



## **THE CITY OF KENNER IS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 2011 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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*For Immediate Release*

In August 2007, administrators for the City of Kenner Mayor's Court realized that its court system was outdated and paper intensive. In addition, the system was error-prone and no longer satisfied the reporting requirements of the Louisiana Department of Transportation for electronic reporting of various driving record data. The City of Kenner Mayor's Court was falling behind in state traffic reporting and inundated with paperwork, and the leaders of the City's administration saw a need to simplify the system's processes entirely. Former Mayor Ed Muniz and Chief Administrative Officer (now Mayor) Mike Yenni knew that minimizing or eliminating the paper as well as streamlining the court and police processes would allow for operations at the most optimal level and set the example for courts throughout the State of Louisiana.

With this vision in mind, the Kenner Mayor's Court embarked on a process to upgrade its court system and entirely transform the operations of the department. The results have far exceeded their expectations and have laid the groundwork for continuous improvements regarding public service. The first step was to allocate the funding. The Kenner Mayor's Court applied for and received a grant through the Louisiana Traffic Records Coordinating Committee in association with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Upon approval, the City contracted with a local software development firm, Digicomm Systems, Inc., to develop the new system that went live in June of 2010.

It took the efforts of court staff, administrators, and Digicomm to implement this system in the midst of maintaining the current court workload. The older system was riddled with errors and required extensive data clean-up. In addition, its dependency on paper was time consuming. Although the new software rapidly identified major problem areas, the manual processes had to be revised to take full advantage of the online features of the new court system.

Today, the City of Kenner is proud to announce that the technology and innovation surrounding its new court system has resulted in its receipt of the Louisiana Municipal

Association's 2011 Community Achievement Award. The City of Kenner placed first in the large city category, which includes those cities with populations of more than 25,000.

Some of this system's key innovations are as follows:

- ❖ No internal paper is generated by the Court;
- ❖ Misdemeanor and Traffic case forms are seamlessly auto-filled and electronically filed;
- ❖ Digital signatures allow for online forms at every point within in the court system;
- ❖ Attachments and recalls are automated, electronically transmitted, and forms are filled, filed, and managed with the click of a button;
- ❖ An automated event processor tracks all case activity and performs the required actions based on the status of a case;
- ❖ Traffic tickets are transmitted electronically from the Kenner Police Department to the Court, including the actual image of the ticket;
- ❖ Streamlined document management is applied to case preparation and processing;
- ❖ The tracking, access, and reporting of cases to the Louisiana Department of Justice and the Office of Motor Vehicles has been significantly improved;

In the past, the Mayor's Court staff could not facilitate operations in a timely manner because of the paper intensive nature and tedious processes of the previous system. The implementation of the new system has inspired the Mayor's Court and its staff to move forward in providing the latest technology and services to the public. The innovations displayed by the new system were coordinated with input from the staff and administration resulting in a system that is truly effective in the work place, providing impeccable public services that are just a click away.