



Seattle Municipal Court

Jean Rietschel, Presiding Judge

Mission Statement

The mission of the Municipal Court of Seattle is to provide fair, accessible, and timely resolution of alleged violations of the Seattle Municipal Code in an atmosphere of respect for the public, employees, and other government entities.

Goals

- Institute outreach programs to improve public trust and confidence in the courts.
- Enhance service delivery in court facilities to eliminate redundancy and to fully optimize the New Justice Center facility, which is scheduled to open mid-2002.
- Increase the overall effectiveness of court operations.
- Enhance efforts to recruit and retain a highly skilled workforce.

Appropriations

Fund/Line of Business (in thousands of dollars)	Summit Code	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
General Subfund					
Court Administration	M3	1,663	1,973	2,287	2,357
Court Operations	M2	16,338	16,380	17,364	17,729
Department Total		18,002	18,353	19,651	20,086
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)		257.69	256.69	257.69	258.69

Municipal Court

Court Administration

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Court Administration Line of Business and Program is to provide administrative controls, develop and provide strategic direction, establish structure and provide a consistent approach for decision making, and provide policy and program development.

Resources

Program (in thousands of dollars)	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
Court Administrator and Court Support Services	1,663	1,973	2,287	2,357
Line of Business Total	1,663	1,973	2,287	2,357
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	24.50	25.50	26.50	26.50

Court Administration: Court Administrator and Court Support Services

Program Highlights

Develop the concept of community-involved justice, which will move the Court's traditional case-centered process toward one that is defendant-focused, puts more emphasis on accountability, and collaborates with system partners and citizens in establishing its programs. A significant component of this approach is to design more individualized sanctions and incorporate social services into the court process.

Add 1.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 2 to serve half-time as a program manager for Seattle's Mental Health Court and also to provide half-time support to the planning and development of the Court's community-involved justice initiatives.

Resources

Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
General Subfund	1,663	1,973	2,287	2,357
Program Total	1,663	1,973	2,287	2,357
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	24.50	25.50	26.50	26.50

Municipal Court

Court Operations

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Court Operations Line of Business is to provide resolution of alleged violations of the Seattle Municipal Code and enforcement of court orders for all users of court services in a fair, accessible, and timely manner.

Key Performance Targets

- Increase of rate of defendants' compliance with all court orders (per case) by 25%.
- Increase the rate of defendants' successful completion of probation requirements by 5%.
- Reduce the percent of Court intake hearings for which defendants "fail to appear" from 47% to 42%.

Resources

Program (in thousands of dollars)	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
Court Compliance	6,182	6,658	7,133	7,225
Court Proceedings	10,156	9,721	10,231	10,504
Line of Business Total	16,338	16,380	17,364	17,729
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	233.19	231.19	231.19	232.19

Court Operations: Court Compliance

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Court Compliance Program is to help defendants understand the Court's expectations and to assist them in successfully complying with court orders.

Program Highlights

Continue to supervise defendants on probation, collect court fines and fees, work regionally to increase the Court's accessibility, and support defendants in their ability to comply with court orders.

Provide universal cashiering between Seattle and other cooperating courts in the region in order to provide people with the opportunity to pay all outstanding fines in one location.

Of the total budgetary increase for this program, add \$171,757 in 2001 to fund re-licensing services from both within the Court and out in the community in order to help people who have suspended driver licenses meet their court obligations and get re-licensed. Determination of the best use of these funds for 2002 is yet to be determined; this determination is proposed as a mid-biennium activity. The associated budget is in the Criminal Justice Contracted Services Line of Business (Department of Finance General).

In order to fully evaluate the benefits of Seattle Municipal Court's half-time Mental Health Court (MHC), \$35,000 is added to the Court's 2001 budget to pay for an assessment of MHC. In anticipation of the assessment showing that MHC provides an improved setting for addressing the needs of mentally ill offenders by diverting them out of jail whenever appropriate and re-connecting them with needed mental health treatment, the Court's 2002 budget is increased by \$68,000 to add 1.0 FTE position for a third Mental Health Court Probation Counselor.

Due to the passage of Initiative 722, the budget for Court Compliance has been reduced by \$50,000 in 2001 and \$51,000 in 2002.

Resources

Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
General Subfund	6,182	6,658	7,133	7,225
Program Total	6,182	6,658	7,133	7,225
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	99.35	101.35	101.35	102.35

Municipal Court

Court Operations: Court Proceedings

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Court Proceedings Program is to hold hearings and address all legal requirements for defendants and others who come before the Court. Some proceedings are held in a formal courtroom and others in magistrate offices with the goal of providing timely resolution of alleged violations of City ordinances and misdemeanor crimes committed within the City of Seattle limits.

Program Highlights

Continue to adjudicate all requested infraction hearings by magistrates and all criminal violations by judges and manage the Court's calendars in a manner that maximizes resources, eliminates duplication, and results in efficiencies.

Add \$45,454 and \$46,818 in 2001 and 2002, respectively, for strategies aimed at reducing the rate of "failure to appear" for court appearances. The associated goal is to reduce sentence length and jail time served by defendants; related jail services costs; and workloads for courtrooms, prosecutors, public defenders, and probation officers.

Transfer budget authority associated with the City's contract with King County to coordinate mental health services for defendants in Seattle's Mental Health Court from the Human Services Department (\$100,000 and \$103,600 in 2001 and 2002, respectively). Continue to improve services to mentally ill offenders.

Due to the passage of Initiative 722, the Court Proceedings Program has been reduced by \$118,000 in 2001 and \$115,000 in 2002.

Resources

Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
General Subfund	10,156	9,721	10,231	10,504
Program Total	10,156	9,721	10,231	10,504
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	133.84	129.84	129.84	129.84

Position Changes

Program/Position Change (in Full Time Equivalents)	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed
Prior Year FTE Total	256.69	257.69
<u>Court Administrator and Court Support Services</u>		
Add Strategic Advisor II (Pending Classification Review)	1.00	
<u>Court Compliance</u>		
Add Probation Counselor II		1.00
New FTE Subtotal	1.00	1.00
FTE Total	257.69	258.69