

August 14, 2025

Semi-Annual Report for January 8, 2025 – August 13, 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:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Police reports received/processed	380	411	341	341	374	473	266
Total cases referred	242	290	232	250	262	351	188
Total cases charged	184	190	195	175	167	245	99*
Jury trials held	8	0	0	2	2	4	1

*There are referred cases pending further review or awaiting additional evidence, so this number is not a strong indicator of total cases that will be issued by the end of the year.

Case trends for this year suggest a return to numbers more consistent with the years 2019-2023 than those seen in 2024. While the reasons for the 2024 increase in cases are not apparent from the information available to me, it would be interesting to compare the case statistics with data about police staffing levels to determine whether there is a discernible connection between those two items that is evident from the statistics.

Non-prosecution work:

Recent non-prosecution work has included a transition of duties related to review of court and police related public records requests. This work has included establishing a more formalized structure for review and response to records requests, and appears to have coincided with a recent increase in court and police related requests. I look forward to expanding my role with respect to this process and to ensuring that the city processes records requests in an equitable, legally-appropriate, and expedient manner.

A second project (which is unrelated to the records work) involves creating a training framework to assist the police department with enforcement of legal issues related to dog-bite incidents. This work is still in a preliminary stage involving a review of the applicable state statutes and city code provisions, but will hopefully be ready for dissemination in short order.

Closing:

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 appreciate the ongoing opportunity to serve the city and look forward to continuing this work into the future.

Thank you,

Sam Erskine
Sam Erskine

City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens