

# TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIRCUIT COURT OF WILL COUNTY



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CHAMBERS OF  
RICHARD C. SCHOENSTEDT  
CHIEF JUDGE

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE: MAY 27, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COVID-19: TRAFFIC COURT AT THE RIALTO SQUARE THEATRE

Over the past few weeks, the Chief Judge and his staff have evaluated the space in the current courthouse with regard to social distancing. During this process, it was determined that the current traffic court did not have sufficient space to conduct court while maintaining social distancing recommendations. As such, the Chief Judge investigated available spaces outside of the current courthouse as potential venues for traffic court.

The Chief Judge reached out to representatives of the Rialto Square Theatre to see if that venue would be suitable and available for use as a traffic court. Representatives of the Rialto, Chief Judge Schoenstedt, Judges Ben Braun and Chrystal Gavlin, Circuit Clerk Andrea Chasteen, Trial Court Administrator Roger Holland and other court and facility staff reviewed the atrium and rotunda space of the theatre and determined that this space would be suitable for traffic court. As such, on May 27, 2020, Chief Judge Richard C. Schoenstedt issued Administrative Order 2020-22. This Order authorizes the use of the atrium and rotunda of the Rialto Square Theatre at 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet Illinois 60432, as the Traffic Court courtroom effective June 8, 2020 until further Order of the Court. This Court will handle traffic cases from Joliet, Channahon, Crest Hill, Elwood, Lockport, Manhattan, Rockdale and Shorewood. Instead of sending individual notices to litigants, the Circuit Court and the Circuit Clerk will be using signage to direct individuals with traffic cases assigned to the Will County Courthouse one block north on Chicago Street to the Rialto.

"In accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the recent Guidelines promulgated by the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Twelfth Circuit has identified the need for an alternate traffic court location to accommodate social distancing. Because social distancing is one of the primary methods of mitigating the risk of spreading COVID-19, we need to make sure that we can accommodate social distancing in all of our courtrooms, particularly the courtroom with the heaviest volume of cases." Chief Judge Schoenstedt said.

"We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the Circuit Clerk, the County Executive and County Board as we adapt Court operations to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency. We will continue to take appropriate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while upholding our constitutional responsibilities." Trial Court Administrator Holland stated.

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