

January 10, 2024

Semi-Annual Report for July 27, 2023 – January 10, 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>
Police reports received/processed	380	411	341	341	374
Total cases referred	242	290	232	250	262
Total cases charged	184	190	195	175	154*
Jury trials held	8	0	0	2	2

*Includes cases still pending further review/awaiting additional evidence

Once remaining case filings are completed for 2023, I anticipate that the ultimate number of cases charged to be very close to the figures from previous years. With five full years of data, it is encouraging to see that the numbers have been generally consistent throughout the years, as this seems to be a strong indicator of stability for both the court and police department.

Looking ahead:

In the depth of January it is somewhat difficult to look forward to the summer months ahead, but I thought it useful to take a moment in this report to highlight a few of the prospective items that I plan to engage with the police department and city staff about. First among those items is to revisit some of the ideas I proposed for increasing the police department's enforcement capabilities as they relate to the Thirteen Nights event. To that end, I plan to revisit the information I gathered prior to my last report and to work with Jose Castilleja – who currently serves as a police department liaison with my office and the court – to develop some concrete proposals for changes that could be made. The second item I hope to revisit is the enforcement surrounding derelict vessels in St. Helens waterways. My hope is that, if improvements need to be made to either of these issues, I can assist the city well in advance of the summer season when those issues become most prominent.

Closing:

Overall, the court and police department continue to reflect a trend of stability and professionalism. I am grateful for the continued opportunity to serve as prosecutor and am always happy to assist in whatever way I can to improve the functioning of city services and events.

Thank you,

Sam Erskine
City Prosecutor for the City of St. Helens