



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Agenda

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall

600 4th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

Robert Kettle, Chair

Rob Saka, Vice-Chair

Joy Hollingsworth, Member

Cathy Moore, Member

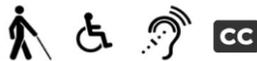
Sara Nelson, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8807; Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov

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Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

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March 26, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall , 600 4th Avenue , Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-safety>

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Details on how to provide Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>

Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the Public Comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Submit written comments to Councilmembers at Council@seattle.gov.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

D. Items of Business

1. Seattle Municipal Court (SMC)

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion (30 minutes)

Presenters: Faye R. Chess, Presiding Judge, and Josh Sattler, Court Administrator, Seattle Municipal Court

2. City Attorney's Office (CAO)

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion (30 minutes)

Presenters: Ann Davison, City Attorney, and Scott Lindsay, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2434, **Version:** 1

Seattle Municipal Court (SMC)

Seattle Municipal Court

Overview for Seattle City Council Public Safety Committee

March 26, 2024

Faye R. Chess, Presiding Judge

Josh Sattler, Court Administrator

AGENDA

- 1) Overview of Seattle Municipal Court
 - Budget
 - Staffing
 - Programs
- 2) Data & Performance
- 3) 2023 Accomplishments
- 4) 2024 Priorities
- 5) Questions



ADVANCE SMC

Our work is centered around five main priorities:

- Build capacity
- Evolve our services to center those we serve
- Model a culture rooted in equity
- Streamline decision-making
- Engage staff to develop future leaders today



Seattle
Municipal Court

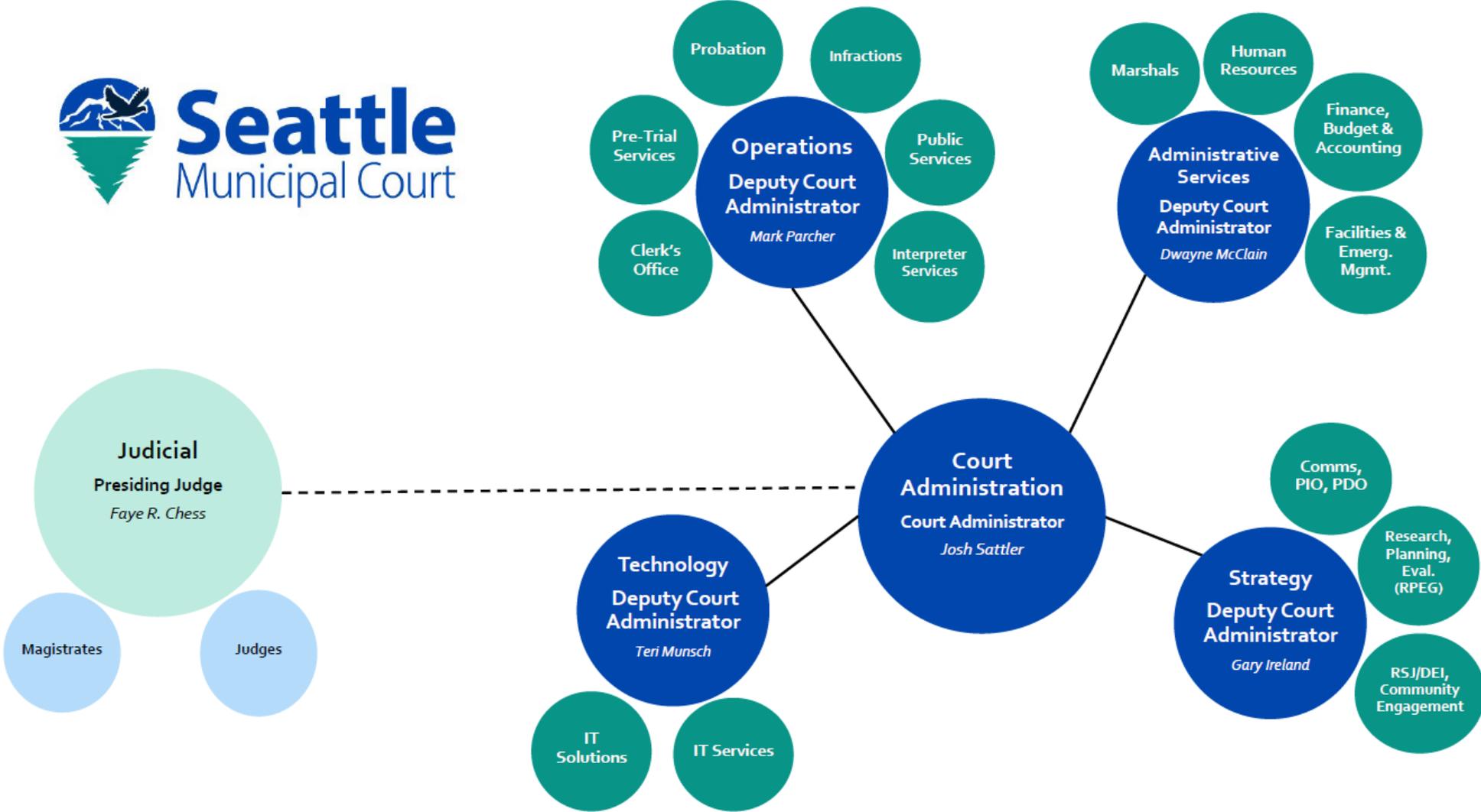
Mission: To provide a forum to resolve alleged violations of the law in a respectful, independent, and impartial manner.

Seattle Municipal Court

- The judicial branch of Seattle City government.
- Authorized under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.20.
- Adjudicates misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses, infractions, and civil violations under the Seattle Municipal Code and Revised Code of Washington statutes.
- 7 elected judges, 5 appointed magistrates, 4 service areas.



Organization



Budget Snapshot

FY 2024

General Fund Support	\$43,461,894
Full-time Equivalents	201.85

SMC Budget Reductions

FY 2020	3% (\$1.08M) mid-year savings
FY 2021	5% (\$1.8M) reduction (primarily in Probation)
FY 2023	3.2% (\$1.27M) reduction + ongoing \$275K vacancy savings commitment

Court Programs

Therapeutic Courts: Mental Health Court, Veterans' Treatment Court, Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Ticket Debt Reduction, Youth Traffic Court.

Pretrial Services: Assist individuals navigate the court system, follow through with their case, and complete their court obligations by reducing barriers and referring to community supports and services through the **Community Resource Center**.

Alternatives to Incarceration: Electronic home monitoring (GPS), drug and alcohol screening, and **Probation** counseling.

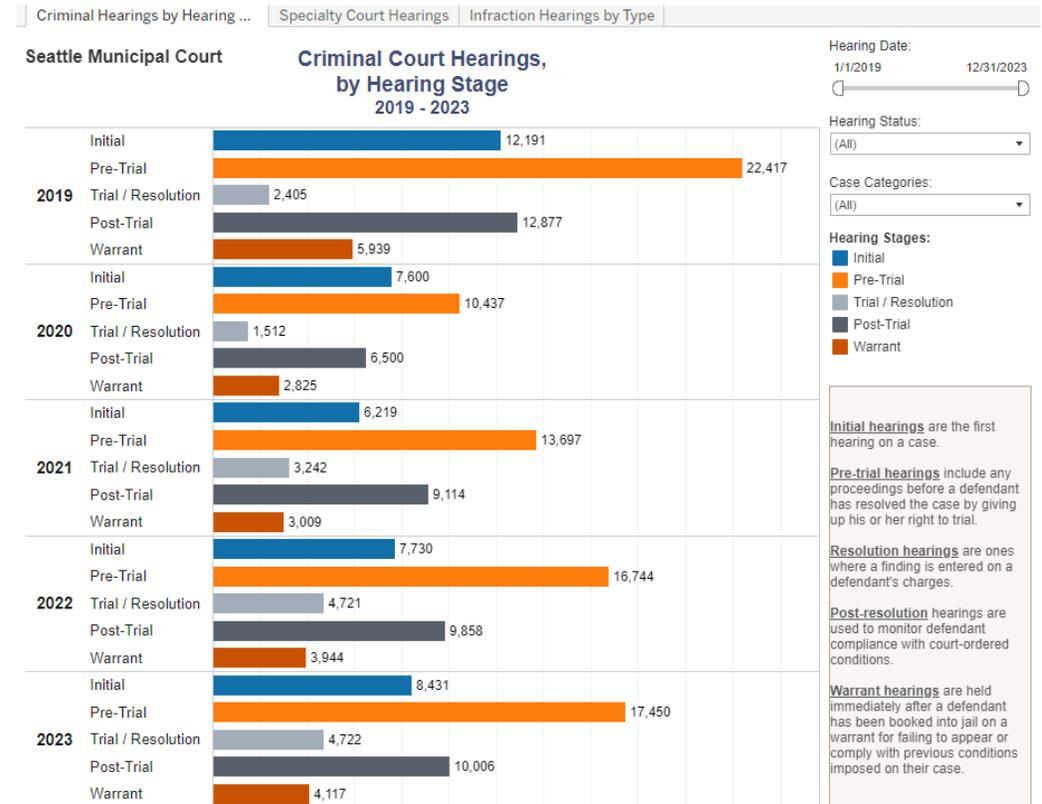
Interpreter Services: Providing access for limited English proficiency, deaf and hearing-impaired individuals.

Community Outreach: Bringing court services and programs into neighborhood centers to eliminate barriers and foster community partnerships.

Data & Performance

SMC publishes several data visualizations on frequently requested data sets including criminal case filings, hearing volume, vehicle infractions, top criminal charges, probation, therapeutic courts, electronic home monitoring utilization, and more.

Reports are published on the court's website and updated quarterly:
<https://www.seattle.gov/courts/about/data-and-publications>



2023 Accomplishments

Probation Evolution Project Concluded: SMC intentionally moved away from traditional reactive approaches to misdemeanor supervision, toward an approach that is more hopeful, equitable, and supportive of client success and growth.

MCIS 2.0 Technology Replacement: User acceptance testing, end-to-end testing and extensive staff training to prepare for go-live in Q1 2024.

Reorganization: A strategic reorganization into four service areas was finalized.

Equity and Engagement: Appointed first Director of Equity and Engagement and rolled out a new court logo and branding with RSJ Change team that better reflects the court, informed by staff and community input.

Awards: Innovating Justice Award for Probation Evolution, Asian Bar Association of Washington Judge of the Year (Judge Andrea Chin), Seattle Management Association RSJ award (Maliaka White).

New Leaders: Presiding Judge Faye R. Chess, Assistant Presiding Judge Andrea Chin, Court Administrator Josh Sattler, Judge Pooja Vaddadi, Magistrate Noah Weil.

2024 Priorities

**New Technology
System Go Live &
Stabilization**

**Redesign of Pretrial
Services Incorporating
Community Resource
Center**

**Ensure Adequate Court
Funding**

**Ensure Timely and
Effective
Communication with
System Partners &
Interested Parties**

**Continue to Advance
Equity & Engagement**

**Successfully Complete
Several Work Groups**

Questions?

seattle.gov/courts



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City Attorney's Office (CAO)



**SEATTLE CITY
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ANN DAVISON**

Seattle City Attorney's Office Public Safety Overview

- 1) Data Transparency
- 2) Close-in-Time Filing
- 3) Victims First
- 4) Improved Accountability
- 5) High-Utilizer Focus

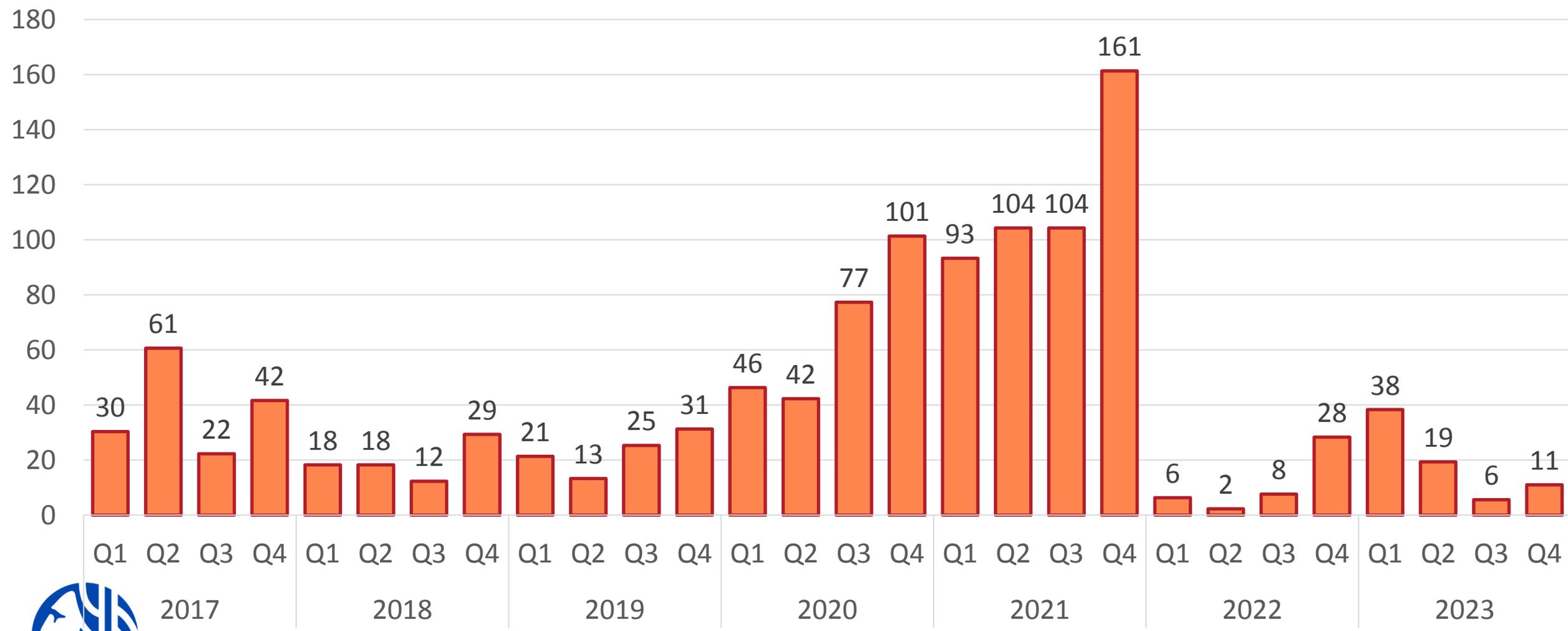


~80% of crime in Seattle is misdemeanor crime:

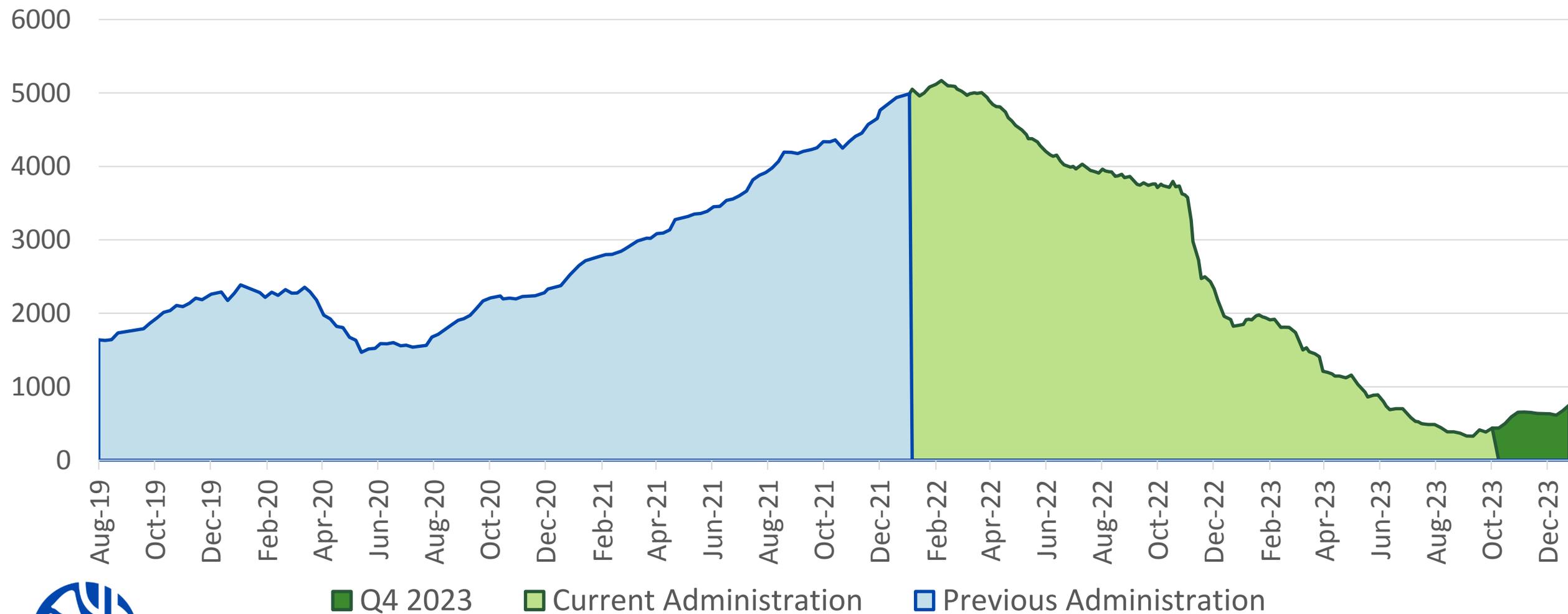
- Assault
- DUI
- Domestic Violence
- Harassment
- Trespass
- Weapons Charges



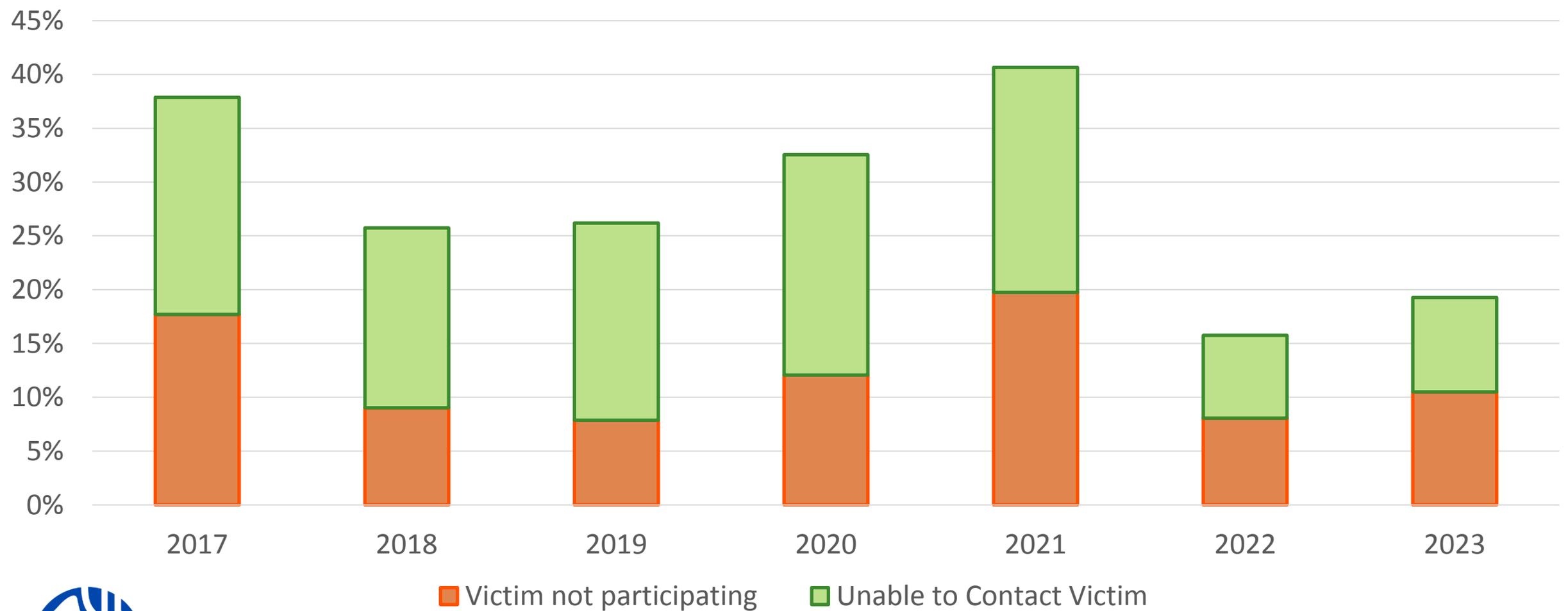
Median Time to Make a Filing Decision



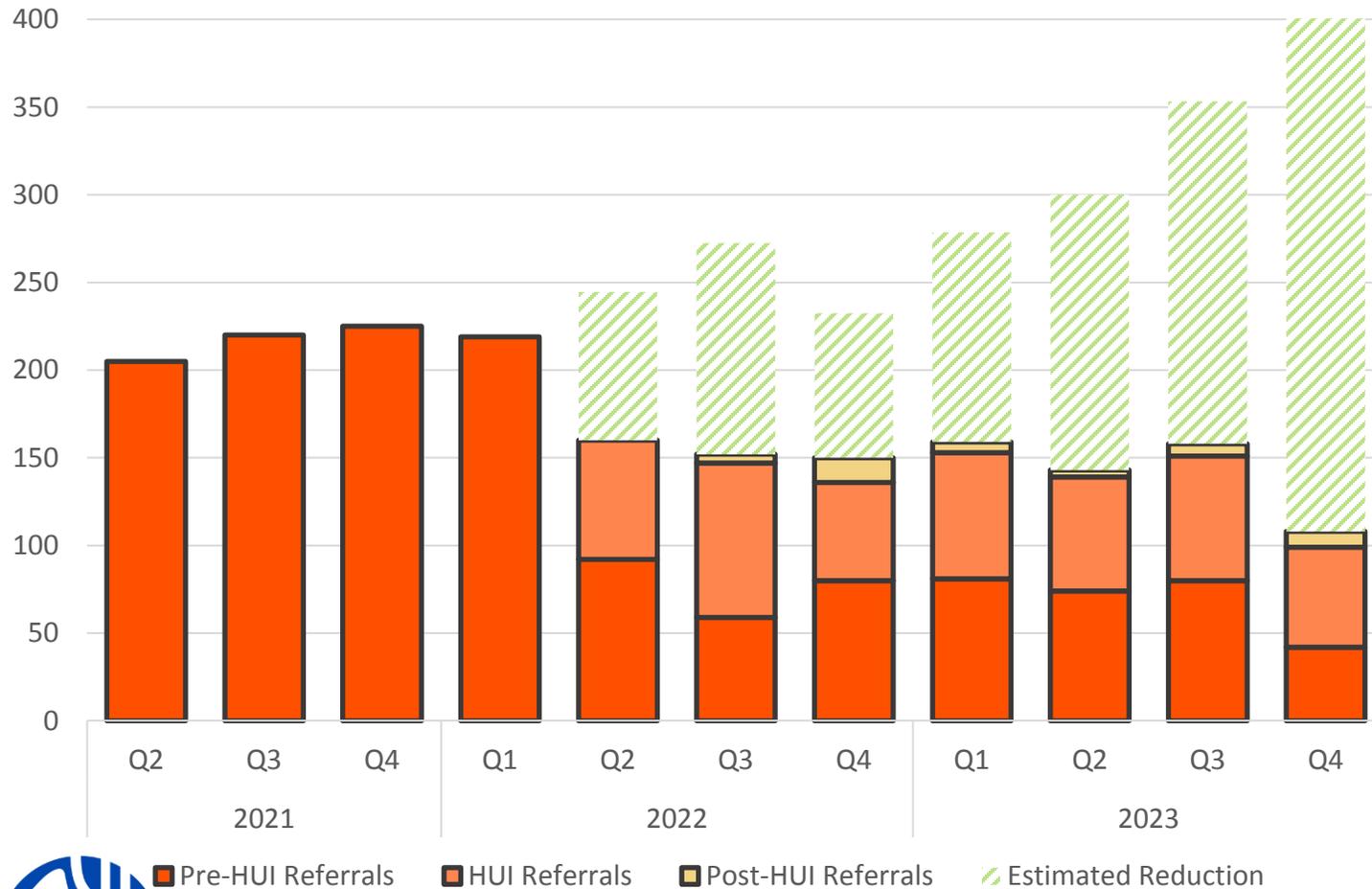
Backlog of Cases Awaiting Review



Victim Based Declines as % of Total Declines



The High Utilizer Initiative has had a Significant Impact on Top Recidivists



Graffiti

- Important to revitalizing downtown
- Partnering with Mayor's Office

Human Trafficking

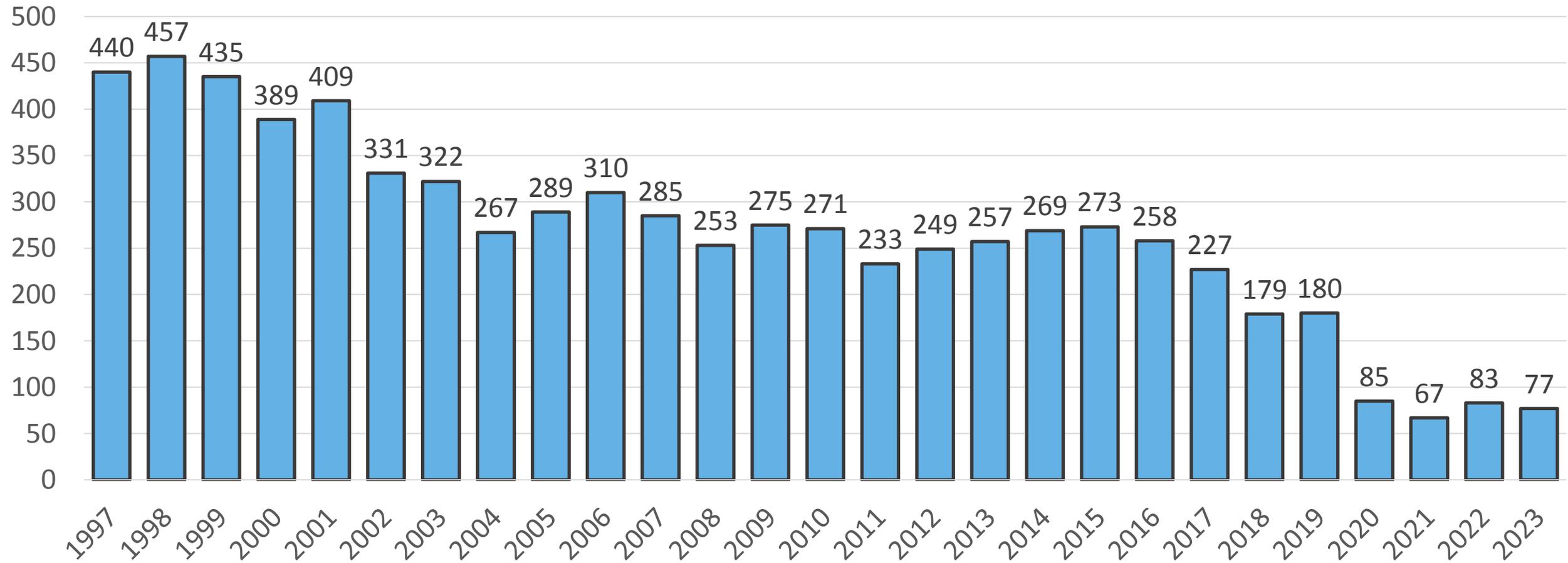
- Prostitution on Aurora
- Chronic Nuisance designation for problem motels

Vacant Buildings

- Working with SFD and SDCI to address squatter activity and fire risks



Seattle Misdemeanor Average Daily Jail Population



Staffing

- Too few prosecutors to cover leave
- But improved prosecutor pay

Restoration and Treatment

- Very limited restoration for misdemeanors
- Need new SUD treatment options

System Capacity

- 2020 Defund of Probation at SMC
- Cases still take too long to resolve



Questions?

