

Colorado Springs Municipal Court 2014 Annual Report





HayDen W. Kane, II
Presiding Judge/Acting Court Administrator

Municipal Court Mission

The Municipal Court's mission is to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Colorado Springs by promoting public safety, traffic safety, and respect for the administration of justice by applying sanctions for violations of municipal ordinances. We are a limited jurisdiction court of record that hears and adjudicates misdemeanor, traffic and parking violations for adult/juvenile offenders.

Municipal Court Statistics

Judicial Officers and Staff

1 Presiding Judge/Acting Court Administrator
11 Judges (all part-time—3.099 Total FTE)
4 Court Referees (all part-time—.875 Total FTE)
35 FTE Positions (6.5 Vacant)
2 Temporary Employees

2014 Budget and Collections

Budget Allocation: \$3,686,308
Expenses: \$3,482,326
Collections: \$5,694,507

Comparison of Case Filings by Case Type 2013 and 2014

	2013	2014	% Change
Criminal	4,302	5,322	+23.71%
Traffic	24,774	32,606	+31.61%
Parking	35,701	34,233	-4.11%
Total	64,777	72,140	+11.36%

Comparison of Court Proceedings and Activities 2013 and 2014

	2013	2014	% Change
Hearings Scheduled	32,004	46,086	+44.00%
Warrants Issued	6,719	9,196	+36.87%
Warrants Served	6,013	7,790	+29.55%
Bench Trials	217	648	+198.61%
Jury Trials	9	19	+111.11%

Comparison of Probation Department Workloads and Activities

	2013	2014	% Change
New Probation Services	16,227	18,442	+13.65%
Presentence Investigations	188	266	+41.49%
Pending Probation Cases (Open Warrants, Absconder)	1,240	1,607	+29.60%
Attorney Appointments	1,071	1,808	+68.81%

Comparison of Court Referee Hearings (Formal and Informal) 2013 and 2014

	2013	2014	% Change
No Proof of Insurance	676	929	+37.42%
Traffic	14	33	+135.71%
Parking	4,537	4,815	+6.12%
Dog Violations	15	20	+33.33%
Exhaust/Emissions	3	4	+33.33%
Noise	3	9	+200.00%
Post Tow Hearings	75	60	-20.00%
Miscellaneous	14	27	+92.85%
Total	5,337	5,897	+10.49%

Achievements

- Consolidation of Management. The Court combined the Presiding Judge and Court Administrator position, eliminating middle management and providing significant salary savings for the Court.
- Consolidation of Dockets. Due to staffing pressures on the City Attorney's office, the Court eliminated one trial docket per day by consolidating those dockets with other trial dockets during the week. This consolidation, in addition to meeting the staffing needs of the City Prosecutors Office, provided for significant salary savings in Judicial Compensation.
- Implementation of process and procedural changes required by recent state legislation. The Court was required to amend and/or alter virtually all business practices and procedures in 2014 due to legislation signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper in 2013 and 2014. These process and procedure changes implemented in 2014 include the following:
 - Jurisdictional Changes. Prior to 2014, the Colorado Springs Municipal Court had a single jurisdictional limit for all cases. Due to state legislation, the court had to split its jurisdictional limits, one for minor traffic offenses, the other for major traffic offenses and criminal ordinance violations.
 - Changes to the Court Appointed Attorney Process. Prior to 2014, defendants were able to discuss their case with the City Prosecutor's Office before attempting to qualify for court appointed attorney. As of January 1, 2014, a defendant has to either be screened for indigency to qualify for a court appointed attorney or waive their right to be represented prior to any discussions about their case with the City Prosecutor's office.
 - Changes in the requirements for sealing of records. Prior to 2014, only dismissals, acquittals and juvenile records were subject to sealing and/or expungements. As of January 1, 2014, all municipal ordinance violations (excluding traffic), including convictions, are subject to sealing. Petitions to Seal records have increased exponentially, requiring the creation of a Data Integrity Technician position to process these petitions.
 - Changes to warrant and bond procedures. Legislation signed into law in 2013 and 2014 required the Court to alter its procedures for issuing warrants and the types of bonds that could be accepted by the Court.
- Implementation of E-Processes
 - E-Citation – In collaboration with CSPD, the e-citation project was deployed in 2014. E-citation significantly reduces time required to issue a citation enhancing officer safety and moves the court closer to the ultimate goal of a paper-on-demand environment.
 - E-Discovery – All discovery provided to court appointed attorneys is now sent by email, increasing efficiency and moving the court closer to the ultimate goal of a paper-on-demand environment.
- Collaboration with Federal Bankruptcy Court. The Municipal Court was approached in 2013 by the Bankruptcy Trustee to use one of our courtrooms for their §341 Creditor's Hearings. The Bankruptcy Trustee now utilizes one of our City courtrooms for these hearings twice a month.
- Collaboration with Local Artists. Colorado Springs Municipal Court recently contracted with a local artist, Sara Ware Howsam, to display her work in the lobby of the courthouse. Sue M. Grant, an Associate Municipal Court Judge, has allowed the Court to display her artwork on the 3rd floor of the courthouse.

Public Comment Card Results

Section I: Access to Justice

1. I was able to easily find the courthouse, courtrooms and/or necessary facilities.
2. Court met my physical and/or language needs.
3. I was able to complete court business in a timely and effective manner.
4. Public seating was sufficient and functional.
5. Courthouse parking was convenient and available.
6. Courthouse hours of operation were convenient and reasonable.
7. The Courthouse was conveniently located and accessible.

Access to Justice Results

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	3.2%	0.5%	23.8%	72.5%
	2.0%	1.1%	19.1%	77.8%
	10.1%	6.5%	26.4%	56.9%
	2.5%	1.1%	24.5%	71.9%
	10.9%	10.1%	25.5%	53.5%
	3.2%	2.1%	27.1%	67.6%
	2.7%	0.8%	24.7%	71.8%

	Negative Feedback	Positive Feedback
	3.7%	96.3%
	3.1%	96.9%
	16.6%	83.4%
	3.6%	96.4%
	21.0%	79.0%
	5.3%	94.7%
	3.5%	96.5%

Section II: Fairness, Equality, and Integrity

1. Court personnel handled my case fairly and impartially.
2. Court allowed me to express my point of view.
3. Court promotes equal justice.
4. Court's instructions and decisions were clear and understandable.

Fairness, Equality, and Integrity Results

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	6.8%	4.9%	19.8%	68.6%
	7.7%	5.7%	20.9%	65.6%
	7.3%	5.1%	24.3%	63.3%
	4.7%	3.3%	21.4%	70.6%

	Negative Feedback	Positive Feedback
	11.7%	88.3%
	13.5%	86.5%
	12.4%	87.6%
	8.0%	92.0%

Section III: Public Trust and Confidence

1. Court treated me with courtesy, dignity and respect.
2. I felt safe in the courthouse.
3. Court personnel were attentive and responded to me in a professional manner.
4. Courthouse facilities were clean and well maintained.
5. I have trust and confidence in the Court.

Public Trust and Confidence Results

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	7.7%	2.4%	17.3%	72.5%
	3.2%	1.6%	20.7%	74.5%
	7.2%	2.1%	16.6%	74.1%
	2.7%	2.7%	17.0%	77.6%
	9.8%	6.3%	20.7%	63.3%

	Negative Feedback	Positive Feedback
	10.1%	89.9%
	4.8%	95.2%
	9.4%	90.6%
	5.4%	94.6%
	16.0%	84.0%

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	6.1%	3.0%	18.5%	72.4%

	Negative Feedback	Positive Feedback
	9.1%	90.9%

Actual Statements from Comment Cards

- "Way better than other traffic courts"
- "Extremely professional, patient, took the time to explain every little thing and answered every question with a very detailed answer."
- "I am grateful for the exceptional service I received. The Court made me feel like they really care about people. Thank you!"
- "Your staff remembers that we are all just people. Good job remembering the human aspect."
- "Took the effort to the next level unlike any courthouse experience before."
- "Staff displayed a high level of professionalism and customer service."
- "It is nice to come into the courthouse and be served quickly and have great customer service."
- "I've been an attorney, DA, District Court Magistrate, and Probation Officer for the last 30 years in Colorado and this is the best functioning court system I have appeared in."