



Public Safety Committee Minutes

October 28, 2024

Councilor Primmer called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Councilor Hardin and Linton were excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Jason Edmiston, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Captains Travis Eynon and Scott Clark, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Patrol Sergeant Chris Martin, Patrol Corporal Jarrod Flatau, Patrol Officer Kieron Carlson, HES General Manager Nate Rivera, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Police Department

- **Introductions & HPD Personnel Update**

Hermiston's Police Department (HPD) Chief Jason Edmiston introduced members of HPD who were in the audience and gave personnel updates stating HPD is fully staffed with the exception of potential officers for the Good Shepherd Health Care Systems agreement and two staff members who have been off for several months due to illness or injury.

- **3rd Quarter (2024) Activity Report**

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 3rd Quarter Activity Report (attached). Information was provided to include: 3 of the 4 violent or person crime categories are down from last year; though HPD is showing 2 homicides for the year, both were attempted murders with multiple arrests made, and one case was adjudicated after only 30-days with the aggressor being sentenced to roughly 10 years in prison; unfortunately aggravated assaults continue to trend upwards and show a 23% increase from last year and a 52% increase over the 10-year average- HPD is seeing more and more transients in the community that bring with them severe dependencies and often undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues; burglaries are down a staggering 70% from last year and down 75% from the 10-year average- HPD believes this is in part with advances in technology and citizens target hardening their properties; total crime is down 43% and violent crimes are flat from last year. With increased staffing, officer-initiated activity, traffic stops, total arrests, and citations issued are all up from last year.

Chief Edmiston stated HPD has hired incredible officers who want to make a positive impact on their community, as such, calls for service continue to trend up 3% from last year and remain at an all-time high for HPD, up 33% from what has been seen. As calls for service are tracked, so are those involving transients. This population, as previously mentioned, are often linked to substance abuse and mental health challenges and require time and energy from HPD to handle the 25% of calls that come from this group.

- **Umatilla County Deflection Program**

There was some discussion regarding Measure 110 and how the decriminalization of drugs has negatively impacted those struggling with addiction and communities as a whole. Captain Travis Eynon and Court Administrator Jillian Viles spoke regarding the Deflection Program which will see all drug and misdemeanor citations through the District Attorneys Office and spoke regarding the small amount of people who will be able to qualify for the program due to the disqualifiers set in place.



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- **Projects of the Horizon**

Chief Edmiston spoke regarding the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as police departments throughout the country begin to do data testing in these and other categories, including: Axon Draft One Report Writing, Axon Body Camera Translation Services, Citizen RIMS 2.0, Narc Ranger Unit, and others.

Councilor Primmer stated this would be a great use of technology to help HPD and the community.

- **Past/Upcoming Events**

- Christmas Express

- Chief Edmiston stated this program plans to serve an estimated 500 families this year and is expected to undergo changes next year. More information on expected changes will be disclosed at a future time.

Hermiston Municipal Court Updates

Court Administrator Jillian Viles reviewed the 3rd Quart Municipal Court Report to include: crimes and violations filed in the Municipal Court, the number of days these cases take to be adjudicated from when they are filed, the annual number of violations and criminal offenses filed currently and in previous years (attached) and technology and software updates that allow people to review their case and options online before coming to court.

Public Comment

Roy Barron asked if there were any federal grants for mental health programs that the Municipal Court could take advantage of.

Court Administrator Viles stated the Municipal Court has a partnership with Community Counseling Services who attend court each week to immediately set up appointments and help with people needing treatment.

Maria Duron stated through the community, she is hearing a lot of misinformation about Christmas Express and asked if there was communication that could be shared to dispel these rumors.

Chief Edmiston stated HPD is aware of the misinformation that Mrs. Duron is speaking of and Amanda Hartsteen and Tim Miears are working on this front. This is also one of the reasons in which HPD has decided to undergo changes in the program starting next year to help dispel misinformation and rumors.

Dave Drotzmann thanked the police and court departments for their efforts in great interventions programs to help people get out of their cycles of crime, recover, and become productive people in society, stating great leadership is at work applying for and receiving grants and doing the work to do



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something different to help those who need something different in order to succeed, however there is still work to be done to help with the homelessness issues.

Maria Duron thanked the police and court departments for seeing people for who they are and giving people the opportunity to have a better life through the work they do and the partnerships they have created in the community.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

None given.

Adjournment

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm.

<u>Incident Type</u>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg	Normal Range	2024	% Change Avg-'24	% Change '23-'24
Homicide	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	1	0-2	2	100%	-33%
Rape	3	7	2	6	3	7	6	5	4	5	0-2	2	-60%	-50%
Robbery	3	0	2	7	7	6	10	9	4	5	3-7	1	-80%	-75%
Aggravated Assault	9	20	26	27	25	11	15	33	26	21	13-29	32	52%	23%
Burglary	42	40	40	72	52	38	50	29	37	44	36-53	11	-75%	-70%
Larceny	313	321	283	373	352	249	284	391	477	338	258-419	274	-19%	-43%
Auto Theft	33	21	29	36	24	22	23	36	30	28	23-34	9	-68%	-70%
Arson	1	0	2	3	2	5	2	1	4	2	1-4	5	150%	25%
TOTAL	405	410	385	525	465	340	392	505	585	446	360-531	336	-25%	-43%
TOTAL VIOLENT	16	28	31	41	35	26	33	48	37	33	26-40	37	12%	0%
TOTAL PROPERTY	389	382	354	484	430	314	359	457	548	413	332-494	299	-28%	-45%
POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973	20322				

Hermiston Police Department 2015-2024 Crime Stats

January through September 10-year Trends

Hermiston Police Department 2015-2024 Patrol Stats - January through September

<u>Incident Type</u>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg	Normal Range	2024	% Change Avg-'24	% Change '23-'24
Total Incidents	17731	16940	17070	16648	17414	16206	16771	16217	17100	16900	16421-17378	18030	7%	5%
Calls for Service	7676	7753	8122	8640	8879	7985	8495	9086	9886	8502	7870-9135	10197	20%	3%
Officer Initiated Activity	10055	9187	8948	8008	8535	8221	8276	7131	7214	8397	7813-8981	7833	-6%	9%
Traffic Stops	5109	4735	3970	3161	4235	3965	3939	3355	3352	3980	3625-4335	4443	12%	33%
Case Investigations	2485	2365	2337	2534	2451	1781	1956	2234	2472	2291	2018-2563	2361	3%	-4%
Total Arrests	1051	1039	954	920	1014	614	620	847	960	891	724-1058	1049	18%	9%
Misdemeanor Arrests	816	788	652	642	739	431	453	640	741	656	521-791	826	26%	11%
Felony Arrests	235	251	302	278	275	201	167	207	219	237	202-272	223	-6%	2%
Total Citations	5310	4698	4775	4128	5186	3569	3304	3348	3554	4208	3503-4913	4088	-3%	15%

POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973
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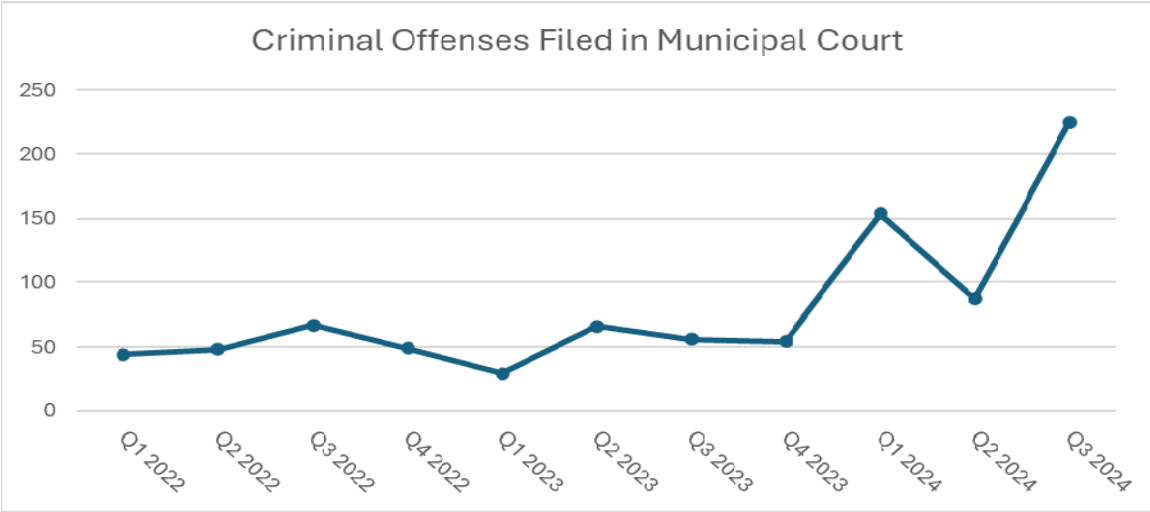
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Hermiston Municipal Court

Quarterly Report

October 28th, 2024

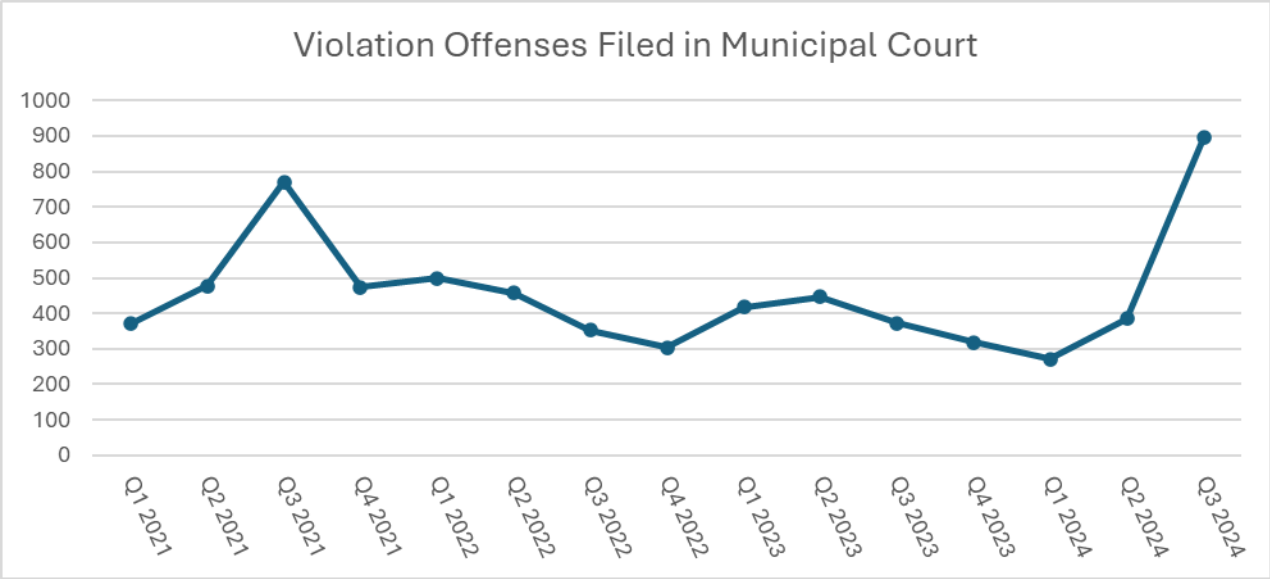


	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Criminal Offenses	44	48	67	49	29	66	56	54	154	87	225

Annual Number of Criminal Offenses Filed in Municipal Court

Criminal Offenses	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (through Q3)
	256	157	228	243	216	463

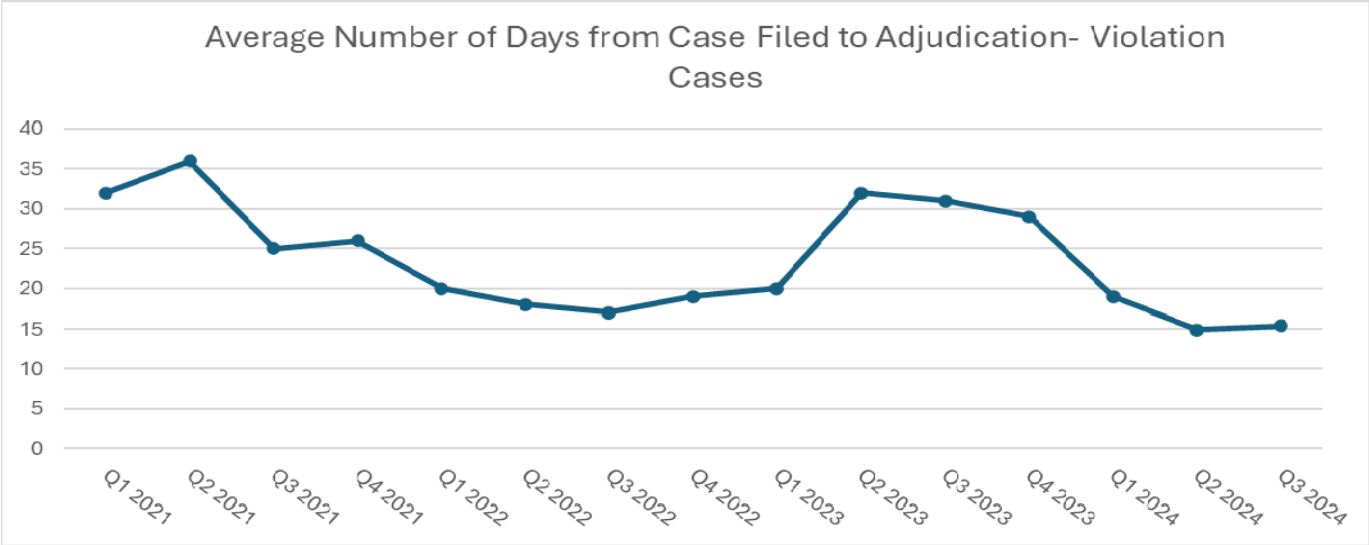
Crimes	2022	2023	2024 (through Q3)
A Misdemeanor	13	41	238
B Misdemeanor	37	21	37
C Misdemeanor	151	124	168
A Violation	7	19	19



	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Violation Offenses	371	477	770	474	500	458	353	304	417	447	372	318	272	386	895

Annual Number of Violation Offenses Filed in Municipal Court

	2021	2022	2023	2024 (through Q3)
Criminal Offenses	2092	1615	1554	1553



Average Length of Time from Filing to Adjudication- Violation Cases	
2021	30 Days
2022	18 Days
2023	28 Days
2024 (Q1, Q2, Q3)	16.4 Days