



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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## **City Attorney Mara W. Elliott Spearheads Post-July 4<sup>th</sup> Beach Clean-Up**

Beachgoers who receive certain non-traffic tickets on or before the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday can avoid convictions and fines through a City Attorney's Office program called Instant Justice.

Offenses covered by the Instant Justice program include:

- open alcohol containers,
- consuming alcohol in public,
- glass containers,
- littering,
- dogs off leash, and
- smoking in the park.

Participants are given an opportunity to complete six hours of community work service in the beach area on July 5<sup>th</sup> to avoid convictions and fines that are typically a minimum of \$200. The program applies to infractions received on City beaches and parks in Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, La Jolla and Clairemont.

The annual Instant Justice program has been a highly successful effort of the City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Unit and Collaborative Courts Unit (NJU) and partners at the San Diego Police Department's Northern Division, Discover Pacific Beach, San Diego's Department of Park and Recreation, and the San Diego Lifeguard Service.

Last year, 50 participants worked for 250 hours, restoring our parks, beaches, streets and alleys.

**"This is a win-win program. Instant Justice gives tourists and locals alike who commit a minor offense over the 4th of July holiday a second chance,"** said City Attorney Mara W. Elliott. **"Instead of traveling back to San Diego to face court and fines, they are afforded an opportunity to give back to our community and avoid a criminal charge on their records."**

The City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Unit is involved in several alternative sentencing programs and community courts. In the alternative courts, offenders give back to the community in which they have committed certain crimes. Alternative sentencing programs are aimed at intervention, diversion, reducing recidivism and restoring the community.

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