

**MUNICIPAL COURT MEMORANDUM
#2-2022**

DATE: Dec. 5, 2022
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
FROM: Amanda Bailhache, Presiding Municipal Judge
SUBJECT: Municipal Court End of Year Update

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with an end of year update on the Municipal Court.

BACKGROUND

Court Operations

- Municipal Court is still holding dockets virtually for traffic and code violations. Municipal Court is looking into resuming in-person court for traffic and code. Participants are not appearing prepared for virtual court. Virtual court is not as efficient as it was originally.
- The Northglenn Juvenile Community Service Program continues to be held on Sundays. The program is still run by Community Service Coordinators Sarah Skarie and Eddie Blackwell.
- Community Resource Navigator Jayme Schledewitz and Crisis Response Unit Program Manager Jessica Hulse continue to be successful resources for defendants. Judge Amanda Bailhache continues to sentence some defendants to meet with Hulse as a condition of their sentence; it is a tremendously valuable alternative sentence.

Changes

- Court Supervisor Jason Johnson has put into place a text notification system for upcoming court dates. The system is not automated it takes Johnson about an hour to send out notification. Since June 2022, Municipal Court has sent out 2,667 text messages, with 2,310 texts delivered successfully, an 86.6% delivery rate.

Month	2021 (no text reminders)	2022 (text reminders)
July	209 hearings held, 108 FTA's 51% attendance rate	255 hearings held, 66 FTA's 75% attendance rate
October	166 hearings held, 55 FTA's, 33% attendance rate	413 hearings held, 102 FTA's 75% attendance rate
November	192 hearings held, 114 FTA's 40% attendance rate	310 hearings held, 109 FTA's, 65% attendance rate

- Johnson changed the format and now includes more substantive information in the Municipal Court's monthly reports. Bailhache and Johnson believe that switching from quarterly to bi-annual court updates will be more informative. They would like City Council feedback on this proposed change.
- Municipal Court has launched a customer service survey that is available on the court website.

- Hulse, Bailhache and Johnson have developed a pilot problem-solving court named the Northglenn Community Court. Community Court has held two sessions. Community Court will be in session the 2nd Friday of the month in the CRU Resource Room during the resource hours. The goal of Community Court is to meet participants where they are at and hold them accountable. Community Court is a voluntary program however there are sanctions for non-compliance.

Upcoming Changes

- Municipal Court will be recruiting for the Full-Time Probation Officer position, approved in the 2023 City Budget, soon. Johnson plans on hiring in the first couple months of 2023.
- Another staffing shift is to provide a designated clerk for the City Prosecutor. This change was discussed during the 2023 City Budget process.
- Municipal Court has made substantial progress in preparing to go paperless. The transition will start with traffic cases.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or time impacts to the City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, please contact Amanda Bailhache, Presiding Municipal Judge, at abailhache@northglenn.org or 303.881.1303.