

The Judge or Municipal Court Clerk conducts all arraignments of individuals arrested during normal weekday hours. The Court also provides two part-time, on-call Deputy Municipal Court Clerks (DMCC) that perform this duty nights and weekends, so that the arraignment service is provided around the clock, seven days a week.

RESOURCES

The Court offices are located on the first floor of the City of Morgantown's Public Safety Building at 300 Spruce Street, Morgantown WV 26505.

Court personnel consists of a part-time Municipal Court Judge, a contracted substitute judge, full-time court clerk/supervisor, full-time payment clerk, full-time data entry clerk, and two part-time deputy municipal court clerks. The Assistant City Attorney serves as the City Prosecutor and works closely with the Court staff.

The current computer system and software was originally installed in May 1998, but was upgraded in 2002. Hardware consists of an IBM X Series 232 Server and four workstations, and various printers.

The Court utilizes Justice Systems, Inc.'s "FullCourt" software and contracts with Justice Systems, Inc. for its annual maintenance and support. This system permits Court staff to perform all case management functions from initial entry, scheduling, and case status updating, to collections, disbursements of monies, and case dispositions.

The Parking Authority and the Dispatch Center of the Police Department have inquiry access to Municipal Court's computer system. This enables the Parking Authority enforcement staff to collect Municipal Court's outstanding citations on booted vehicles after hours and gives the police officers current information to tow excessive violators. In return, Court staff has inquiry access to the Parking Authority's computer system so that they can share name and address information on parking citations.

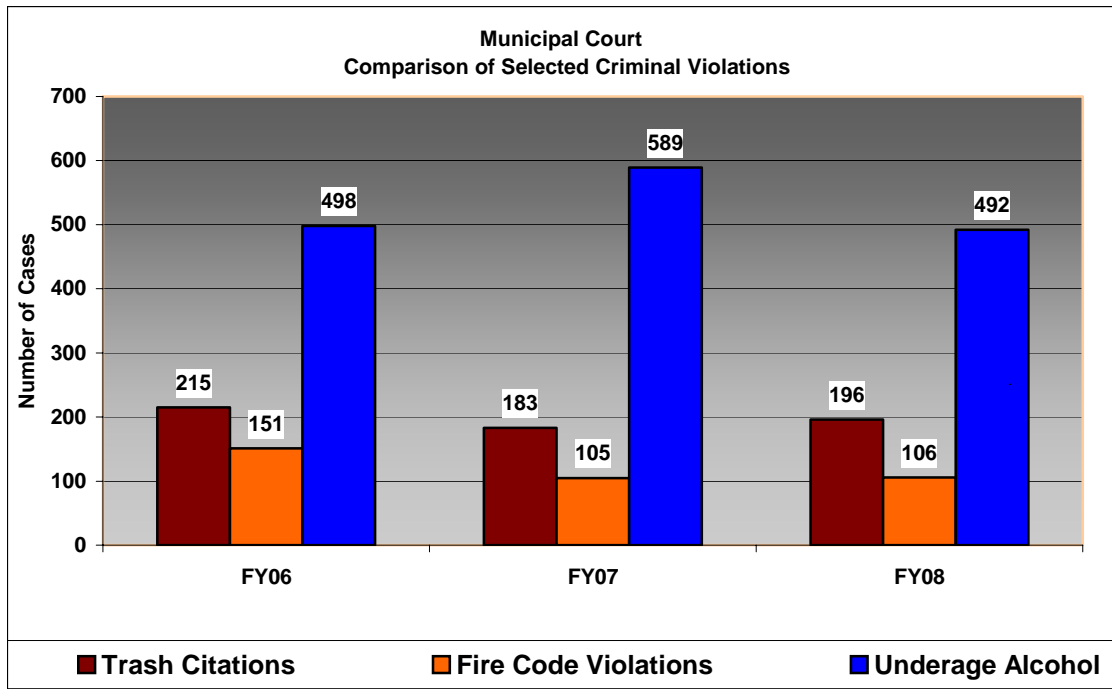
REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

The Municipal Court has had a busy year. Underage drinking and other alcohol related offenses continue to be a challenge, however the number of citations issued has decreased over the last fiscal year. Municipal Court has processed 492 citations for underage possession/ consumption of alcohol, along with 192 citations for open container citations.

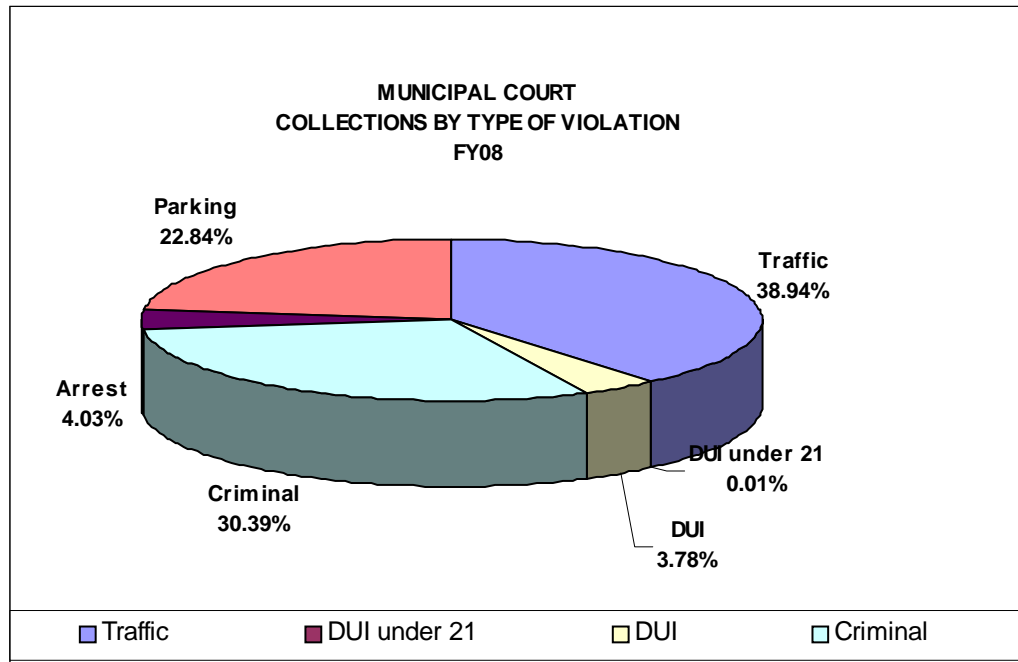
As part of this enforcement effort, Court staff has continued to work with the Morgantown Area Youth Service Project to administer alcohol education classes to the Underage Offenders. Violators who are convicted of the violation of Underage Possession/Consumption of alcohol are required to complete a six-hour alcohol education class and perform at least 6 hours of community service. The Morgantown Area Youth Services Project has enhanced it's program for second offenders of the Underage Possession / Consumption of Alcohol ordinance. Second and subsequent violators will be required to complete a six-week program which includes group and individual counseling.

Litter control continues to be a concern. The Morgantown Police Department has issued 196 citations for various ordinance violations. The majority of citations are for failure to maintain a litter free premise and failure to have trash stored in proper containers. First offenders must pay a fine of up to \$500. Second offenders are sentenced to do community service in addition to paying a larger fine.

In addition to the citations and arrests processed for the Morgantown Police Department, the staff of Municipal Court also processed 106 tickets for fire code violations issued by the Morgantown Fire Department. The following chart depicts the number of citations issued for trash, fire, and underage drinking violations:



Total receipts for FY08 amounted to \$881,052 which includes court costs of \$150,470 paid to the State of West Virginia, \$19,766 paid to Monongalia County Teen Court, collection agency fees, and amounts being held as bonds, pending disposition. The following chart depicts the breakdown of receipts by type of violation:

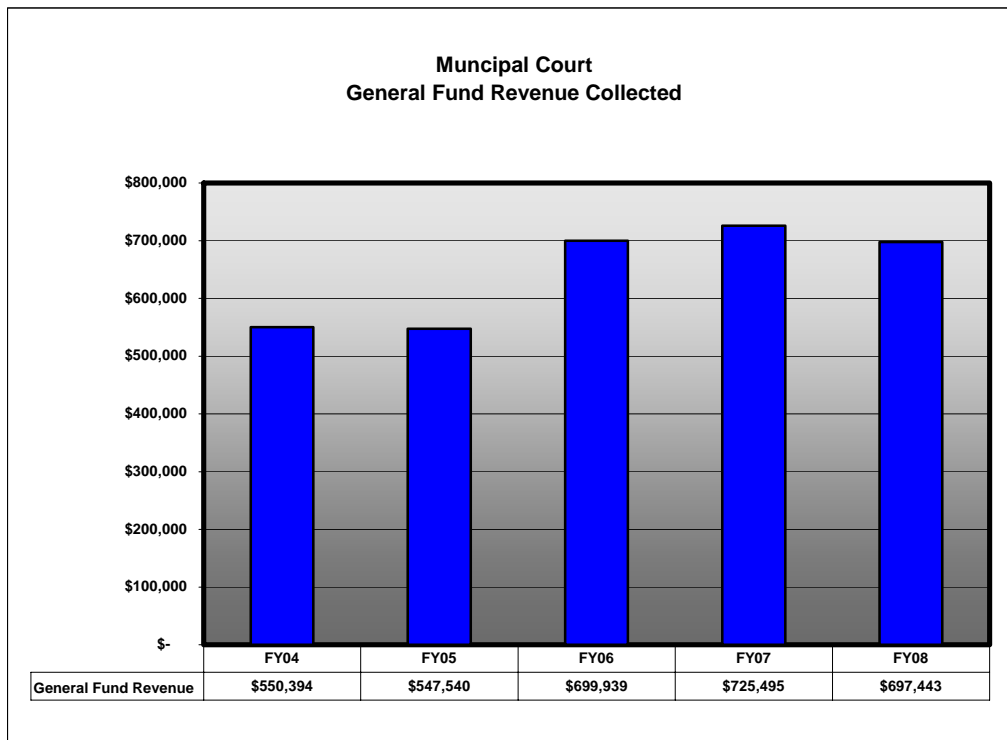


The "Criminal" category includes criminal citations such as underage drinking, trash violations, and housing code violations. The "Arrest" category includes all offenses other than DUI for which the individual is physically brought in, fingerprinted, and processed. This can include charges such as disorderly conduct, battery, destruction of property, and public intoxication.

The number and types of cases that have been processed by Municipal Court for fiscal years ended June 30, 2006, through 2008, are as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Traffic	5,967	5,033	3,567
DUI	160	109	96
DUI Under 21	2	5	3
Criminal	1,993	1,903	1608
Arrest	320	351	316
Parking	<u>15,132</u>	<u>13,123</u>	<u>10,841</u>
Total	23,574	20,524	16,431

Court collections, after remitting the various required fees to the State, are paid to the City's General Fund. As illustrated by the following chart, collections for the City's General Fund are down approximately 4% from the previous year. However, current receipts are up approximately 27% over FY04.



FORECAST FOR THE COMING YEAR

In the coming year the Court will continue to look for ways to improve the Court efficiently. The Court docket continues to be a challenge. The Court has made some changes in Court procedures and will keep trying to find new and effective changes. The staff of Municipal Court will continue to enhance its collection efforts to maintain the positive results seen over the past several years. The Court will continue to do everything possible to reduce or eliminate underage drinking. The Judge will continue to work with the Police Department to control the problem of trash disposal and the continuing problems with the litter free premises ordinance.

The Municipal Court will be installing a new video arraignment system this coming year. The system will allow prisoners to be arraigned at the North Central Regional Jail, eliminating the necessity to transport them personally to Morgantown. The regional jail does not provide transportation to Morgantown on weekends or holidays. This acquisition is necessary to insure that all arrestees are arraigned in the time frame mandated by state code, and will also save time for Court staff and Police Officers. The system is costly at approximately \$10, 000, but it will be very beneficial to the Court.

Morgantown Municipal Court was selected by the West Virginia State Tax Department as a pilot City in its implementation of its income tax offset program for municipal fines. The Municipal Clerk and the City's Finance Director attended a demonstration of the web-based system in Charleston and were asked to give suggestions to improve the functionality of the proposed system. It is expected that the system will be implemented during the coming year.

The Municipal Court will continue to provide the citizens of the City of Morgantown with the best service possible. The staff of the Municipal Court strives to insure that an individual's experience with the Court is as pleasant as possible, even under unpleasant circumstances.