



## **JEROME MUNICIPAL COURT**

**Hon. Angela M. Bradshaw Napper, Magistrate**

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TO: Jerome Town Council

FROM: Angela M. Bradshaw Napper, Magistrate

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Report

DATE: October 31, 2024

Sincere apologies for missing the September report. Please accept this update for September and October. Time passes so quickly, particularly as the seasons change.

The Court has remained busy with an increase in filings for September, but with October leveling back to filings comparable to August. The number of cases requiring the appointment of counsel remain similar to prior fiscal years. Financial reports and information from September have been made available for your review.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEPC) meeting was held on September 19, 2024. We discussed specifics for and the installation of the upgraded security system, which is scheduled for installation on November 18 and 19. The committee also had on-going discussion about emergency evacuation maps and plans. A policy was adopted for regular security equipment testing, and the committee discussed at length the possibility of an additional room for court use. An additional room would allow for private meetings between defendant(s) and attorney(s) at pretrial conferences and prior to or during other hearings as needed. Currently, defendants and attorneys meet in the hallway, which presents security challenges and possible security risks. Meeting in an open hallway also affords little privacy for attorneys to consult privately with their clients. Committee members viewed an empty, but partially framed-in space currently used to store chairs and considered it a possible option for future use. From this discussion, it became apparent that other town departments and stake holders should be involved.

After discussion regarding the need for additional court space, a new committee was formed, which includes the current SEPC members, Deputy Town Clerk, Kristen Muenz and Vice Mayor, Jane Moore. A meeting of the new, Court Space Improvement Committee was held on October 17, 2024. We plan to explore making better use of space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor currently dedicated to court use, while improving security by providing a multi-use space for attorney/client meetings, persons secured and remanded to custody, and jurors. The committee is hopeful that the court improvement project provides incentive for additional improvements to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building for meeting areas, record storage, document archives, and other possible town projects.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be of service. I look forward to attending the November council meeting.