

2003

Milwaukee Municipal Court

ANNUAL REPORT



Judge Vincent J. Bobot
Branch One
1999 - 8/5/03



Judge David R. Halbrooks
Branch One
8/6/03 - 4/30/04



Judge Derek C. Mosley
Branch Two
8/1/02 - Present



Judge James A. Gramling, Jr.
Branch Three
1986 - Present

Message from the Presiding Judge

When 2003 was gaveled to a close, we caught our breath for what seemed like the first time all year. It had been a busy 12 months.

We handled a near-record 176,107 new case filings. A couple of things about that number stood out. Nearly one of every ten cases involved a charge of operating on a suspended driver's license. This reflected the continuing problem created by unpaid traffic forfeitures, and the consequent effect on workers' ability to obtain and keep employment. By year's end we were deeply involved with community representatives in discussions on a program to address the problem.

We also experienced a 250% increase in the number of parking cases coming to court. The issuance of millions of parking tickets in the past three years is now having a direct impact on court scheduling as well as a negative impact on vehicle owners whose registration privileges are being suspended as a result of not paying their tickets. In fact, another 5% of our cases involved charges of driving on a suspended registration. This is taking on the early signs of a catastrophe.

Our court became a leader in 2003 in the use of the State's tax intercept program. We collected nearly \$2 million in delinquent forfeitures by attaching defendants' state tax refunds, putting us ahead of any other city or county government unit.

On a very positive note, the court received a significant award from the Public Policy Forum. At its annual awards luncheon in June, 2003, the Forum gave us its large government "Local Government Excellence and Innovation" award for the numerous community outreach programs we have initiated.

There were some comings and goings during the year. Judge Vincent Bobot resigned from Branch 1 at the beginning of August to run for mayor. In his place the Common Council appointed Assistant City Attorney David Halbrooks who once worked in the Prosecution Division at the court. He needed little introduction. And at about the same time our social services contract was taken over by Justice 2000 which retained all of the same employees. They moved to new space on the second floor of the building, ending years of cramped and fragmented working conditions; they were pleased with the change.

Finally, I wish to compliment our dedicated staff of 40 for its efforts during the year to bring to life our mission of providing prompt, efficient adjudication of the City's ordinance violations.

James A. Gramling, Jr.

CASE FILINGS, 2002 - 2003

	2002	2003
Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)	492	477
Parking	1,994	4,950
Other Traffic Violations	123,350	123,148
Neighborhood Services	2,312	3,007
Health	253	102
Other Non-Traffic	39,671	44,423
Total	168,072	176,107

The Case Filings Report shows the year-to-date totals of cases added to the system during 2002 and 2003, respectively.

CASE DISPOSITIONS 2002 - 2003

	Guilty Sentence		Suspended Sentence		Dismissed/ Not Guilty		Appeals to Circuit Court	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
OWI	456	444	2	7	18	183	0	0
Parking	1,595	3,816	136	315	152	481	2	1
Other Traffic	116,520	117,662	1,640	1,911	8,258	6,839	30	19
Neighborhood Services	1,673	2,033	86	51	755	578	2	3
Health	290	117	12	3	123	49	0	6
Other Non-Traffic	33,217	41,748	1,022	1,059	6,491	5,860	16	19
Total	153,751	165,820	2,898	3,346	15,797	13,990	51	48

*Transfers that are included in "Other Traffic"

The Case Dispositions Report includes cases that were added to the system prior to 2002 and 2003 and shows accumulated counts based on the most current adjudication for each case type. Therefore, the totals on the Case Filings and Case Dispositions Reports do not match.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2002 - 2003

	2002	2003
REVENUES	\$9,752,368	\$11,349,115
Retained by City of Milwaukee	\$6,767,981	\$7,951,223
Sent to Milwaukee County		
Jail Assessment	\$866,890	\$965,041
Driver Improvement	\$72,204	\$78,480
Total to Milwaukee County	\$939,094	\$1,043,521
Sent to the State of Wisconsin		
Driver Improvement	\$45,201	\$49,129
State Clerk Fee	\$446,516	\$507,251
State Tax	\$1,149,704	\$1,330,911
State Crime Lab Fee	\$403,870	\$467,080
Total to State of Wisconsin	\$2,045,291	\$2,354,371
COURT EXPENDITURES	\$2,984,385	\$3,397,892
CITY REVENUES NET OF COURT EXPENDITURES	\$3,783,596	\$4,553,331

2003 Accomplishments and Challenges to Strategic Objectives

Mission Statement

The mission of the municipal court is to impartially adjudicate ordinance violation cases such that legal rights of individuals are safeguarded and public interest is protected.

- ☆ Received the 2003 Public Policy Forum Award for Local Government Excellence for the Community Court initiative.
 - ☆ Handled 175,000 case filings—the third largest volume in the court’s history.
 - ☆ Initiated a system, with DPW and City Attorney, to allow citizens who want to contest parking citations to come to court on a specific date. Citizens can sign a *Notice of Appearance* form at the tow lot or violations bureaus, take responsibility for resolving the cases, and be provided with a specific court date. If the citizens fail to appear on that date, the court can take a default judgment.
 - ☆ Completed remodeling of second floor space to house WCS/J2K court alternative program. Provided appropriate environment for staff to interview and work with clients referred by the court.
 - ☆ Maintained the target maximum time interval for priority cases of 60 days between arraignment date and pre-trial, as well as between arraignment and trial. Assistance from part-time municipal court commissioners made this possible.
 - ☆ Justice 2000 became the court’s contracted social service agency in June of 2003 replacing Wisconsin Correctional Services. The agency identified indigent defendants, and those with mental health, drug abuse or alcohol problems. Its assistance to the court
- ☆ made possible 78% compliance with mental health treatment options, 46% compliance with community service alternatives, and 74.34% for AODA program referrals with savings to the City of potential incarceration costs of approximately \$298,357 in 2002 and \$337,470 in 2003.
 - ☆ The court selected a vendor to provide the new case management system that will provide for increased system reliability and allow the court to implement new procedures to enhance customer service and staff effectiveness.
 - ☆ Began implementation and system design activities for CATS (Court Automated Tracking System), the court’s new Management Information System.
 - ☆ In 2003, 990 traffic offenders registered for the Defensive Driving Course conducted by Milwaukee Area Technical College. Of the 990 offenders 79% or 747 completed the course.
 - ☆ In 2003, the Court’s expenditures were and \$3,397,892, significantly less than total revenues generated for the City.
 - ☆ The Community Court Initiative was expanded to increase the opportunities for defendants to resolve issues before the court through payment of fines or community service placements. This initiative now involves the following organization/programs:
 - Project REACH
 - Milwaukee Urban League
 - Vet’s Stand Down
 - Neighborhood Youth Initiative
 - Youth Development Boot Camp
 - Journey House
 - Kosciuszko Teen Court
 - Better Self Jobs Task Force

- ☆ Welcomed three new court commissioners.
- ☆ In 2003, 171 offenders were referred to the Second Chance Program. Of the 171 offenders referred, 103 completed the program . A compliance rate of 60% was achieved.
- ☆ Increased the number of telephone lines available to accept credit card payments, resulting in reductions in waiting time and increased use of this payment option.
- ☆ Decreased the number of automated messages significantly and added a Spanish version resulting in enhanced telephone service to the citizens the court serves.
- ☆ Implemented procedures to reduce waiting time and lines at the court facility during peak times.
- ☆ Completed a mini reorganization of court staff to improve service and achieve budget savings.
- ☆ A compliance rate of 43% was achieved in community service referrals to the Social Development Commission. A limited number of offenders were referred to the Milwaukee Christian Center's Graffiti Abatement Program and the Career Youth Development Program in 2003.

Who We Are

Judges

James A. Gramling, Jr.
Branch 3

Derek C. Mosley (Effective 8/1/02)
Branch 2

Vincent J. Bobot (Until 8/5/03)

David Halbrooks (Effective 8/6/03)
Branch 1 until 4/30/04

Court Commissioners

David Borowski (Until 8/1/03)

Herman John

Michael Kopp

R. Jeffrey Krill (Effective 7/6/03)

Lynn Hackbarth (Effective 7/6/03)

Earlean Laster (Effective 7/6/03)

Administration

Kristine Hinrichs
Chief Court Administrator

Clarice Hall Moore
Assistant Court Administrator

Elaine Allen
Court Accountant

Timothy Ringle (Effective 7/21/03)
Court Systems Administrator

Marina Andino
Administrative Specialist

Monica Mangione
Administrative Specialist

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