders who surrendered at the Indianapolis Fugitive Safe Surrender event. The offenders indicated that they were looking for a way to start over. They reported that they were encouraged to surrender by their families. In fact, many were accompanied by their families to the church to surrender.

A series of interviews with current DC parolees and probationers supported the Indianapolis offender’s concerns. Several DC offenders indicated that the uncertainty associated with having an outstanding warrant discourages offenders from seeking jobs or job training and from participating in family activities out of fear of an encounter with law enforcement. They also indicated that offenders with outstanding arrest warrants often engage in additional criminal activity.

*Many non-violent offenders are looking for a way out!* They want to resolve their warrants and get on with their lives. Surrendering within the confines of a church, temple or mosque provides the offender with confidence that he or she will be treated fairly.

## **What Will Happen When They Surrender?**

Offenders will receive ‘favorable consideration’ for surrendering. *The vast majority of offenders who surrendered in the previous Safe Surrender cities were allowed to return to their homes that day.*

## **No Amnesty**

Fugitive Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program. All offenders who surrender will be held accountable for their actions. Offenders without violent criminal histories will have their cases heard by a Superior Court judge who will determine disposition on a case-by-case basis.

## **Why the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is bringing Fugitive Safe Surrender to the District of Columbia?**

### **Fugitive Safe Surrender:**

- Creates a safer Washington, DC metropolitan area community
- Holds the offender accountable for his or her crimes
- Provides offenders an opportunity to resolve outstanding warrants and re-engage in positive family and community activities, including employment, job training, and substance abuse treatment
- Promotes alliance with city faith institutions
- Improves safety for police officers and other law enforcement personnel who unknowingly interact with wanted offenders.

### **Additional Information on Fugitive Safe Surrender is available at:**

- [www.dcsafesurrender.org](http://www.dcsafesurrender.org) or [www.dcsafesurrender.com](http://www.dcsafesurrender.com) (DC Safe Surrender)
- [www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender](http://www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender) (US Marshals Service)
- A telephone answering service with multiple pre-recorded messages is available at 202-585-SAFE (7233)

## **Media Contacts**

For additional information about *Fugitive Safe Surrender* in Washington, D.C., contact Leonard Sipes, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, (federal) Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency at (202) 220-5616 or (240) 882-8274 (cell) or Bernard Graham, US Marshals Service at 202-359-5766 (cell).