

**NOTICE OF YOUR RIGHTS  
GAHANNA MAYOR'S COURT  
GAHANNA, OHIO**

Those of you who are here in Court today have been charged with an offense against the Ordinances of the City of Gahanna. The Court wants you to be aware of your basic rights and that you are entitled to be informed of:

1. The nature of the charges against you; to read the Affidavit or Complaint filed against you, and if you do not understand the nature of the charges, to have them explained to you.
2. You have a right to know the identity of the Complainant.
3. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
4. You have a right to a reasonable continuance in the proceedings to secure counsel.
5. You have a right to a trial by jury in certain cases, as long as a demand is made in written form.
6. You have a right to have a trial within 30 days of the date you were charged.

**If you are not represented by counsel and you are before the Court and called upon to plead, you have certain rights.**

1. You have a right to counsel even if you intend to plead guilty, and the right to a reasonable continuance in the proceedings to secure counsel, pursuant to Criminal Rule 44. The Court **may** assign counsel to represent you, without cost to yourself if you are unable to employ counsel.
2. You have a right to bail, if the offense is bailable.
3. You need not make any statement in the proceeding, but any statement **can** and **may** be used against you.
  - You may plead **Guilty, Not Guilty, or No Contest.**
  - **A Plea of Guilty** is a complete admission of guilt.
  - **A Plea of No Contest** is not an admission of guilt, but is an admission to the truth of the facts alleged in the Complaint. **A No Contest Plea** cannot be used against you in any subsequent Civil or Criminal Proceeding.

**If you enter a Plea of Not Guilty**, your case will be set for trial at a later date. You will have the right to present evidence on your own behalf. The City will present its evidence, and this Court will make a judgment as to your guilt or innocence.

**APPEAL**

You have a right of appeal from the ruling of this Court. That appeal must be filed within 10 days of the judgment as provided by Section 1905.23 Ohio Revised Code.

**TRAFFIC CASES**

In the event you are convicted of a traffic offense, a record of that conviction will be sent to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and will become a part of your driving record.

If you have any questions regarding any part of your case, procedure, the charge against you, or your rights, you may discuss them with a city attorney when your case is called. If you wish to change your plea, please advise the Court when your case is called.

<u>Classification of Misdemeanor</u>	<u>Maximum Term of Imprisonment</u>	<u>Maximum Fine</u>
First Degree	6 months	\$1000.00
Second Degree	90 days	\$750.00
Third Degree	60 days	\$500.00
Fourth Degree	30 days	\$250.00
Minor	None	\$150.00

In addition to the foregoing, a driving rights suspension is possible if you were not insured at the time of the offense or if you are charged with OVI, Driving Under an OVI Suspension, or Passing a School Bus.

Are you a U.S. Citizen?                    \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                    \_\_\_\_\_ No

If you are not a citizen, a conviction could result in your deportation or denial of citizenship.

I have read and understand this statement of rights. I hereby waive a jury trial and submit and request to be tried by the City of Gahanna, Ohio, Mayor's Court. If I enter a plea of Guilty or No Contest, I knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily give up my rights to employ an attorney, or to have one appointed for me. If I enter a plea of Guilty or No Contest, I also give up my rights set forth above, including to have my rights explained to me in open court.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness