



STATE OF THE COURT

Seattle City Council Briefings
September 8, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Presenters: Honorable C. Kimi Kondo, Presiding Judge
Honorable Karen Donohue, Assistant Presiding Judge
Honorable Judith Hightower, Executive Committee
Yolande E. Williams, Court Administrator



Seattle Municipal Court

Mission:

The Seattle Municipal Court provides a forum to resolve alleged violations of the law in a respectful, independent and impartial manner.





Agenda

- 1. SMC Workload Trends**
- 2. Specialty Courts**
- 3. Trial Court Judge Perspective**
- 4. Criminal Justice Roundtable**
- 5. Technology Planning Initiative**
- 6. Council Questions/Discussion**



Seattle Municipal Court Workload

2013 INFRACTION FILINGS

Parking Infractions	631,388
Traffic Infractions	42,091
Non-Traffic Infractions	2,190

2013 CRIMINAL FILINGS

Criminal Traffic	1,048
Criminal Non-Traffic	7,573
DUI	1,111



Seattle Municipal Court Workload

2013 INFRACTION PENALTIES COLLECTED

Parking Infractions	\$25,566,134
Traffic Infractions	\$2,243,092
Non-Traffic Infractions	\$60,451
Red Light Infractions	\$9,939,537
Total Infractions	\$37,809,214

2013 CRIMINAL PENALTIES COLLECTED

Criminal Traffic	\$117,434
Criminal Non-Traffic	\$25,605
DUI	\$253,823
Total	\$396,862

2013 TOTAL PENALTIES COLLECTED

Additional Fines & Forfeitures	\$6,268,522
Total	\$44,474,598



Mental Health Court

- Team Approach: Judge, defense, prosecution, probation counselors, and a mental health clinician.
- 2 years in program with regular court reviews and appointments with probation counselors.

Goals:

- ✓ Improve public safety
- ✓ Reduce use of jail and repeated interaction with criminal justice system for persons with mental illness
- ✓ Connect participants with mental health services and treatment
- ✓ Improve participant access to housing and other critical community supports
- ✓ Enhance participant quality of life



Mental Health Court

- 62% of participants successfully complete program.
- Significant decline in criminal charges for 2 years after exiting program.
- 24% of program completers have 1 or more jail booking during the two years post-program compared to 95% of participants who did not complete the program.
- Program completers spent 211 fewer days in jail during 2 years after exiting the program.
- Cost savings to the City is upwards of \$210,000.

For the latest Mental Health Court evaluation report, visit:

<http://www.seattle.gov/courts/pdf/MHReport2013.pdf>



Community Court

- Problem solving approach that serves chronic offenders who commit low-level crimes.
- Collaborative effort of the Court, Seattle City Attorney's Office, Associated Counsel for the Accused – King County Dept. of Public Defense.
- Eligible defendants are assigned community service hours at neighborhood based sites.
- Assessed for basic needs and referred to social services that help with homelessness, unemployment, education, mental health and chemical dependency.



Community Court

- **Program renewal and expansion in Fall 2013.**
 - ✓ Extended jurisdiction on some cases up to 6 months.
 - ✓ Tailoring sanctions to address individual needs.
 - ✓ Expanded eligibility criteria to include more case types.
 - ✓ Work Crew Supervisor added in 2014 Budget – brought on board mid-2014.

- **Council SLI 131-1-A-1 Report submitted July 28, 2014.**
 - ✓ Favorable numbers for community service work and mandated services (Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2014).
 - ✓ More comprehensive assessment of program effectiveness in 2015.



Veteran's Treatment Court

- Voluntary, court-monitored, long-term therapeutic treatment program.
- Links veterans to service benefits to address mental health and/or substance abuse issues, general healthcare and housing.
- Ensures that veterans meet obligations to the Court and their community.
- Veteran mentors participate in the treatment court process in support of successful program completion.



Seattle Youth Traffic Court

- Youth under 18 without prior traffic violations.
- High School students are trained by Seattle University Law students to conduct hearings.
- Youth serve as Judge, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney and Jurors.
- Youth completing program have ticket dismissed and not reported to DOL.
- Sanctions range from community service, youth court jury service, preventative education and letters of apology.
- Over 80 youth participate each year.





Court Resource Center

The Court resource Center offers the following services:

- DSHS Benefits: food stamp, financial and medical assistance
- Healthcare Referral
- Substance Abuse Services: Assessments, Relapse Prevention Class and Alcohol/Drug Information School
- Linkage to Housing and Employment Services
- Domestic Violence Treatment
- Mental Health Services: Intake and Counseling
- Self Awareness Class
- Life Skills Class
- GED Tutoring and Vocational Training
- Tribal Enrollment and Referral Assistance





Trial Court Judge Perspective

3 Trial Courts handle trials, motions and special proceedings at SMC.

Current Issues:

- Changes in DUI laws and complexity of legalized marijuana.
- Search warrant proceedings require 24/7 availability of judicial officers.
- Search warrants are required before blood draws for DUI. Requests are up 110% in Summer 2014 compared to Summer 2013.



Probation Services

- Supervision of Court ordered criminal cases.
- Conduct assessments to determine appropriate level of services.
- Refer and monitor for treatment compliance and social service connections.
- Administer alcohol and drug testing per court orders.
- Screen defendants at the King County Jail for release and indigent defense services.
- Manage pre-trial day reporting program.
- Financial screening program to determine indigence status for fine and fee setting purposes.



Probation Services – Trends

- Increased number of defendants presenting with mental health issues.
- Both pre- and post- Day Reporting numbers are at capacity.
- Day Reporting is an effective alternative to jail and saves jail costs.
- DUI cases continue to increase in complexity based upon legislative changes.



Criminal Justice Roundtable

Led by the Court and includes representatives of the Mayor's Office, City Council, City Budget Office, Police Department, City Attorney's Office and Public Defense.

Developed an integrated data narrative to better understand work flow as people are connected to and move through the Criminal Justice System.

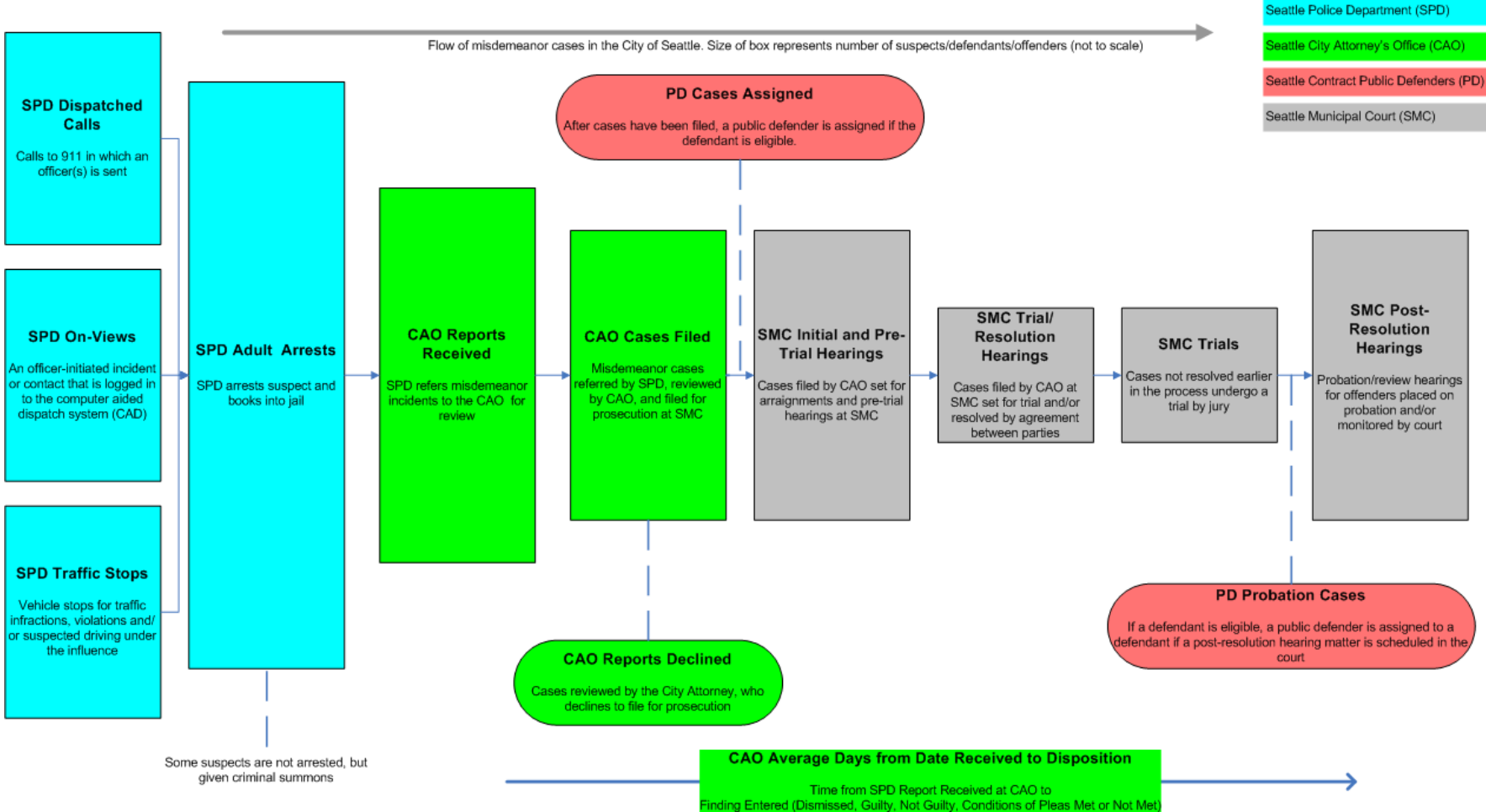
Discussion topics include:

- System-wide workload measures;
- Technology initiatives and coordination;
- Discovery for court cases and processing timelines for 911 audio and video;
- Domestic Violence case handling;
- Public defense caseload standards.



Criminal Justice Roundtable

Misdemeanor Criminal Process in the City of Seattle





Electronic Case Files

- Launched Electronic Case Files (ECF) in June 2014.
- 3rd Phase of 4 in move to an electronic courtroom.
- Case files stored electronically, allowing access online in courtroom & remotely by court staff, attorneys & public.
- Increased transparency, accountability & customer service.
- Streamline of internal processes, increased efficiency, case processing timeliness and file accuracy.
- Commitment to environmental responsibility by reducing use of paper.
- Next phase will bring electronic court forms.



Municipal Court Information System

- Maintains the Court's official record (required by statute).
- Primary method for receiving & processing all infractions.
- Processes payments between the City Treasury & Court.
- Maintains outcomes for all citations and cases and transmits case disposition data to the Washington State Department of Licensing, State Patrol and federal criminal databases.
- MCIS tracks defendant compliance with Court ordered sanctions & tracks all related fines and fees.
- The public can access MCIS data to confirm future hearings, determine the outcome of a case, pay fines and fees and more recently, electronically file court documents.



State Technology Developments

- The State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is exploring a new case management system Municipal and District courts.
- Seattle Municipal Court is an active participant in this initiative.
- The AOC anticipates having the requirements for a new system identified sometime in 2016; after which, they will select a vendor.
- Several courts are embarking on planning replacement of their systems to address their unique needs.



Strategic Business & Technology Planning

2015 Budget Request

\$150,000

Criminal Justice Strategic Business and Technology Planning

- Determine if a common solution at the State or regional level for MCIS replacement and system coordination is feasible.
- Imperative to preserve data linkages with Seattle Police Department, City Attorney's Office, Public Defense and Human Services partners.

Funding will:

- a) Establish the Seattle Justice System business & technology strategic direction;
- b) Develop the business case and funding options to support our shared vision for justice services in Seattle;
- c) Identify existing information technology systems and necessary information exchanges within criminal justice system;
- d) Evaluate the Court's business requirements to ensure that case information is accessible by other courts and the public.



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS