



Seattle Municipal Court

Jean Rietschel, Presiding Judge

Mission Statement

The mission of the Seattle Municipal Court 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, which is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of 2002.
- Increase the overall effectiveness of Court operations.
- Enhance efforts to recruit and retain a highly skilled workforce.

Appropriations

Fund/Line of Business	Summit Code	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
General Subfund						
Court Administration	M3000	1,982,731	2,286,801	2,356,879	2,361,133	2,350,512
Court Operations	M2000	16,458,229	17,364,306	17,729,498	17,942,086	17,140,578
Department Total		18,440,960	19,651,107	20,086,377	20,303,219	19,491,090
Positions (In Full Time Equivalents)		256.69	257.69	258.69	258.69	255.69

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.

Programs

Program	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
Court Administrator and Court Support Services	1,982,731	2,286,801	2,356,879	2,361,133	2,350,512
Line of Business Total	1,982,731	2,286,801	2,356,879	2,361,133	2,350,512
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	25.50	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.50

Court Administration: Court Administrator and Court Support Services

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Court Administrator and Court Support Services 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.

2002 Proposed Program Changes

There are no program changes from the 2002 Endorsed Budget to the 2002 Proposed Budget.

2002 Adopted Program Changes

Due to the combined impact of the region's economic downturn and the passage of I-747, reduce the Court Administrator and Court Support Services program budget by \$10,621 in 2002. This represents a decrease in the printing and work-study budgets of the program.

Resources

Funding Source	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
General Subfund	1,982,731	2,286,801	2,356,879	2,361,133	2,350,512
Program Total	1,982,731	2,286,801	2,356,879	2,361,133	2,350,512
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	25.50	26.50	26.50	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

- Sustain recent increases in compliance rates for time-payments of Court-ordered fines at 83%.
- Increase the rate of compliance with Court-ordered probation requirements by 3 percentage points from the existing rate of 59%.
- Sustain recent reductions in the percent of Court intake hearings for which defendants fail to appear. Recent efforts have reduced the failure to appear rate from 47% to 29%.

Programs

Program	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
Court Compliance	6,690,466	7,132,878	7,225,288	7,412,817	7,191,483
Court Proceedings	9,767,763	10,231,428	10,504,210	10,529,269	9,949,095
Line of Business Total	16,458,229	17,364,306	17,729,498	17,942,086	17,140,578
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	231.19	231.19	232.19	232.19	229.19

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.

2002 Proposed Program Changes

Transfer \$177,253 to the Court Compliance Program to fund community, in-custody, and Court re-licensing programs. Court Compliance coordinates these programs in order to help individuals with suspended driver's licenses fulfill their obligations to all jurisdictions (including Seattle Municipal Court) and reinstate their driving privileges, thereby reducing the number of Driving While License Suspended charges in the City of Seattle.

Add \$68,000 and 1.0 FTE Probation Counselor II in 2002 to the Court Compliance Program for an additional Probation Counselor in the Mental Health Court (MHC). This position will join two other Mental Health Court Probation Counselors to provide intensive monitoring of defendants' compliance with MHC Conditions of Sentence, which include a mental health treatment plan (including medication) and coordination with case managers and ancillary resources (especially housing). Associated funding and position authority were included in the 2002 Endorsed Budget.

2002 Adopted Program Changes

Due to the combined impact of the region's economic downturn and the passage of I-747, reduce the Court Compliance program budget by \$221,334 in 2002. This reduction holds four positions vacant for a portion of 2002 and decreases a number of administrative and technology-related line items in the program, such as training and computer replacement.

Resources

Funding Source	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
General Subfund	6,690,466	7,132,878	7,225,288	7,412,817	7,191,483
Program Total	6,690,466	7,132,878	7,225,288	7,412,817	7,191,483
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	101.35	101.35	102.35	102.35	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.

2002 Proposed Program Changes

There are no program changes from the 2002 Endorsed Budget to the 2002 Proposed Budget.

2002 Adopted Program Changes

Due to the combined impact of the region's economic downturn and the passage of I-747, reduce the Court Proceedings program budget by \$580,174 and eliminate 1.0 FTE Court Clerk, 1.0 FTE Court Clerk Supervisor, and 1.0 FTE Bailiff in 2002. This reduction action cuts savings associated with maintaining a vacant judicial position and eliminates associated courtroom staffing and incidental expenditures such as judicial training. In addition, the reduction freezes two positions in Customer Service, two in Administration, and one in Court Services as well as decreases a number of administrative and technology-related line items in the program, such as training and computer replacement.

Resources

Funding Source	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2002 Endorsed	2002 Proposed	2002 Adopted
General Subfund	9,767,763	10,231,428	10,504,210	10,529,269	9,949,095
Program Total	9,767,763	10,231,428	10,504,210	10,529,269	9,949,095
Positions (in Full Time Equivalents)	129.84	129.84	129.84	129.84	126.84

Position Changes

2002 Proposed FTE Total	258.69
Program/Position Changes (in Full Time Equivalents)	
<u>Court Proceedings</u>	
Delete Bailiff	(1.00)
Delete Court Clerk	(1.00)
Delete Court Clerk Supv	(1.00)
Subtotal 2001 Mid-year and 2002 Changes	(3.00)
2002 Adopted FTE Total	255.69