

DES MOINES MUNICIPAL COURT

STATE OF THE COURT – 2025

Hon. Lisa M. Leone, Presiding Judge

Melissa Patrick, Director of Court Administration



DMMC MISSION STATEMENT

Des Moines Municipal Court is dedicated to the fair, impartial, and timely administration of justice, providing the community it serves with a safe and accessible environment that is respectful to all. The business of the Court shall be conducted with integrity, competence, and a commitment to excellence, in order to promote public trust and confidence in our system of justice.

CORE SERVICES

- File, process, & adjudicate the following:
 - Criminal Cases: misdemeanors & gross misdemeanor charges
 - Traffic Infractions
 - Photo Enforcement Citations
 - Parking Tickets
 - Non-Traffic Civil Infractions: abatement/nuisance cases, animal code violations
 - Vehicle Impounds
- Post-conviction supervision & monitoring of sentencing conditions in criminal cases

COURT PROGRAMS

- Support Services (Probation): random drug testing program; cognitive behavioral programming such as Domestic Violence Moral Reconciliation Therapy (DVMRT); ongoing case management to monitor compliance with conditions of sentence
- DUI Court: therapeutic court for high risk/high needs DUI offenders – provides intensive supervision, increased accountability, and wrap-around services with treatment, cognitive behavioral programs, relicensing, budgeting, and more. Since 2018, served 32 participants with 12 graduates.

COURT PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

- Pretrial & Post-Conviction Monitoring: GPS, electronic home detention, alcohol monitoring (EHM Washington); ordered as condition of pretrial release, sanction for non-compliance, and/or alternative to confinement
- Peer Navigator Program: in partnership with Federal Way Municipal Court and Peer Connections, peer navigators work with justice-involved individuals to connect them with housing, treatment, employment, health care, and basic needs resources.
- Unified Payment Program (UPP): multi-jurisdictional payment option for legal financial obligations
- King County Interjurisdictional Warrant Program

CURRENT STAFFING

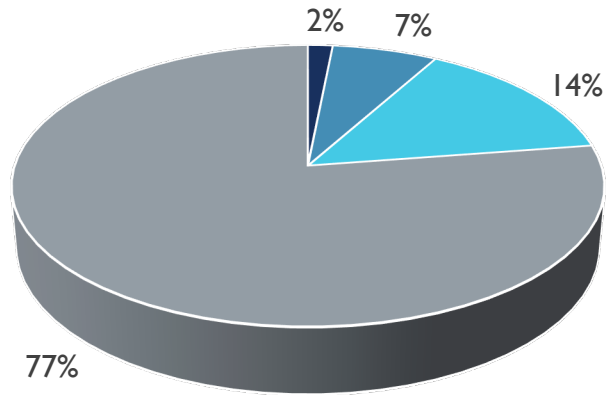
- Judge: .85 FTE
- Director of Court Administration: 1 FTE
- Court Operations Supervisor: 1 FTE
- Court Clerks: 5 Permanent FTE, 1 LIMITED-TERM FTE
- Support Services (Probation): 2 FTE
- Total Employees: 10.85 FTE

DES MOINES MUNICIPAL COURT STAFF

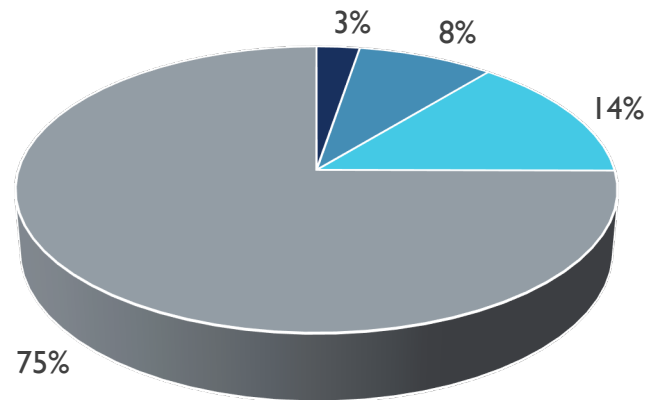


NUMBER OF CASES FILED 2022-2024

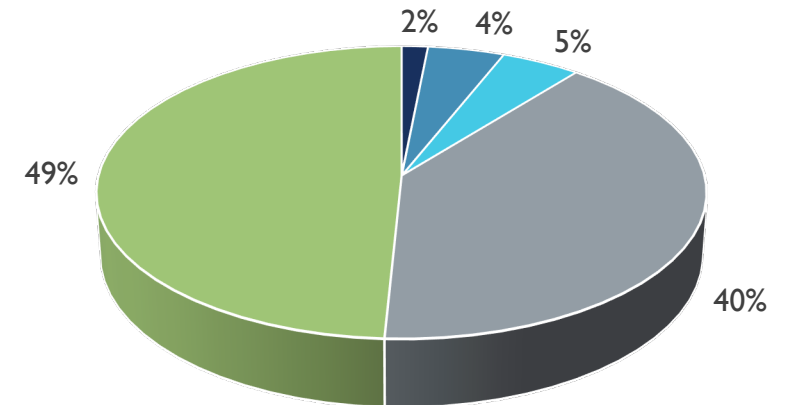
2022
20,109



2023
16,586



2024
31,078
+87.4%

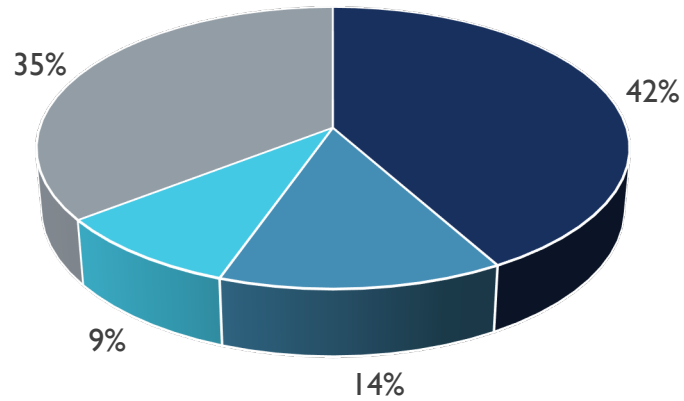


- Criminal
- Infractions
- School Zone
- Red Light
- Park Zone

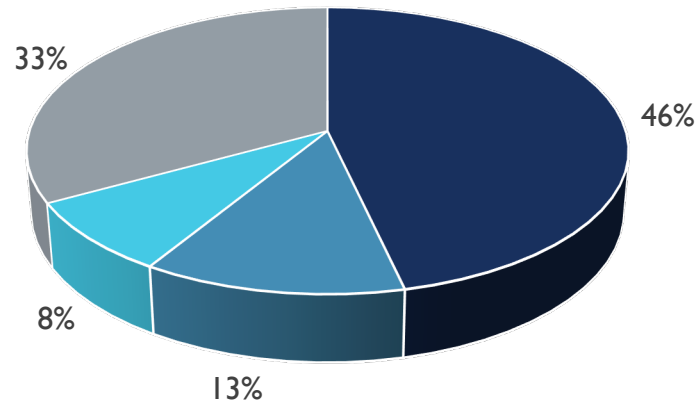
Note: 2024 chart represents only 7 months of park zone filings.

NUMBER OF HEARINGS HELD 2022-2024

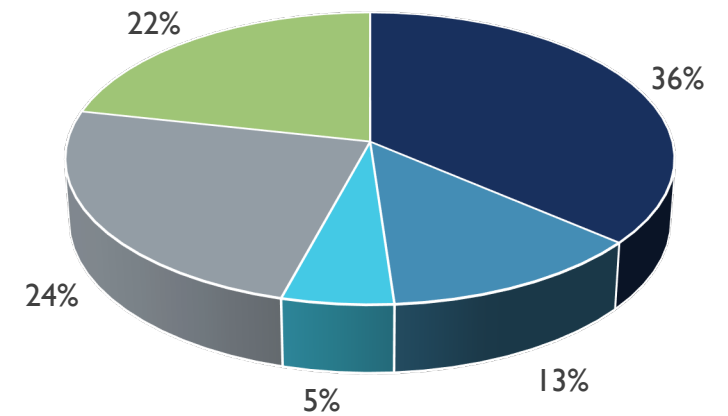
2022
4,557



2023
4,938



2024
6,219
+25.9%



■ Criminal ■ Infractions ■ School Zone
■ Red Light ■ Park Zone

Note: 2024 chart represents only 5 months of park zone hearings.

CHALLENGES MOVING FORWARD

- Staffing
- Space
- Court calendar availability
- Interpreter shortage

IN SUMMARY

- Our Court is currently at capacity.
- Court rules and local/state law dictate timelines for processing and adjudication of civil traffic infractions/citations.
- Going forward: court will continue to work collaboratively with city manager and council to address staffing, space, and other challenges.