

MUNICIPAL COURTS

ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1995

Each of the 842 Texas cities with municipal courts during the year ended August 31, 1995, was required by Section 71.035 of the Texas Government Code and Sections 171.1 and 171.2 of the Texas Administrative Code to submit a report each month to the Texas Judicial Council on activity in the court. Statewide, the Council received 9,409 reports out of a possible 10,104 for the year (93 percent).

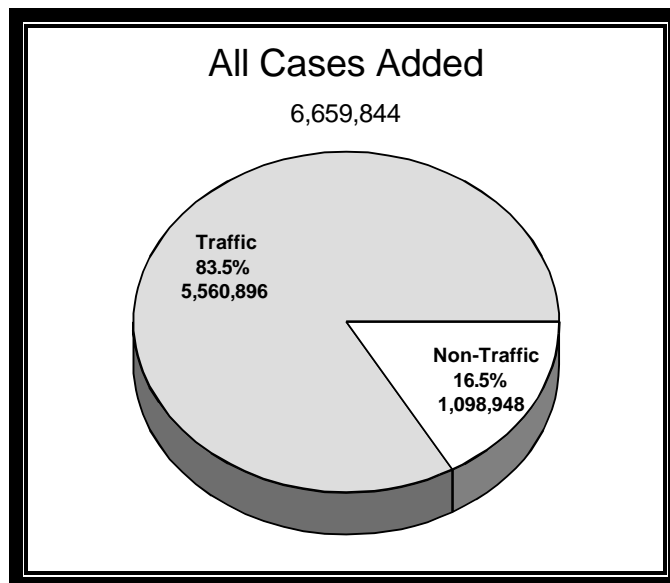
Examining trials (preliminary hearings of district or county court cases) held totaled 3,183, inquests conducted totaled 81, and drivers license suspension hearings totaled 5,547. There were 9,825 search warrants issued, 1,676,383 arrest warrants issued, and 181,028 defendants charged with county or district court offenses were given statutory warnings. In addition, 317 emergency mental commitment hearings were held and 12,405 matters relating to juveniles were conducted.

TRAFFIC CASES DOMINATE DOCKETS

Traffic cases comprised 83 percent, or 5,560,896, of the 6,659,844 total cases filed in the reporting courts during the year. Non-traffic criminal cases accounted for the other 17 percent of the cases filed.

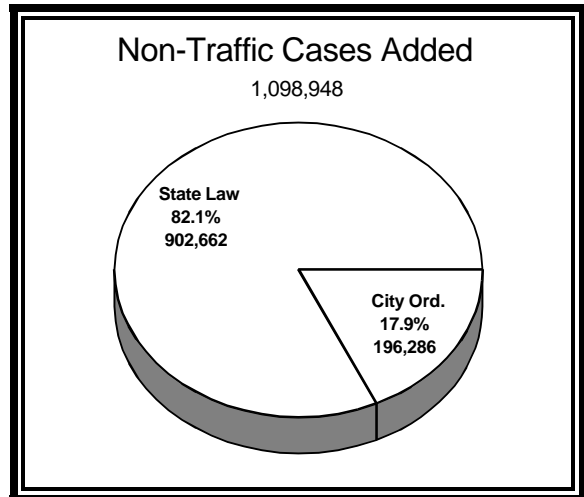
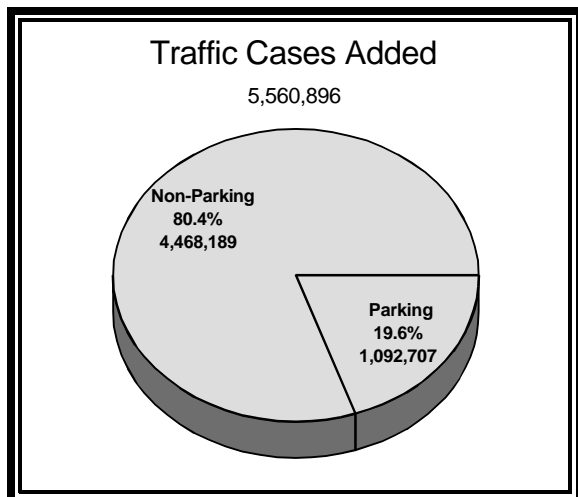
Municipal courts reported the disposition of cases in three major categories. Fifty-nine percent of all cases were disposed of before trial; 24 percent at trial (after appearance before the judge); and 17 percent were dismissed after providing proof of insurance or after completing a driving safety course or other condition authorized for deferred disposition. Of all cases disposed, 2,999,387 (46%) were dismissed.

Of the traffic cases filed, 80 percent were for non-parking violations with the remaining 20 percent for parking-related offenses. Eighty-two percent of non-traffic cases filed were for state law violations with 18 percent related to local ordinances.



Analyzing traffic cases only, 47 percent were dismissed and 17 percent went to trial. The remaining 36 percent were disposed of prior to trial, 98 percent of which were by payment of fine. Of the 17 percent that went to trial, 99.5 percent of the cases were tried before the judge alone and the rest before a jury. When traffic cases went to trial, the defendant was found guilty in 96 percent of the cases tried

In the municipal judges' capacity as a state magistrate, the reporting judges accepted 62,490 complaints within the jurisdiction of the county court and 27,021 complaints within the jurisdiction of the district courts (felonies).



MUNICIPAL COURTS ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1995 (CONTINUED)

before the judge alone and in 83 percent of the cases tried before a jury.

Analyzing non-traffic criminal cases, 35 percent were disposed of prior to trial by payment of fine or forfeiture of a deposit made to ensure appearance; 28 percent were disposed of at trial; and 37 percent were dismissed. Of those that went to trial, 99.3 percent were before the judge without a jury. Guilty findings were made in 96 percent of the trials before the judge alone and in 64 percent of the jury trials.

The courts reported disposing of 6,499,325 cases, which is 97.5 percent of the 6,659,844 filed. In the previous

year, 86.7 percent were disposed. Of the convictions, 40,520 cases were appealed to a higher court, 0.6 percent of the total cases disposed.

REPORTED REVENUES TOP \$279 MILLION

Total revenue collected by the reporting courts during the year ended August 31, 1995, was \$279,635,241, an 12 percent increase from the previous year. The average amount of revenue per disposition that was not a dismissal was \$79.90. This revenue becomes part of the treasury of the city in which the court has jurisdiction, except for certain court costs on each case which are remitted to the special funds of the State.

