

MUNICIPAL COURTS

Narrative Summary

Total filings for municipal courts (including transfers in) increased from 1,451,664 in FY 2006 to 1,532,792 in FY 2007, an increase of 5.6%.

Traffic filings (criminal and civil), which comprise 78.4% of Municipal Court case activity, increased by 9.4% from last year, from 1,048,225 to 1,147,182. Within the traffic category, criminal filings increased by 4.8% and civil filings increased by 10.4% from FY 2006 to FY 2007. One possible reason for the double-digit increase in civil traffic filings is the increased use of photo enforcement for red light and speed related violations. Misdemeanors (excluding criminal traffic) increased, from 237,506 in FY 2006 to 242,080 in FY 2007, an increase of 1.9%.

From FY 2006 to FY 2007, Municipal Courts experienced a decrease in the number of petitions filed for injunctions against harassment and orders of protection. During FY 2007, a total of 12,344 petitions were filed for an order of protection, compared with 12,460 last year, a decrease of 0.9%. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased from last year to 8,919 in FY 2007, a decrease of 0.2%.

Total dispositions (including transfers out) increased from 1,535,737 last year to 1,616,581 in FY 2007, an increase of 5.3%. Total traffic dispositions (criminal and civil) increased by 0.8% from 1,086,150 in FY 2006 to 1,199,647 in FY 2007. Misdemeanor dispositions decreased by 5.2%, from 290,408 in FY 2006 to 275,243 in FY 2007.

Non-criminal, local ordinance case filings decreased by 13.5%, from 165,933 in FY 2006 to 143,530 in FY 2007. Non-criminal local ordinances terminations showed a decrease of 11.0 %, from 159,179 in FY 2006 to 141,691 in FY 2007.

Finally, the total end of year pending cases increased from 835,644 in FY 2006 to 918,587 in FY 2007, an increase of 9.9%. The largest percentage increase was reported in misdemeanors, which increased from 421,632 in FY 2006 to 502,206 in FY 2007, an increase of 19.1%.

NOTE:

Some of the FY 2006 figures may not correspond to figures published in last year's Data Report due to corrected information received subsequent to publication of the Report.