

July 13, 2022

Semi-Annual Report for January 19, 2022 – July 20, 2022

City Prosecutor – Samuel Erskine

To: Mayor Scholl and Council Members

Introductory note:

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:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u> *to date
Police reports received/processed	380	411	341	189
Total cases referred	242	290	232	130
Total cases charged	184	190	195	84
Jury trials held	8	0	0	1

The 2022 numbers will likely see substantial adjustments with respect to the cases referred and charged as a number of cases are still pending review or awaiting additional evidence in order to finalize a charging decision. Given that, I anticipate that the numbers overall will be comparable to the other years, and I am hopeful that jury trials will resume in earnest again assuming the pandemic situation remains stable.

Derelict and abandoned vessel enforcement:

As a result of the tremendous amount of hard work on the part of multiple city officials and citizen participants, I anticipate that enforcement measures will soon begin in earnest with respect to derelict and abandoned vessels in St. Helens city waterways. I plan to coordinate closely with city staff and police department officials to ensure that the changes made to the enforcement framework are understandable and effective, and I will continue to make recommendations for any needed changes as the city rolls out its new policies and practices. I am hopeful that these changes will have an immediate and positive impact on this issue and that my role in the enforcement end of these polices will represent a new added value to the city's municipal court and my role as the city prosecutor.

Closing:

Overall, from the standpoint of the role of the city prosecutor, the municipal court continues to function in a professional and efficient manner. I am honored to continue to serve in my role as prosecutor, and I appreciate the opportunity to highlight notable achievements or potential needs or concerns via the semi-annual reports that I provide to council. With respect to the latter, I do not see any areas of concern at this time and, as with my other reports, I have nothing but the highest praise for the other court personnel and the members of the police department.

Finally, I apologize for not having appeared in person for my last several reports. I have an ongoing conflict with appearances on Wednesdays, but I plan to inquire as to whether there might be an opportunity to appear before the council in person on some other day for my next report. If there is not, I am more than happy to answer any questions or respond to concerns any time by phone or email.

Samuel Erskine
City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens