

January 8, 2025

**Semi-Annual Report for January 8, 2025 – July 7, 2025**

City Prosecutor – Samuel Erskine

**To: Mayor Massey and Council Members**

**Introductory statistics:**

As with previous reports, I will begin this memorandum with a brief snapshot of prosecution statistics that I have kept since beginning in my position as city prosecutor:

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
<b>Police reports received/processed</b>	380	411	341	341	374	473
<b>Total cases referred</b>	242	290	232	250	262	351
<b>Total cases charged</b>	184	190	195	175	167	238*
<b>Jury trials held</b>	8	0	0	2	2	4

\*There are still several cases pending further review or awaiting additional evidence, so this number may end up being slightly higher.

As anticipated, the final case numbers for 2024 (with a few cases still left to be processed) will be the highest of my tenure to date. I anticipate seeing elevated jury trial numbers in the coming year to correspond with this increase in cases charged as these cases finish working their way through the court process. It will be interesting to see whether these case number trends continue in 2025 to learn whether they represent a more typical picture for municipal court case numbers than the picture that developed during the COVID 19 pandemic and its aftermath.

**Non-prosecution work:**

Recent court-adjacent work has been relatively minimal and has involved providing legal research assistance for questions brought by the police department relating to legal issues relevant to enforcement of misdemeanor and traffic offenses.

**Closing:**

The municipal court continues to function well from my vantage point. One item that I would like to highlight in my closing remarks for this report is that the increase in case numbers seen during 2024 should be viewed in consideration of what information is given to the council regarding the staffing levels at the police department. In other words, I want to highlight that, should staffing in the police patrol ranks increase, it seems likely that there may also be a corresponding increase in case referrals beyond even where they were in 2024. This seems worthwhile to note as there may be additional need for allocation of financial resources to the court should case numbers increase substantially from where they were in 2024.

As always, I am more than happy to answer questions or respond to inquiries about any of the information contained in this report or anything else relevant to my role as prosecutor. I continue to be honored to serve the city in this capacity and look forward to continuing this work into the future.

Thank you,

Sam Erskine  
City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens