For individuals charged with traffic infraction(s) pending in City/Town/Village Courts in Cayuga County:

A traffic ticket, alleging that you have committed an offense in violation of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law(s), has been filed with the court. You are presumed innocent until proven guilty. You have the right to a trial in this matter. You have the right to retain an attorney to represent you now, or at any stage in these proceedings. However, unless charged with a misdemeanor, you are not entitled to an assigned attorney. You have several options to address your ticket(s). You may choose to proceed in one of the following legally authorized manners. Please be advised that this Office cannot provide legal advice as to how to proceed, or which of these options you should choose.

# OPTIONS:

1. **Enter a Plea of Not Guilty:**

By pleading “Not Guilty” on your ticket, you choose to exercise your right to a trial in court (or complete one of the District Attorney’s Office Traffic Safety Programs [see option #3]). Should you choose to exercise your right to a trial, the People of the State of New York, represented by the Cayuga County District Attorney’s Office, must prove that you have committed the charged traffic offense(s) beyond a reasonable doubt. At trial, you will have the right to hear, see, and challenge any evidence submitted to prove your guilt. This includes confronting and cross-examining witnesse. You also have the right to call witnesses on your behalf to testify. You may, but are not required to, testify on your own behalf as well. After hearing all the evidence submitted at the trial, the Court determines whether the People have proven your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and renders a verdict.

You are not entitled to a jury trial; rather the Judge will determine guilt. If convicted, the Court will impose a fine and surcharge. If applicable, points on your license may also be assessed in accordance with the Vehicle and Traffic Law. If found not guilty, the charges will be dismissed.

# Enter a Plea of Guilty:

By pleading "Guilty," you waive your right to a trial. A plea of “Guilty” will permit the Court to impose any legally authorized fine and surcharge. You may also be assessed points on your license in accordance with the Vehicle and Traffic Law. You may withdraw, with the court’s permission, your plea of guilty at any time prior to sentencing and exercise your right to a trial.

# Seek a Plea Reduction Through the District Attorney’s Office Traffic Safety Program(s):

To receive a dismissal or reduction of your traffic ticket(s), you have two options. The District Attorney’s Office offers a **Traffic Diversion Program** and a **Traffic Reduction Program**, which can be accessed through our website. You may apply and be approved for the **Traffic Diversion Program**, which will

result in the dismissal of your ticket(s). In the alternative, you may register for the **Traffic Reduction Program**, which will result in a reduction of your ticket; however, your tickets will NOT be dismissed, but rather reduced. This will likely result in a traffic conviction, possible points on your license, as well as a fine and surcharge.

# Traffic Diversion Program

All individuals charged with a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Law seeking a *dismissal* of their traffic tickets may apply for our Traffic Diversion Program. Successful completion of the program, which includes completion of a Traffic Safety Course, will result in the charges against you being dismissed. You will not be assessed a fine or be required to appear in Court. There will be no points on your driver’s license and it will not affect your insurance rates. The cost to participate is $295.

The District Attorney’s Office retains the sole discretion to reject any applicant who would otherwise be eligible. The Court also has the right to approve or reject the dismissal recommendation, in which case your program fee will be refunded. If you are not approved for the Traffic Diversion Program, you will be directed to the Traffic Reduction Program.

# Traffic Reduction Program

All individuals charged with a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Law seeking a *reduction* can resolve their traffic violation(s) by participating in the District Attorney’s Traffic Reduction Program, with a few exceptions. Successful completion of the program will result in the charges against you being reduced, resulting in less points, or no points, on your driver’s license. You may still need to appear in Court. You will also receive a fine from the Court and be required to pay a New York State Surcharge. The cost to participate in the Traffic Reduction Program is $50.

To receive a reduction, you must provide all requested information when applying. You must complete the Traffic Safety Course. You will then be emailed a proposed reduction disposition. If the plea reduction is acceptable, you must sign the form and return it to the Court, by mail or email. Do not mail anything to the District Attorney’s Office. **If you fail to send in the signed form to the court and/or fail to appear at any adjourned date as directed, the court may suspend your license**.

For more information and to participate in either the Traffic Diversion Program or the Traffic Reduction Program, please visit the District Attorney’s Office website: [**https://www.cayugacountyda.com/**](https://www.cayugacountyda.com/)**traffic- tickets**

**THIS FORM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

**You have the right to consult with an attorney at any time.**