



City of Tigard Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Emily Oberdorfer, Presiding Judge
Re: Tigard Municipal Court Annual Report
Date: June 28, 2022

I am pleased to submit the 23rd annual review of the Tigard Municipal Court operations to City Council and the City Manager.

1. **Court Goals:** The court's first objective is to provide an impartial local forum for adjudication of relatively minor cases in a fair, professional, equitable, and efficient manner. In addition, the court strives to promote justice, act as a community resource, and provide education about public safety, Oregon law, and the legal process. In the upcoming year we plan to:
 - a. Increase community engagement through engagement with local schools, when conditions allow.
 - b. Provide court-specific DEI training to Courts teammates.
 - c. Explore alternative sanctions to fines for our most vulnerable defendants.
 - d. Continue to promote learning and leadership among current teammates.

2. **Highlights:** We have a wonderful team made up of smart, enthusiastic, and hardworking people. We work to support the City's Community Promise for excellence in customer service through the following:
 - a. We have reworked our standard operating procedures to accommodate our increased caseload. Our new step-by-step systems have helped us clear several backlogs created by court closures and open positions.
 - b. We began cross training all the clerks to ensure that tasks are shared as equally as possible among our team.
 - c. We began developing a training manual to help guide new employees and their trainers.
 - d. We added two additional Spanish-English clerks giving us a total of three teammates available to provide excellent service to our Spanish speaking community members.
 - e. We added "open court" twice a week to increase community engagement by giving people an unscheduled opportunity to come speak with the judge. This is in addition to the scheduled arraignment date printed on their citation.

3. **Caseload:** Between June 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022 there were 24,980 total cases filed. Of those, 2,814 are still pending resolution.
 - a. The overall number of filings is down 1,546 from July 2020-June 2021.
 - b. Of that, 15,067 were photo speeding tickets.
 - c. 14,639 of the photo cases alleged speeding between 11-20 mph over the speed limit.
 - d. 403 photo cases alleged 21-30 mph over the limit.
 - e. 25 photo citations were for 31 mph over.
 - f. 5,094 of the photo cases alleged Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device, or “photo red light”.
 - g. Citations issued from in person stops were slightly up from the year before with a total of 2,824.

4. **Traffic Safety Program:** Diversion continues to be a popular option for eligible defendants and helps further the City’s goal to improve driver safety. Those who enroll are required to take a class and pay a fee to the court within 120 days. If the participant completes their obligations within the allotted timeframe, the citation is dismissed. No defendant is turned away due to ability to pay the court fee.
 - a. Approximately 2,222 people signed up for the program.
 - b. 2,102 people (95%) completed their obligations and had their case dismissed.

5. **Distracted Driving Avoidance Course (DDAC)** is a statewide program offered to all defendants with a first-time citation for “Unlawful Use of Mobile Electronic Device”, colloquially a cell phone ticket. After completion of the course the fine is waived, and the conviction is sent to the DMV. There were 25 defendants who took advantage of that option.

6. **Administrative Setbacks:** The court is still running below allocated FTE.
 - a. Judge Oberdorfer began acting as court operations supervisor in December 2021.
 - b. Recruitment for two positions closed on June 12 and look forward to more folks joining our team.
 - c. We began addressing the over 8,800 cases in which people failed to appear. As of this writing, we have been able to reduce that number 75% to 2,238.

7. **Team Member Development:** In addition to working together during turbulent times, we participated in coordinated team building sessions which helped us evolve as a team. Our team works well together, respects one another, and believes the best about each other. We are proud to work for the City of Tigard and support our Community Promises for Excellence and Equity.
 - a. Judge Oberdorfer was elected to the Board of the Oregon Municipal Judges Association.
 - b. Judge Oberdorfer attended the OMJA conference in April, 2022.
 - c. Maria Nguyen was Tigard’s Employee of the Month in March 2022.
 - d. Linette Moncayo and Maria Nguyen attended the Oregon Association of Court.
 - e. Holly Fenton completed Leadership Tigard in 2021 and organized the Public Safety & Judicial System portion of this year’s program.

I invite any questions you may have.