

Erie Municipal Court

Teresa Ablao, Presiding Judge

Danielle Trujillo, Court Administrator

July 9, 2024

Presiding Judge

Teresa Ablao

- Appointed in April 2019
- Two-year term, was re-appointed April 2023, home rule charter changed appointment to one-year
- Town's Liquor Licensing Authority



Court Staff

Court Administrator Danielle Trujillo
and Deputy Court Administrator
Julie Alaniz

- Process cases and payments
- Assist Court users
- Prepare Court docket and schedule (2 days per month)
- Maintain and release Court records
- Sealings and expungements
- Administrative support for both Judge and Prosecutor (process motions, provide Discovery, issue subpoenas)
- Warrants



Additional Court Roles



Court Appointed Counsel

- Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel (OADC) Municipal Court Program
 - Evaluates for independence and competence
- Follow Chief Justice Directives for payment, part of Municipal Court budget



Assistant Judge

- David Thrower
- Previously Michelle Kline and Jeff Cahn, both have accepted full time appointments in other jurisdictions



Case Filings

2023 total: 874

- 161 criminal (101 juvenile)
- 711 traffic (75 juvenile)
- 2 parking
- Most cited violations: underage possession of alcohol, underage possession of marijuana, speeding 10-19mph over limit

2024 as of June 1: 370

- 43 criminal (18 juvenile)
- 324 traffic (38 juvenile)
- 3 parking

2022 total: 964



2024 and Beyond

2024 Updates

- Ordinance updates (sealing, court costs)
- Court staff training and professional development
- Continued process improvement and documenting procedures

Looking Forward

- Town Hall Expansion
- Paperless
- Sentencing Fund
- Upcoming Legislation
- Request For Qualifications (RFQ) will be issued to select new Judge



2024 New Legislation Related to Municipal Court

HB24-1437: requires municipal courts to follow chief justice directive 04-04 when paying court appointed counsel. Does not affect Erie as the Court has paid court appointed counsel pursuant to the chief justice directive 04-04 since 2019.

HB24-1133: clarifies the process for access to and sealing or expungement of municipal court criminal justice records. The Court will make appropriate adjustments to advise defendants of the new rules.



Town Prosecutor's Annual Update

The Ausmus Law Firm has served as the Prosecuting Attorneys for the Town of Erie for the past several years. The court staff and police department for the Town of Erie are highly professional, efficient and thorough. They have made our transition seamless and have provided support and collaboration on all aspects concerning the Court.

Our firm will continue to respect the constitutional and legal rights of everyone appearing in municipal court within our ethical and legal obligations.

Our law firm is honored to be a part of such a dedicated team.