

July 26, 2023

Semi-Annual Report for January 26, 2023 – July 26, 2023

City Prosecutor – Samuel Erskine

To: Mayor Scholl 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>
Police reports received/processed	380	411	341	341	207
Total cases referred	242	290	232	250	138
Total cases charged	184	190	195	175*	70*
Jury trials held	8	0	0	2	1

*Includes cases still pending further review/awaiting additional evidence

The ratio of cases charged to those referred for 2023 appears poised to return closer to the historic norm of approximately 70% based on a number of outstanding cases likely to be issued soon. Overall, the numbers for 2023 do not show any substantial deviations from prior years with respect to the metrics tracked in this table.

Item of note (Thirteen Nights enforcement issues):

As part of this written update, I thought it might be helpful to draw the council's attention to one particular item for which I provided some enforcement guidance to the police department earlier in the year. Specifically, I responded to inquiries from police department staff about what enforcement options would be available to the department with respect to alcohol-related and trespassing-related issues arising out of the Thirteen Nights events. Ultimately, my general advice to the department was that enforcement activities related to these two issues were substantially hampered by several factors, including the lack of physical barriers for the event space, some facially confusing regulations associated with the event permit, and questions about the designation of authority for issuing exclusions from the event. For brevity's sake I will not include my full analysis of these issues here, but I would be happy to share that analysis with the council or city staff in the future if there is interest in seeing a more thorough explanation of these issues or in developing some proposals for how to address them.

Closing:

The consistency in the statistics outlined above is, in my view, a reflection of the court's (and police department's) ongoing stability and professionalism. The municipal court continues to function as an effective and impartial venue for the prosecution of misdemeanor, traffic, and code violations that occur within the city. I am grateful for the council's ongoing support of the court's efforts in this regard and continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve in my position as prosecutor.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any follow-up questions or requests.

Thank you,

Sam Erskine

Sam Erskine

City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens