

Posted at: 04/16/2008 04:14:48 PM

Updated at: 04/16/2008 05:56:44 PM

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First day of Fugitive Safe Surrender



Those running from the law now have a chance to set the record straight. Today was the first day of a federal program called Fugitive Safe Surrender.

"The program works, I like it."

Charles Clark came out dancing after getting his warrant taken care of. He said, "It's very easy, very easy and they said for most part they wouldn't incarcerate you, so here I am, living proof ."

He was one of dozens of fugitives who turned themselves in to police today. The program is called Fugitive Safe Surrender.

It's a simple process. You fill out paperwork, go before a judge and walk out with a smile.

Clark said, "Back to normal, don't have to look over my shoulder."

But don't be fooled, you will be punished for your mistakes. Latanya Banks said, "They gave me two weekends, two work weekends, not jail weekends." And in most cases, that's what people talked with say they have to do.

US Marshal Peter Lawrence says there are no promises but, "You're going to get the benefit of doubt if you turn yourself in today, you're gonna get favorable consideration."

Judge Patricia Marks says she hasn't seen anything like this before. Most people told her coming here is a lot easier. She said, "The Hall of Justice is kinda intimidating place with all those commoners and those deputies."

Cynthia Duncan said, "Need to do this a lot more often for a lot of people, they really do, people be scared to go down there." For most people a clear record, gives them a chance to start over.

Banks added, "People like myself need to work and this stopped me from working. Once my background check went through, so now I can go back to work."

Anyone go to the Bethel Christian Fellowship on East Avenue through Saturday. Doors are open 9 to 5.

This is the first time a program like this has been done in New York. Seven other states have also done the program.

If the program is successful this week, US Marshall's say they will consider doing another one like it next year.