



Unified Government Clerk's Office

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Unified Government Interim Clerk

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

To the Members of the Governing Body of the
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas:

You are hereby notified that the mayor has called a Special Session of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 5:45 PM, for an executive session regarding litigation followed by the Municipal Court State of the Court presentation. The executive session will be conducted in the fifth-floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. The State of Court presentation will be conducted in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building.

The public will be able to observe or listen to the special session live on YouTube or UGTV, or through ZOOM; information is below. The public may also view the special session from the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. **The executive session is closed to the public under the Kansas Open Meetings Act.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577749464>

Or One tap mobile:

+12532158782,81423989537# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,81423989537# US (Houston)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 253 205 0468 US; +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 444 9171 US; +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose); +1 719 359 4580 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

877 853 5257 US Toll-Free

888 475 4499 US Toll-Free

Webinar ID: 865 7774 9464

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577749464>

Dated this 25th day of March 2024.



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS MUNICIPAL COURT

Our mission: To serve with fairness, honesty, and integrity.

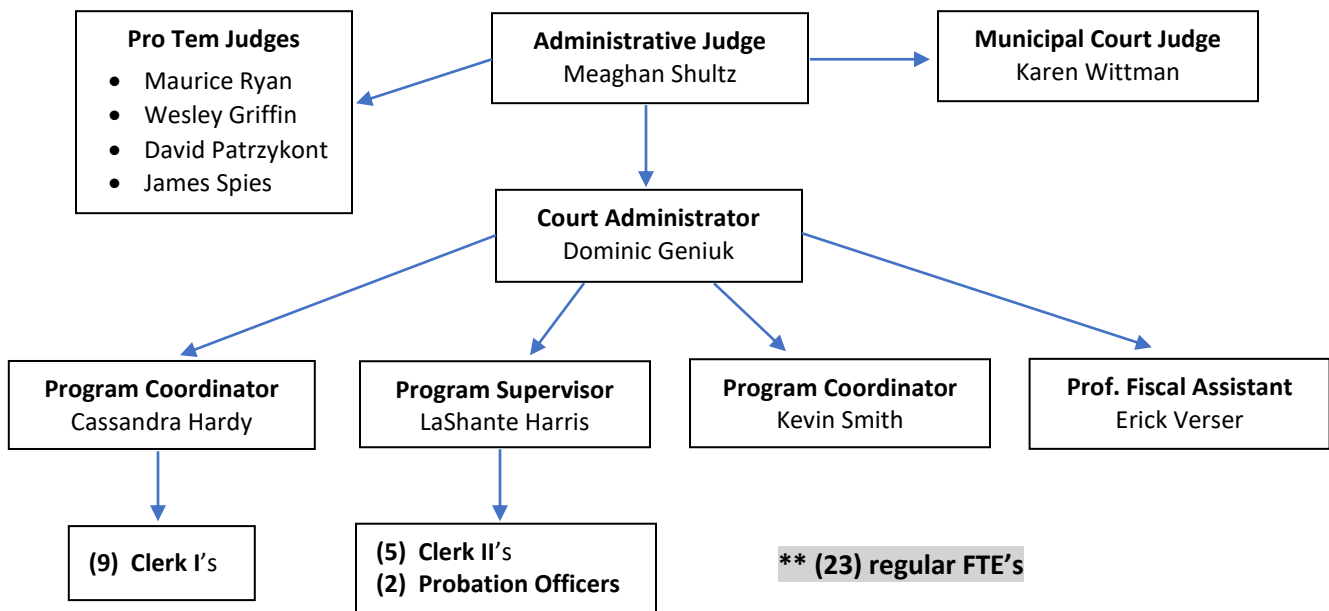
It is through the Municipal Court that most citizens come into contact with the judicial system, either as a defendant, a victim, or a witness.

- The Municipal Court is considered a court of limited jurisdiction, having responsibility for all adult misdemeanors which occur in the City of Kansas City, Kansas, with a few exceptions. There are no jury trials in Municipal Court.
- The Municipal Court has specialty dockets for both DUI and Domestic Violence cases. The Court currently has (14) separate dockets each week.
- The Municipal Court acts on tickets written by Kansas City Kansas Police, Wyandotte County Sheriff, Railroad Police, KU Med Center Police, Kansas City Kansas Code Enforcement Officers, USD 500, Kansas City KS Community College, Kansas City Kansas Animal Control Officers, and Parking Control Officers.
 - Tickets written by the Kansas Highway Patrol are processed by the District Court.
- The Municipal Court has a Probation Division, which is managed directly by the Municipal Court.

By having the Municipal Court handle all adult misdemeanors, this burden is removed from the District Court, allowing the DA's office to focus on more serious felonies.

The Municipal Court requires regular/semi-regular (and occasional) interpretation for a wide range of languages, to include but not limited to Spanish, Swahili, Burmese, Nepali, Kirundi, Chin, Hmong, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Hakha Chin, Chuukese, Somali, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Kunama, Tigrinya, Dari, Laotian, Romanian, and American Sign Language.

Organizational Chart

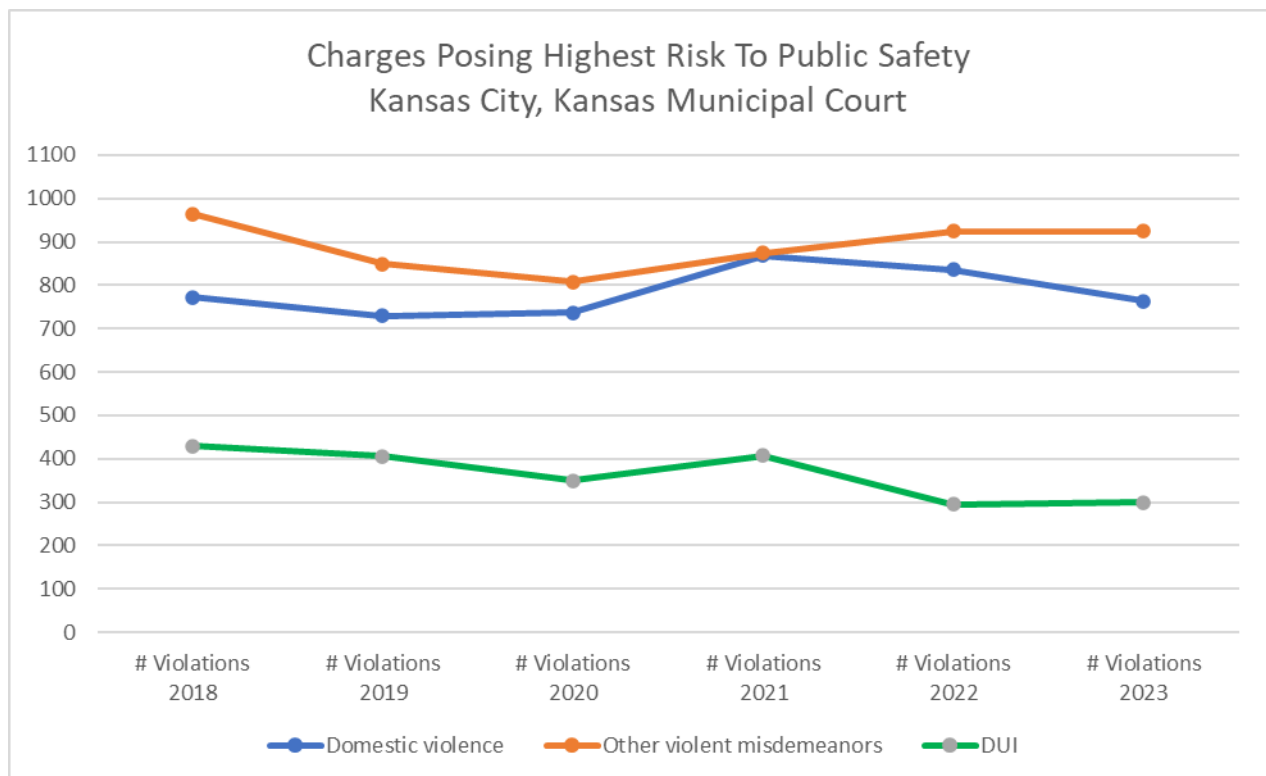


Case Information/Statistics

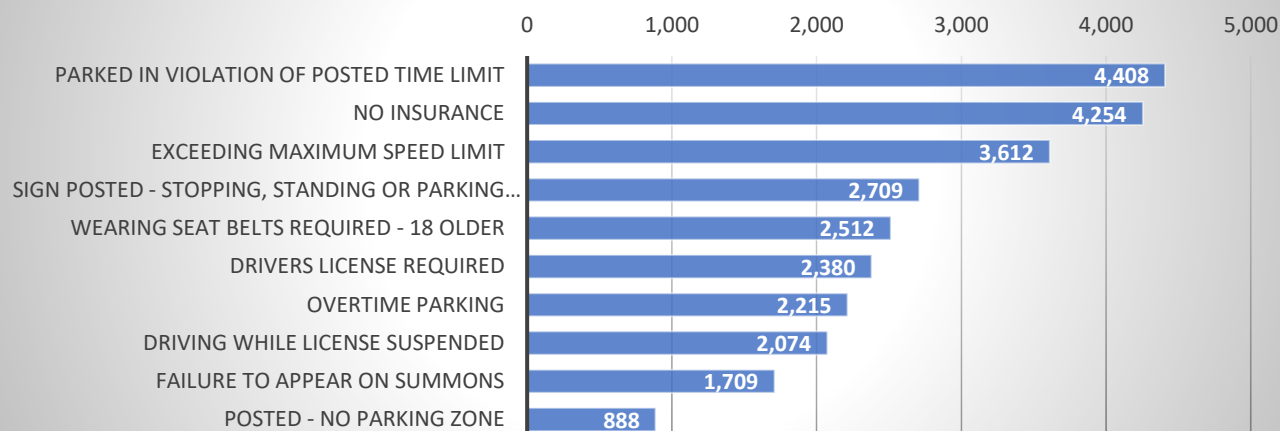
Historically, approximately 35,000 - 40,000 cases (on average) have been filed with Municipal Court each year, with recent previous year totals as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Misdemeanor Total	7,677 - 18%	6,279 - 17%	5,479 - 17%	5,791 - 17%	5,893 - 27%	7,304 - 27%
Of the misd. total:						
Animal	1,114	844	922	951	1,100	2,011
Failure To Appear	1,709	1,466	1,161	1,111	821	711
Codes	308	186	79	100	134	41
Domestic Violence	772	730	736	868	836	764
Traffic Total	23,320 - 55%	21,345 - 56%	20,671 - 62%	19,955 - 60%	13,006 - 61%	15,364 - 57%
Of the traffic total:						
DUI	430	406	349	407	295	300
Parking Total	11,658 - 27%	10,229 - 27%	6,921 - 21%	7,708 - 23%	2,564 - 12%	4,312 - 16%
Total All Citations:	42,655	37,853	33,071	33,454	21,463	26,980

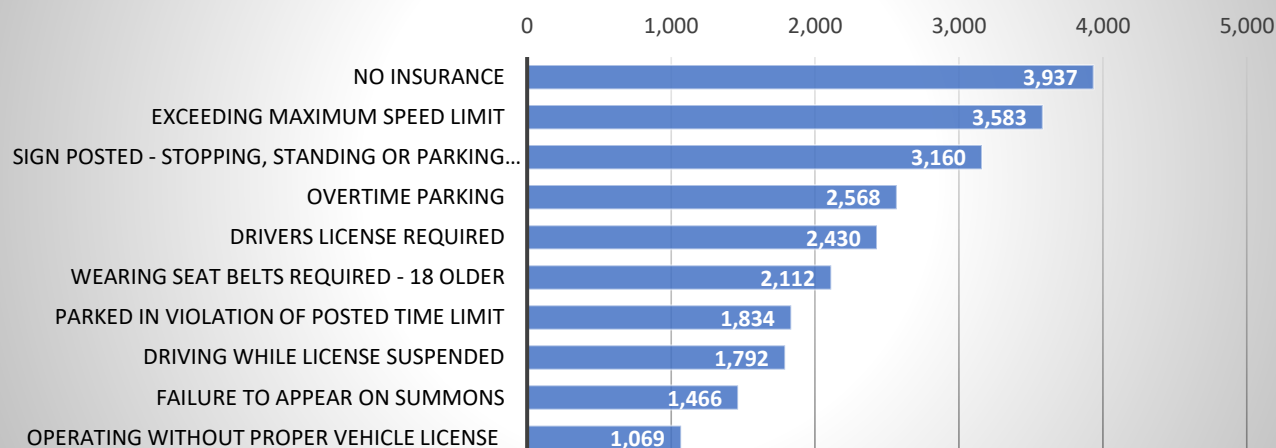
2018 – 2023, Highest risk to public safety						
Charge Type	# Violations 2018	# Violations 2019	# Violations 2020	# Violations 2021	# Violations 2022	# Violations 2023
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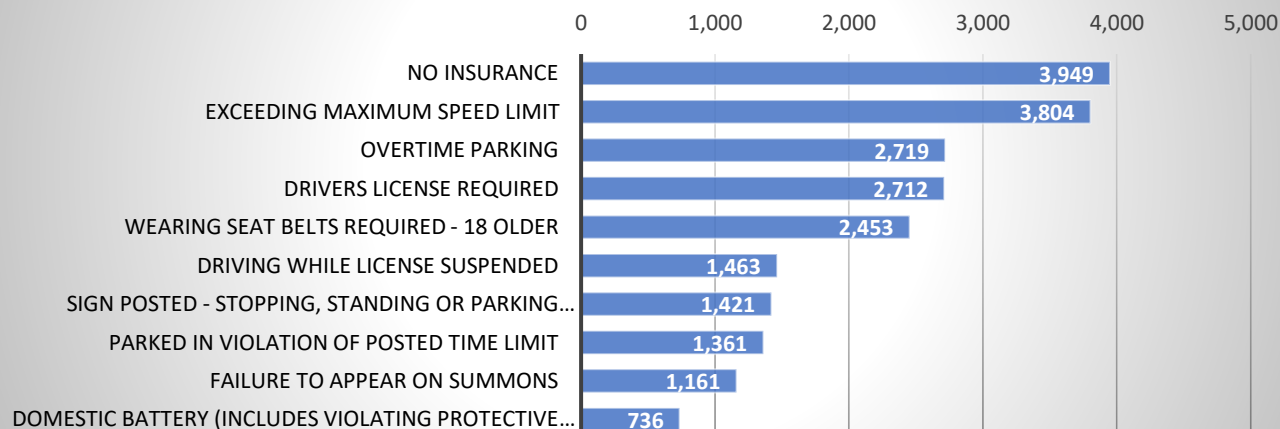
Calendar Year 2018 - Top Ten Violations Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



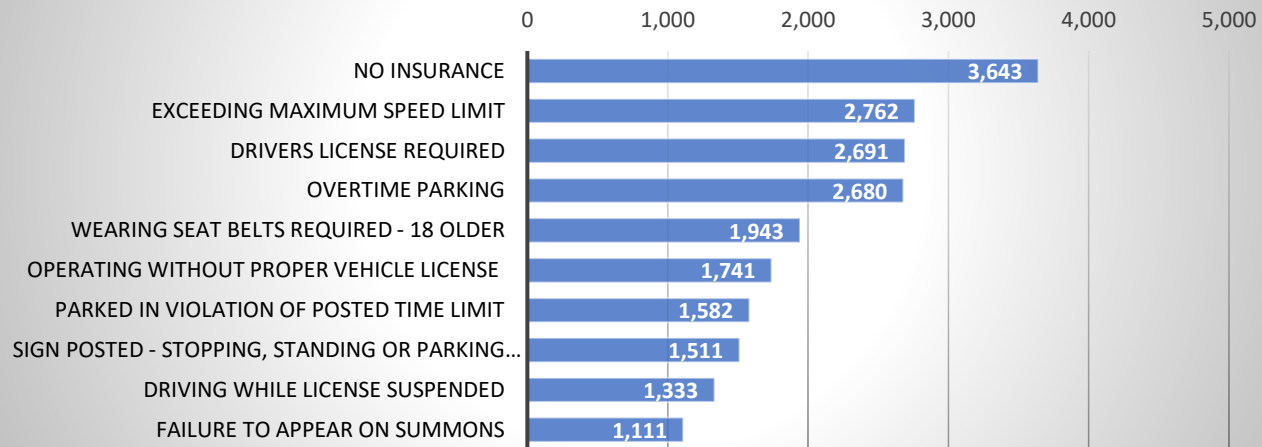
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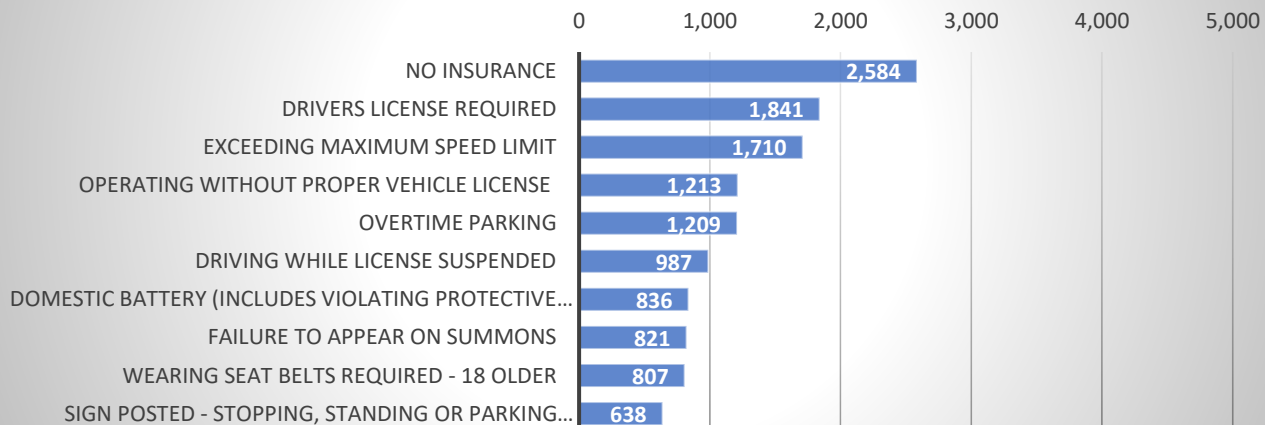
Calendar Year 2020 - Top Ten Violations Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



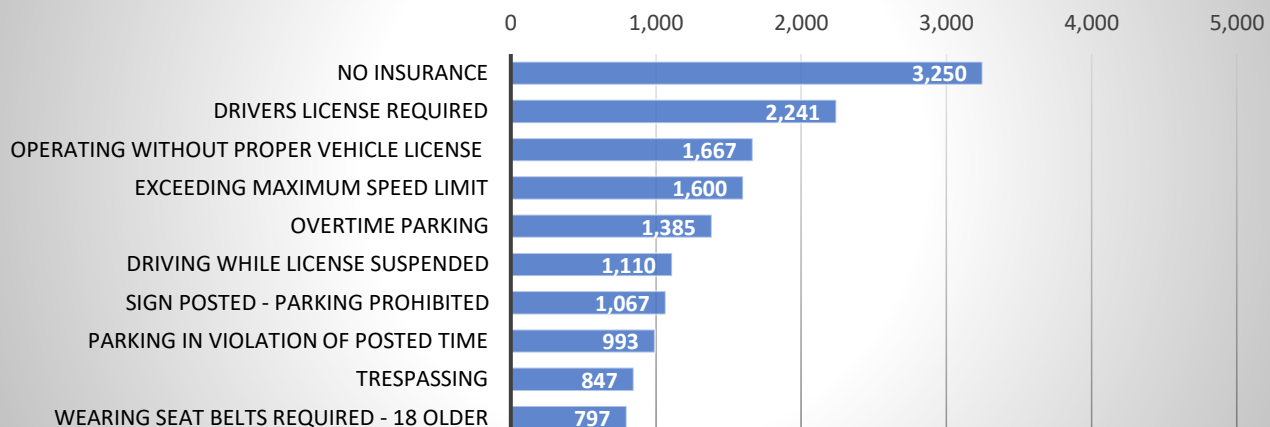
Calendar Year 2021 - Top Ten Violations Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



Calendar Year 2022 - Top Ten Violations Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



Calendar Year 2023 - Top Ten Violations Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



Money Collected

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Collected <i>(fines, fees, costs)</i>	\$3,511,781.92	\$3,037,394.18	\$1,816,824.71	\$2,022,039.73	\$1,439,704.51	\$1,605,147.25
Total Remittance to State of Kansas <i>(from total collected)</i>	\$489,853.49	\$508,859.97	\$322,120.54	\$371,109.34	\$251,054.11	\$277,548.82
Final Total Collected	\$3,021,928.43	\$2,528,534.21	\$1,494,704.17	\$1,650,930.39	\$1,188,650.40	\$1,327,598.43

Progress, Enhancements, and Improvements

Unified Government Marijuana Diversion Program

This program began in January of this year (2024). Defendants that have been arrested for marijuana possession or paraphernalia may have the option to accept the Marijuana Diversion Program as an alternative to a misdemeanor charge and related penalties.

What is required? Defendants are required to watch a video and pay a diversion fee of \$100 to participate. Defendants can watch the video in-person through the Prosecutor's Office, or online. If the defendant watches the video online, they will be required to complete a survey as proof.

Upon meeting the requirements of diversion, the Prosecutor's Office considers the diversion complete, and no charges will be on the defendant's record. All persons may receive diversion more than once but not within the same 12-month period.

Since starting the program, we have had (12) diversion completions.

Without diversion ...

- **1st Offense** – Class B Misdemeanor, 6 months in jail and \$1,000 fine.
- **2nd Offense** – Class A Misdemeanor, 1 year in jail and \$2,500 fine.
- **3rd Offense** – Felony, 10 to 24 months in jail and \$100,000 fine.

Suspended License Intervention Program (SLIP)

Over 200,000 Kansans have suspended driver's licenses. The vast majority of those are not for dangerous driving, but are instead a manifestation of poverty. Meaning, they have failed to pay a traffic ticket or missed court. Kansas has the 6th highest suspension rate per capita in the nation. 40-50% of people with a suspended license will lose their jobs.

In May of 2022, in partnership with Kansas Legal Services (KLS) and the Health Department, the Municipal Court introduced this program as a way to benefit those who would otherwise not be able to recover from a cycle of continuing license suspensions by assisting defendants obtain valid licenses. Additionally, the program seeks to reduce the number of jail days served and/or additional lengthy suspensions due to habitual violator status through a supervised diversion program.

Since beginning the program (May - 2022), through the end of 2023, the SLIP has yielded impressive results.

Suspended License Intervention Program data



Data from KLS reflects the following:

- Amount of fines and fees waived for SLIP clients in traffic cases – **\$65,869.**
- An Arizona study from 2017 found that the median annual income loss as a result of driver's license suspension was **\$36,800.**
- Assuming the Arizona study is accurate, with Kansas Legal Services obtaining either restricted driving privileges or full license reinstatements for 177 Wyandotte County residents, then as of December 2023, approximately **\$6,513,600** has been put back into the pockets of Wyandotte County residents who so desperately need it.

Grant – Cities and Counties for Fine & Fee Justice (CCFFJ)

The Municipal Court has been committed to eliminating as many costs as possible, and we have implemented several changes over the past few years towards this goal. An area, though, where we have not been able to make as much progress has been the elimination of fees related to specific classes (sanctions) and/or assessments for individuals ordered to probation and/or diversion as well as those persons identified through court interaction.

The CCFFJ, led by the Fines and Fees Justice Center and the City and County of San Francisco's Financial Justice Project, is a national leadership network of local places committed to meaningful fines and fees reform that make a positive difference in the lives of low-income residents.

In August of 2022, Wyandotte County/City of Kansas City, Kansas, along with five other jurisdictions, was announced as a new member of Cities and Counties for Fine & Fee Justice. The selected leaders represent jurisdictions that are rethinking their reliance on fines and fees revenue and committed to implementing reforms that support public safety and economic prosperity for all their residents. The other jurisdictions included Chatham County, Georgia; Jefferson County, Alabama; Miami-Dade County, Florida; Washtenaw County, Michigan; and City of Wilmington, Delaware.

As a participating jurisdiction of the 2022-23 CCFFJ Cohort, we received a \$50,000 grant to help support our fine and fee reform efforts/goals, specifically:

1. The elimination of the \$30 court cost fee, which required no use of grant funds. Working with the Legal Department, Ordinance 23-13 was updated to reflect the elimination of the \$30 court cost fee – this was effective July 20, 2023.
2. Creation of a new position in Municipal Court - the Risk Engagement Assessment Liaison (REAL). Grant funding allowed us to pay for much of this position, at least through the grant period of 1 year (2023). At the end of the grant period, the Unified Government agreed to fully fund the position for at least an additional year (through 2024), and will reassess at the end of 2024 to determine if we will continue the position on a permanent basis.

We set out to have the Risk Engagement Assessment Liaison work with individuals primarily through the facilitation of classes, which can be provided at no cost to the participant. Additionally, the liaison would provide simple assessments when/if needed and assist the participant with navigating those areas specific to their individual needs – e.g. where to obtain a mental health or substance abuse evaluation. Also, the liaison will be working with community corrections on reestablishing a community service program for individuals receiving community service sanctions through Municipal Court. The liaison actively works at building relationships with community providers and partners in an effort to reduce costs to individuals where possible. We want to provide citizens with viable

options and resources that will assist them in overcoming the barriers and obstacles that could lead them back into the criminal-legal system.

New Court Management Software – “Municipal Justice”

After a long, two-year process, the Municipal Court is moving forward with a new court management software system that will greatly improve efficiency, resulting in cost savings and improved customer service. We will spend calendar year 2024 ... into some of 2025 ... transitioning to “Municipal Justice” by Tyler Technologies.

Our current system dates back to 2013, with no upgrades being made since that time. We have seen a sharp decline in the quality and reliability of our current system. Tyler Technologies is an industry leader when it comes to government and other public sector software. In addition to being a SaaS solution, Municipal Justice is a robust court management system that will be integrated with eCitation as well as state reporting systems (KDAR & KDOR), making the Court approximately 90% paperless. Additionally, the system has a check-in component as well as a video court component, which will allow us to potentially expand court services.

Yearly costs for our current system (IMDS+) is \$78,475 – which is 18% of our current operating budget.

Yearly costs for the Tyler system (Municipal Justice), after implementation, will be \$222,224.

www.tylertech.com

Appointed Defense Counsel (ADC)

A new Appointed Defense Counsel (ADC) team has recently been contracted to provide defense counsel services through Municipal Court. The defense counsel team focuses on providing excellent representation, with an emphasis on efficiency and customer service. They are physically present on the 2nd floor each Thursday and Friday (excluding the 5th week, if one), working out of two offices in room #212. After being appointed counsel in court, the defendant completes a short intake form via their own computer/tablet, phone (QR code provided), or they can utilize one of the laptops set up in a privacy booth. After completing the form, the page will take them to an appointment scheduler where they can make an appointment with their appointed defense counsel. We are very excited to have this team providing services.



Contracted yearly cost for defense counsel services is \$230,000 – which is 52% of our current operating budget.

Interpretation Services – “PropioOne”

Through one of our contract interpretation vendors (Propio), the Municipal Court implemented the use of real time video interpretation for non-English speakers. This system (PropioOne) allows the court to address many cases without requiring the need for a continuance. We also utilize this service via a dual handset phone, at our cashier window. We have an in-person Spanish interpreter at all dockets. This is through our contract with Interpreters, Inc.

Video interpretation (all languages, except ASL) = \$.73/min.

Video interpretation for ASL = \$1.59/min.

www.propio-ls.com

Interpretation costs fluctuate from year to year. We are budgeted for \$97,600 to cover the costs of interpretation services as well as the costs of pro tem judges.

– this represents 22% of our current operating budget.



Check-In Kiosks (via CQueue)

The Municipal Court has been using check-in kiosks since July of 2022. The system allows us to see, in real time, who has checked in for court. Additionally, we are able to run reports from the system going back 1 year.



www.cqueue.com

Yondr Pouches – Phone Free Courtrooms

The Municipal Court introduced Yondr pouches on February 29, 2024, due to the increased, ongoing issues we were experiencing with cell phones in the courtrooms. The usage of the Yondr pouch technology is aimed at enhancing the safety of attendees and ensuring a distraction-free environment in Municipal Court. Municipal Court attendees place their devices in soft, lockable pouches before entering the court room and maintain possession of their device. Attendees will be able to unlock their pouch and retrieve their cell phone when leaving the courtroom. Also, if necessary, attendees are able to unlock their pouch at the podium (in front of the Judge) or at the prosecutor's table.

The benefits of utilizing Yondr pouches include:

1. **Privacy and security** - Yondr pouches protect the privacy of personal information and conversations that could be captured by electronic devices, ensuring confidentiality in legal matters and protection of witnesses and defendants.
2. **Enhanced focus** - by eliminating the temptation to check or use mobile devices during court sessions, Yondr pouches foster an environment where participants can concentrate solely on the proceedings, leading to more productive and efficient hearings.
3. **Respect for decorum** - Yondr pouches encourage individuals to remain attentive and respectful, reducing disruptions caused by ringing phones, text message alerts, or the unauthorized capturing of sensitive courtroom information/interactions.



MUNICIPAL COURT

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS



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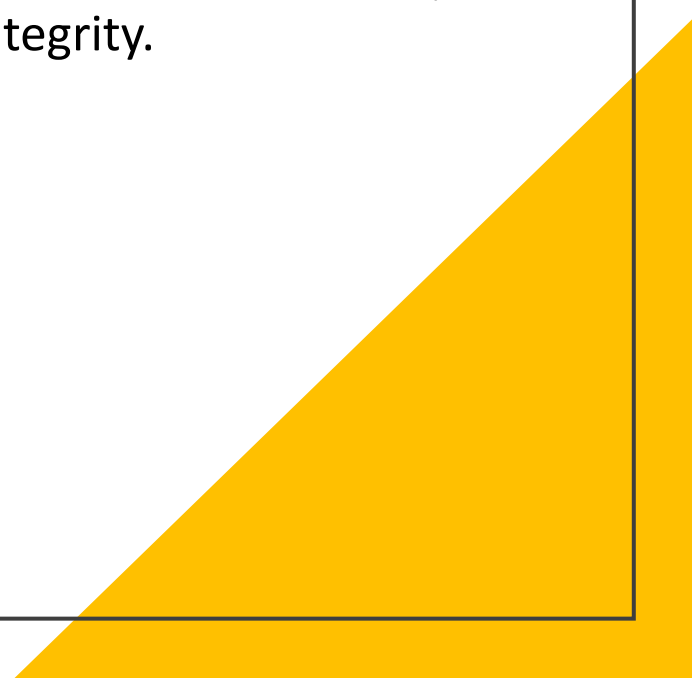
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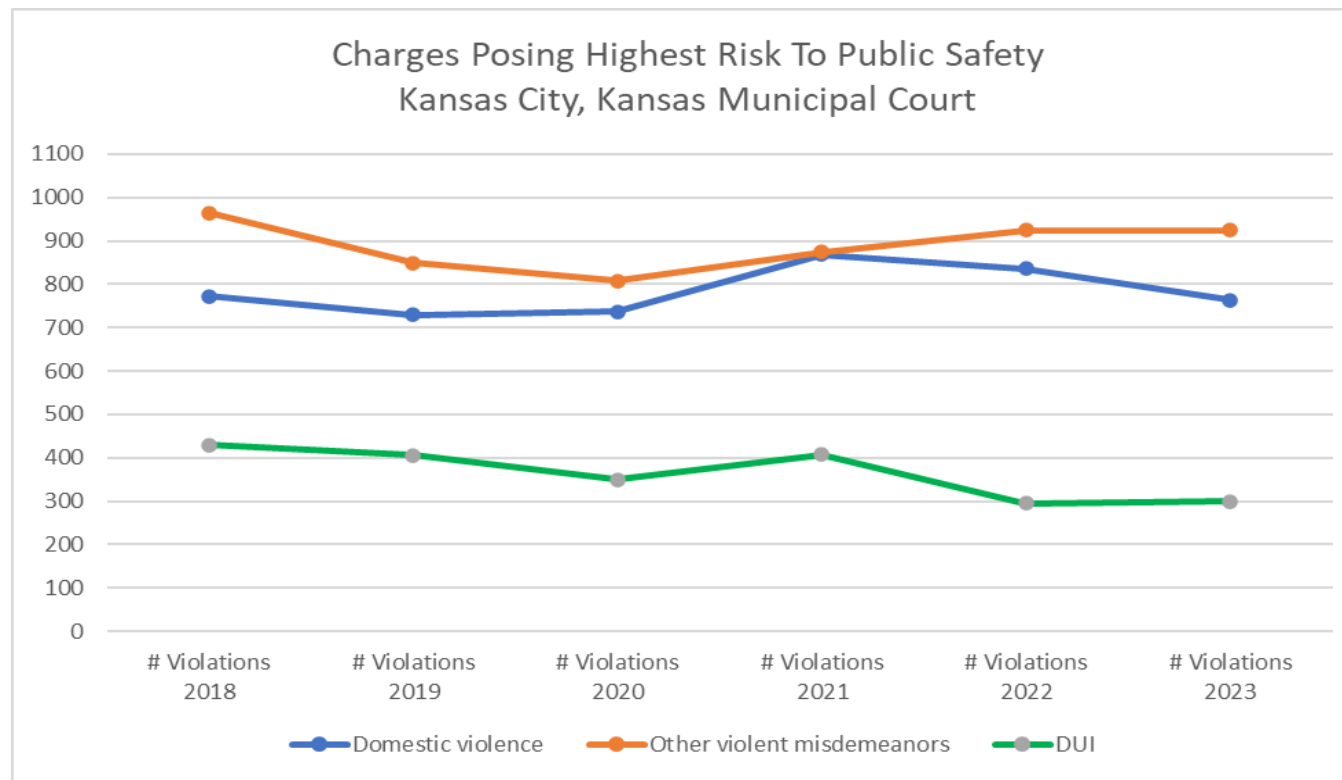
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Case Information & Statistics

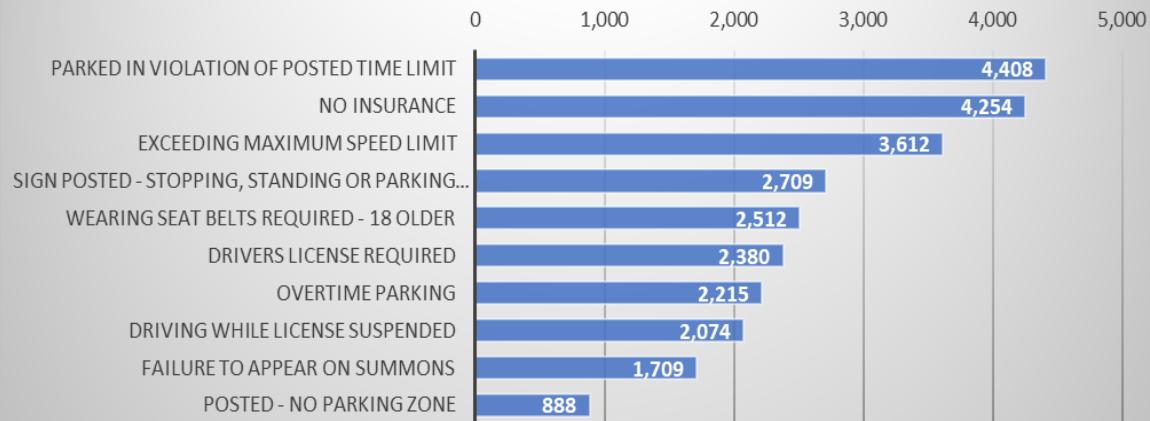
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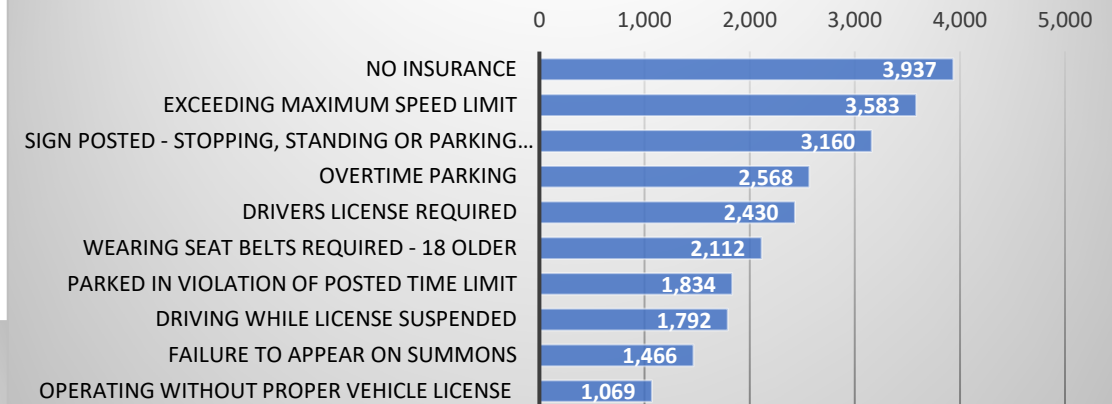


Case Information & Statistics (cont'd)

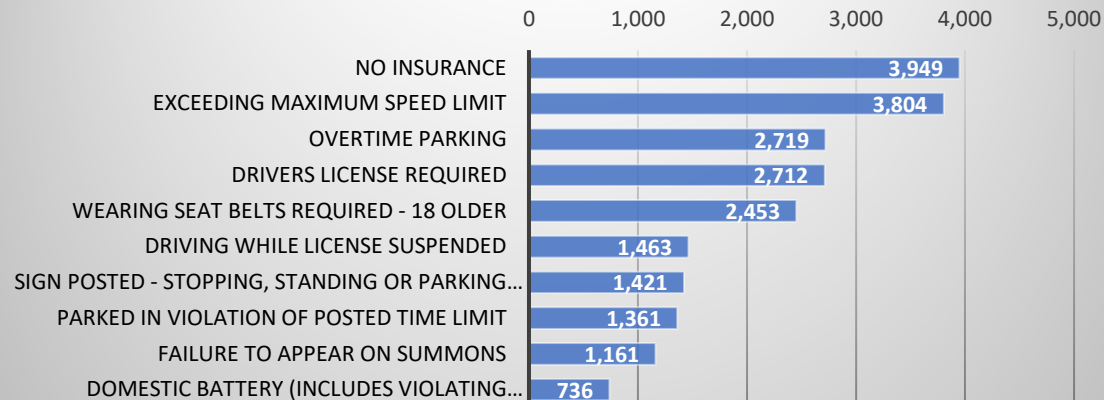
Calendar Year 2018 - Top Ten Violations
Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court



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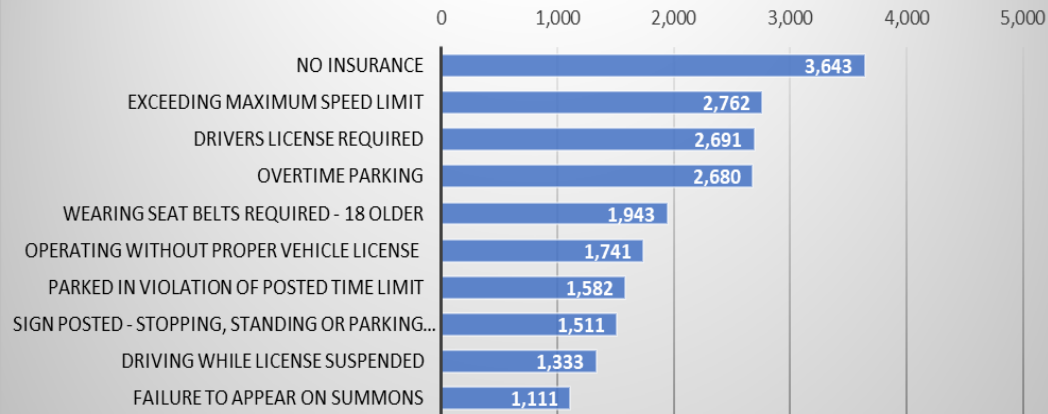


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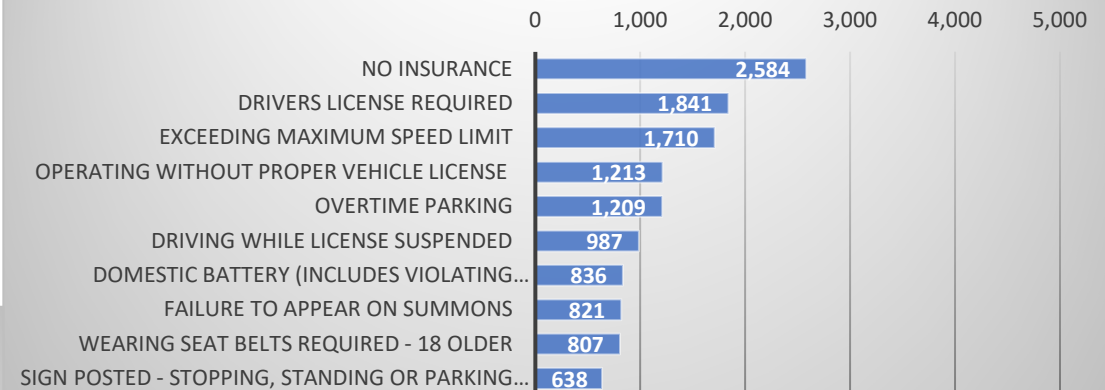


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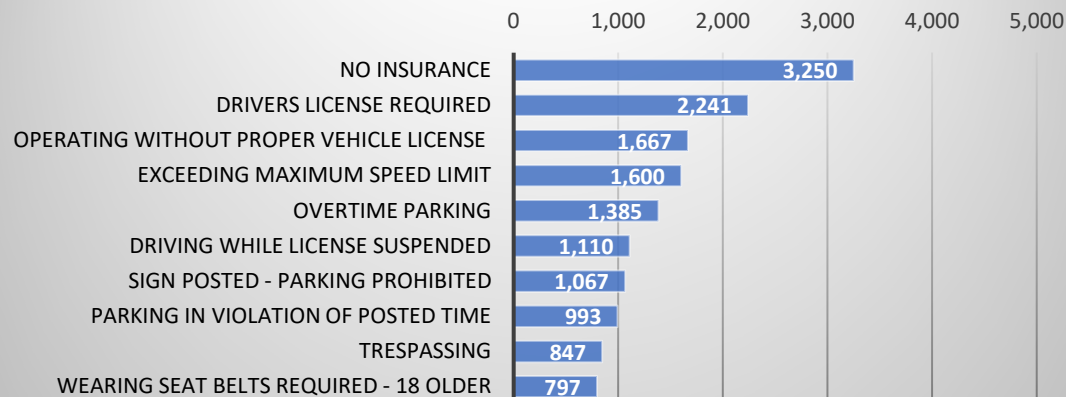
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Money Collected

Unified Government Marijuana Diversion Program

- This program began in January of this year (2024) as an option for defendants who meet the Prosecutor's Office criteria.
- What is required? Defendants are required to watch a video and pay a diversion fee of \$100 to participate. Defendants can watch the video in-person through the Prosecutor's Office, or online. If the defendant watches the video online, they will be required to complete a survey as proof.
- Upon meeting the requirements of diversion, the Prosecutor's Office considers the diversion complete, and the case dismissed. All persons may receive diversion more than once but not within the same 12-month period.
- Since starting the program, we have had (12) diversion completions.
- Without diversion ...
- **1st Offense** – Class B Misdemeanor, 6 months in jail and \$1,000 fine.
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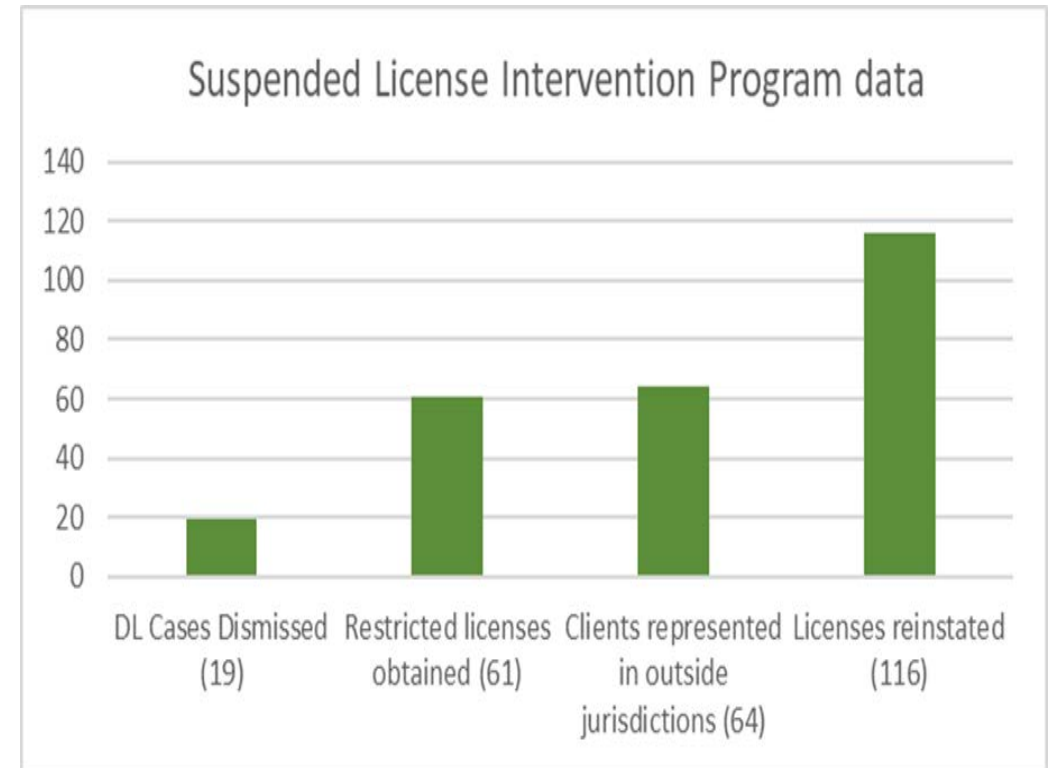
More About The Suspended License Intervention Program (SLIP)

Since beginning the program (May - 2022), through the end of 2023, the SLIP has yielded impressive results.

As a result, we are working with KLS to continue the program at a reduced capacity.

Date from KLS reflects the following“:

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Alcohol & Drug Education Class

Anger Management Class

Parenting Class

Theft Education Class

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Interpretation costs fluctuate from year to year. We are budgeted for \$97,600 to cover the costs of interpretation services as well as the costs of pro tem judges.
– this represents 22% of our current operating budget.





Appointed Defense Counsel (ADC)

A new Appointed Defense Counsel (ADC) team has recently been contracted to provide defense counsel services through Municipal Court. The defense counsel team focuses on providing excellent representation, with an emphasis on efficiency and customer service. They are physically present on the 2nd floor each Thursday and Friday (excluding the 5th week, if one), working out of two offices in room #212. After being appointed counsel in court, the defendant completes a short intake form via their own computer/tablet, phone (QR code provided), or they can utilize one of the laptops set up in a privacy booth. After completing the form, the page will take them to an appointment scheduler where they can make an appointment with their appointed defense counsel. We are very excited to have this team providing services.

- Contracted yearly cost for defense counsel services \$230,000 – which is 52% of our current operating budget.

Check-In Kiosks (via CQueue)

- The Municipal Court has been using check-in kiosks since July of 2022. The system allows us to see, in real time, who has checked in for court. Additionally, we are able to run reports from the system going back 1 year.

www.cqueue.com



Yondr Pouches – Phone Free Courtrooms

The Municipal Court introduced Yondr pouches on February 29, 2024, due to the ongoing issues we were experiencing with cell phones in the courtrooms. The usage of the Yondr pouch technology is aimed at enhancing the safety of attendees and ensuring a distraction-free environment in Municipal Court. Municipal Court attendees place their devices in soft, lockable pouches before entering the courtroom and attendees maintain possession of their device. Attendees will be able to unlock their pouch and retrieve their cell phone when leaving the courtroom. Also, if necessary, attendees are able to unlock their pouch at the podium (in front of the Judge) or at the prosecutor's table.

The benefits of utilizing Yondr pouches include:

Privacy and security - Yondr pouches protect the privacy of personal information and conversations that could be captured by electronic devices, ensuring confidentiality in legal matters and protection of witnesses and defendants.

Enhanced focus - by eliminating the temptation to check or use mobile devices during court sessions, Yondr pouches foster an environment where participants can concentrate solely on the proceedings, leading to more productive and efficient hearings.

Respect for decorum - Yondr pouches encourage individuals to remain attentive and respectful, reducing disruptions caused by ringing phones, text message alerts, or the unauthorized capturing of sensitive courtroom information/interactions.

www.veryondr.com

