

July 9, 2024

Semi-Annual Report for January 11, 2024 – July 9, 2024

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>	<u>2024</u>
Police reports received/processed	380	411	341	341	374	257
Total cases referred	242	290	232	250	262	190
Total cases charged	184	190	195	175	167	136*
Jury trials held	8	0	0	2	2	3

*Includes cases still pending further review/awaiting additional evidence

The data so far for this year suggest that the 2024 final tally will be substantially higher than previous years in all respects if referrals continue on the same pace. Additionally, the total jury trial number should end up being closer to the 2019 figure based on the matters currently scheduled for trial.

Non-prosecution work:

Recent court-adjacent work has included engaging with the police department to address issues related to trespass enforcement at area apartment complexes. This included an in-person legal update and question and answer session. Additional legal research assistance is ongoing relating to issues concerning firearm disposition and evidence releases, and for potential criminal prosecution for unlawful firearm purchasing.

Closing:

At the risk of repeating information from previous updates, I can report that – from the perspective of the role of city prosecutor – the municipal court continues to function in an efficient and professional manner. The police department also continues to excel in its investigatory standards, professionalism, and ability to respond in a flexible manner to law changes.

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

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City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens