



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of January 11, 2022

DATE: January 3, 2022

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Gilbert Hernandez, Director of Municipal Court
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Gail Loeb, Municipal Court Presiding Judge
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Briefing on Municipal Court's Action Plan to Address Backlog of Ordinance Citations
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STAFF PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Department</u>
1. Gail Loeb	Presiding Judge	Judicial
2. Gilbert Hernandez	Director	MC Administration

ISSUE:

Currently there is a backlog of Municipal Court cases, specifically ordinance citations. This briefing will address Municipal Court's action plan to address these cases.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to COVID-19, all ordinance violations were automatically scheduled to an ordinance arraignment docket. In March of 2020 when the Court closed and due to scheduling restrictions, the case load increased and fell behind. As of January 3, 2022, there were 3,604 people who have a total of 10,713 City ordinance violations pending to be scheduled. These violations include people who were previously scheduled to in-person and virtual dockets and failed to appear, and new violations pending to be scheduled.

ACTION PLAN:

The Court will hold in-person ordinance pretrial dockets at the American Bank Center (ABC) and at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, and the numbers that follow represent the number of docket spaces by person:

- 1,680 on January 18, 2022 through January 21, 2022 at the ABC,
- 210 on Friday January 28, 2022 at the City Council Chambers at City Hall,
- 1,050 from January 31, 2022 through February 4, 2022 at the ABC,
- 2,100 from February 7, 2022 through February 11, 2022 at the ABC.

Because there are approximately 5,140 docket spaces available, the action plan above will allow the Court to become current with all pending and new ordinance violations. In addition, these cases will be scheduled to in-person hearings, and judges will issue warrants on those that fail to appear.

Municipal Court Administration is planning on holding the annual warrant roundup from February 26, 2022 through March 5, 2022. City marshals will concentrate their search for individuals who have outstanding warrants on ordinance violations.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

PowerPoint – (Municipal Court 2021)