

ALBANY MUNICIPAL COURT

2022 CALENDAR YEAR 1ST QUARTER REPORT

Produced June 2022



ALBANY MUNICIPAL COURT

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Honorable Mayor Bo Dorough
City of Albany
Government Center
222 Pine Avenue, Suite 500
Albany, Georgia 31701

Dear Mayor Dorough,
I am pleased to provide you with Municipal Court's First Quarter Report for Calendar Year 2022.

The beginning of 2022 has presented Municipal Court with many challenges but has also seen some exciting successes with more to come through the City Commission's continued support.

As 2021 came to an end the Court's engagement with ReEngine Consulting, LLC was also concluding. Throughout the engagement with the Municipal Court team and its stakeholders, ReEngine, while working to meet the terms of their contract, shared a collaborative methodology for revising and developing Court operating procedures that has been and will continue to be deployed to review and enhance the operations of the City's Court.

The Albany Works! Program is a significant success for the Court and with some continued nurturing the Community Court program should become a very positive alternative sentencing program for the City. It has been satisfying to see some of the initial clients turn a negative into a positive by taking advantage of the connections to and support from our community partners.

I look forward to continuing our work with you and the Commission as we strive to make Albany's Court an asset in the City's effort to deliver exceptional services.

Respectfully,

Willie C. Weaver, Sr., Chief Judge

- cc: Commissioners Howard, Johnson, Gaines, Warbington, Langstaff and Young
- Steven Carter, City Manager
- C. Nathan Davis, City Attorney
- Sonja Tolbert, City Clerk

MUNICIPAL COURT

31702 | Phone: 229.431.2865 | Fax: 229.431.8193 | www.albanyga.gov



Chief Judge
Willie C. Weaver, Sr.

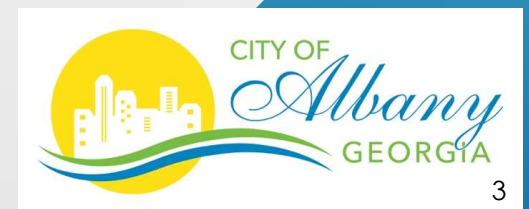


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*NOTE: Courtware Data is the primary source for the document

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The Challenges:

- Obtaining sufficient and trained staff to serve as qualified Municipal Court Clerks.
 - A part-time Municipal Court has been operating with minimum staffing for about a year (four (4) Court capable Clerk of Court positions).
 - Moving towards a full-time Municipal Court an addition of two (2) Court capable clerks would be warranted to support the need for expanding the weekly docket.
- Moving the Court to a full-time operation.
 - As a primary recommendation from the consultant team charged to review the current operations and structure of Albany's Municipal Court, a caseload review supports the need to provide a full-time Court (a conclusion supporting a position endorsed by the former 2016 City Commission).
 - To provide a full-time Court, additional resources to include staffing will be essential to support the expansion.
- Potential need to relocate Municipal Court.
 - To benefit from the potential expansion of the Court's full-time status, operating in a City managed facility would provide for more flexibility in docket scheduling, program interventions and services through Albany Works! (Community Court Program).
 - Additionally, there is speculation that an additional Superior Court Judge will be funded by the state and the Municipal Courtroom and associated courthouse space may be set aside for that expansion.

NOTES:

- A MAY 2020 COMMUNICATION REGARDING MUNICIPAL COURT CHALLENGES WAS PROVIDED TO CITY STAFF LEADERSHIP AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS.



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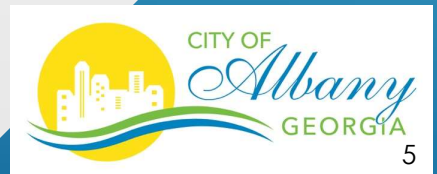
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The Successes:

- As January 2022 started, Municipal Court found itself still operating under the COVID-19 judicial protocols. Even with reduced caseloads on the docket, the Court was able to work through a backlog of cases waiting to be heard by the Judge. Going from a six (6) month wait to approximately a three (3) month wait was no accident.
 - Strategies and enhancements in procedures either gained directly through the Municipal Court's engagement with a consultant charged to recommend best practices, or the Municipal Court staff themselves, using strategies shared by the selected vendor, ReEngine Consulting, LLC, adjusted the Court's processes and procedures to aid in the reduction of the caseload backlog.
- The Albany Works! (AW!) Initiative (Community Court umbrella) began operations on March 1, 2022. This initiative is building an infrastructure to offer alternative problem-solving justice options that link judicially-supervised offenders to drug treatment, alternative sanctions, and other services in order to reduce drug use, crime, incarceration, and recidivism. The implementation team is composed of member from the AW! design team, court staff, community stakeholders, and community service providers. An advisory panel of Subject Matter Experts (SME) are being utilized to support the creation of deliberate processes for a successful Community Court Initiative that includes significant community engagement. The Court has access to services provided by over 30 community service providers.

NOTES:

- FOLLOWING 2019 WHEN DEVASTATING FACTORS EMERGED DISRUPTING AN EFFECTIVE CITY JUDICIAL PROCESS, THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE CURRENT OPERATIONS OF THE COURT AND CONSIDER HOW THE COURT, IF ANY, SHOULD LOOK IN THE FUTURE.
- THIS EXTENSIVE REVIEW BY THE TASK FORCE AND A SELECTED CONSULTANT BEGAN IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES AND HAVE PROVIDED A ROADMAP TO CONSIDER FOR THE OPERATIONS OF COURT IN THE FUTURE.



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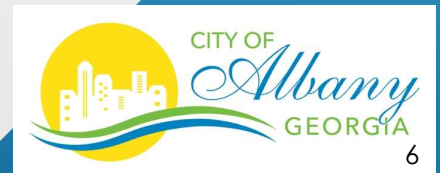
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The Successes Continued:

- AW! established a partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers which supports the facilitation of program entry, community providers intake, and job placement access on site at their Career Center in Albany, Ga.
- AW! established a partnership between Albany Technical College and the Municipal Court to create and support the following options for AW! participants:
 - Direct enrollment for completion of GED
 - Direct enrollment for Technical skill tracks (including financial assistance)
 - Individualized assistance to support successful matriculation through the Technical College's programs (inclusive of Social Services, Finances, Wellness and Mental Health)
 - Support services targeting the successful matriculation of Black men through the college's programs (new Grant)
- AW! Is working to establish Evening/Night Court hours to better serve the community's needs. This additional Court docket may be physically conducted in the Mock Court Room, Criminal Justice Department on the campus of Albany Technical College. A pilot docket is being planned for September 2022.

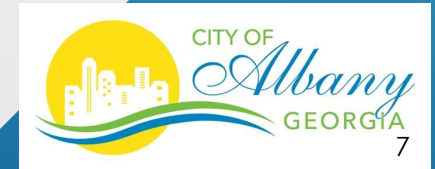
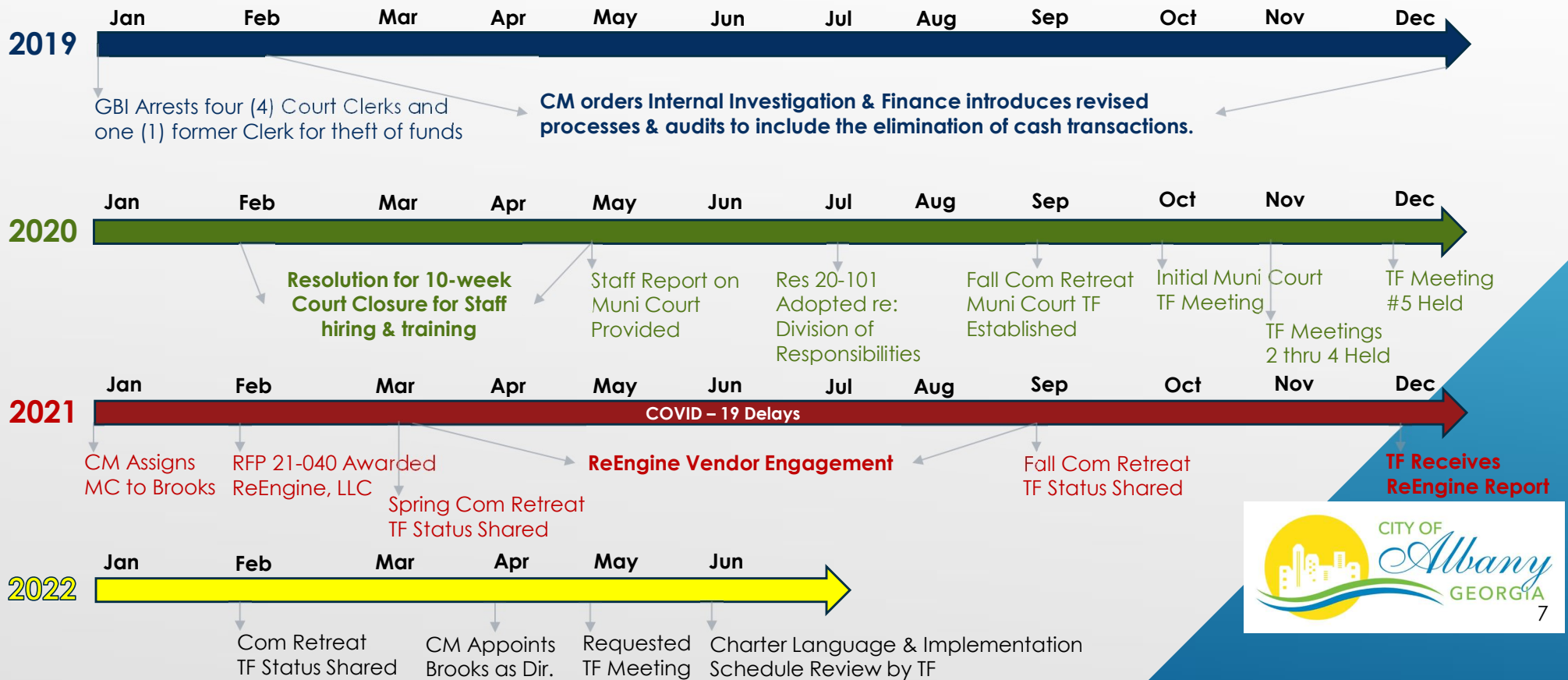
NOTES:

- ALBANY WORKS! BEGAN WORKING WITH CLIENTS THIS QUARTER AND HAS MET SOME INITIAL SUCCESS. EXPANSION OF THE CLIENT LOAD IS PLANNED FOR THE 2ND QUARTER.
- STAFF HAS INITIATED RESEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM AS THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION'S 2-YEAR FUNDING START-UP GRANT WILL BE COMPLETE BY OCTOBER 31, 2022.



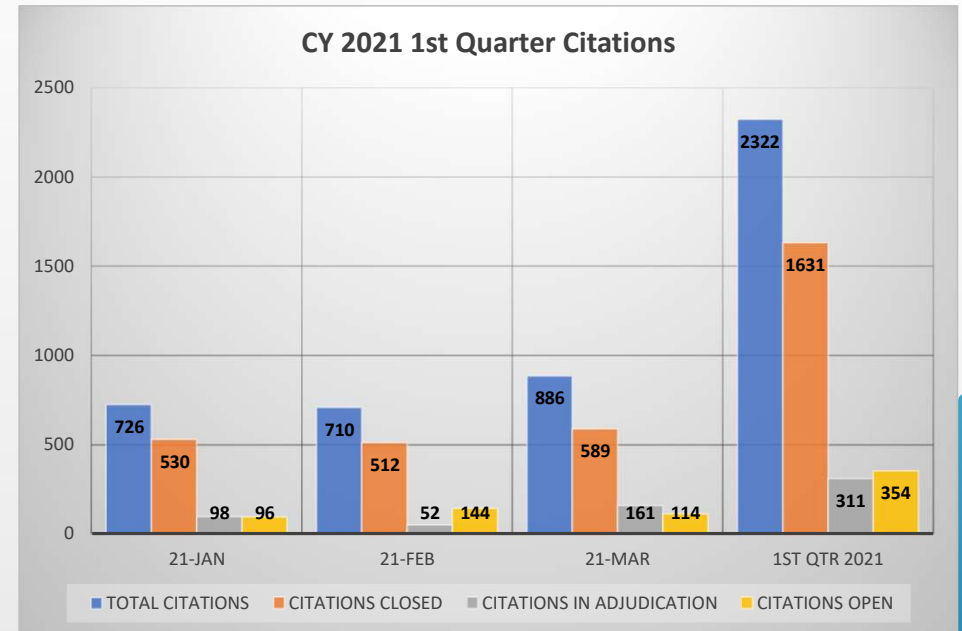
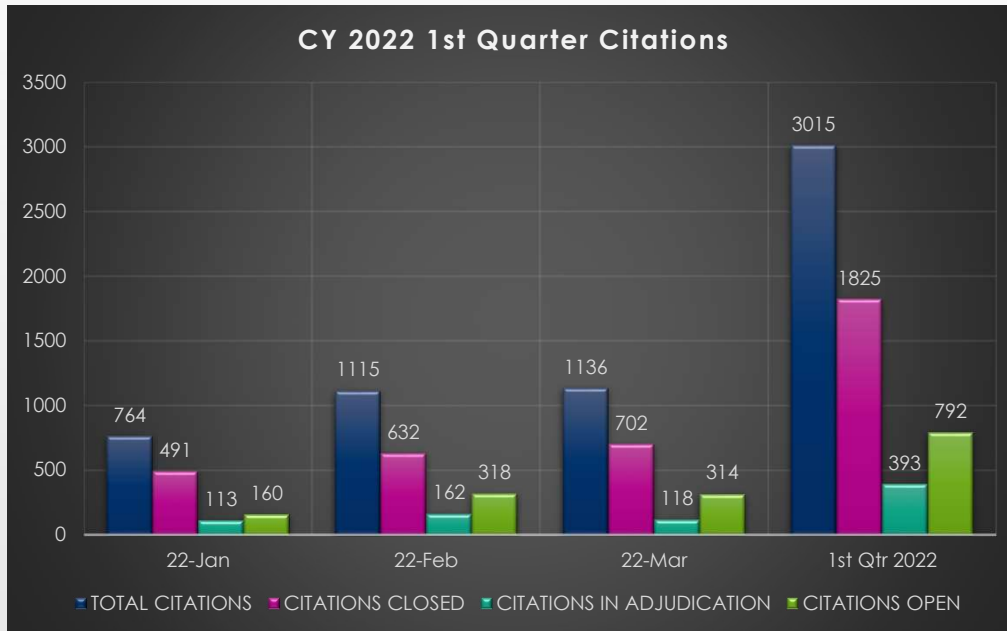
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TASK FORCE KEY DATES & ACTIVITIES



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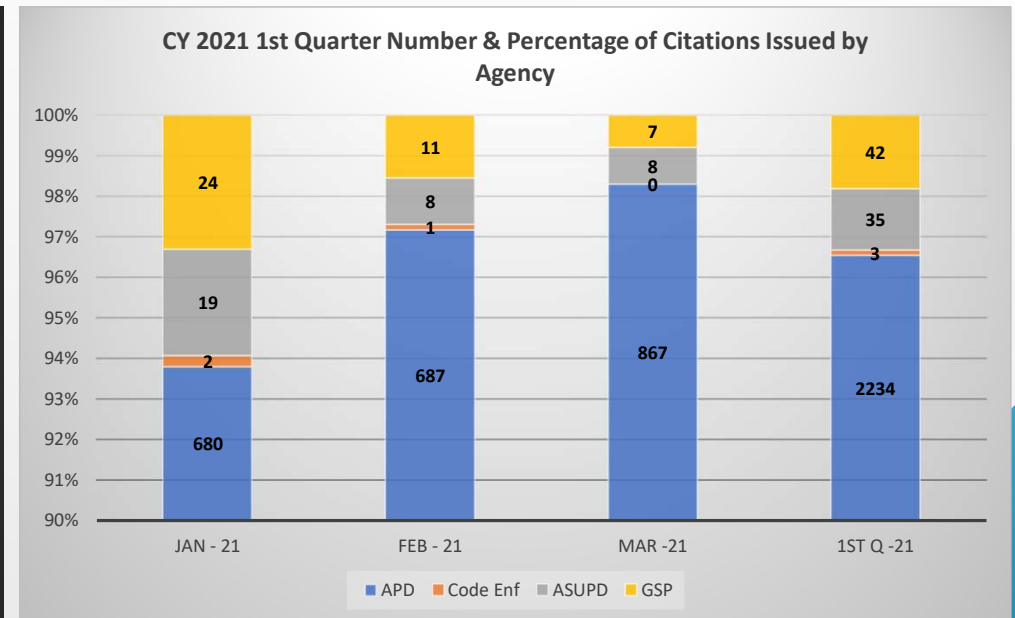
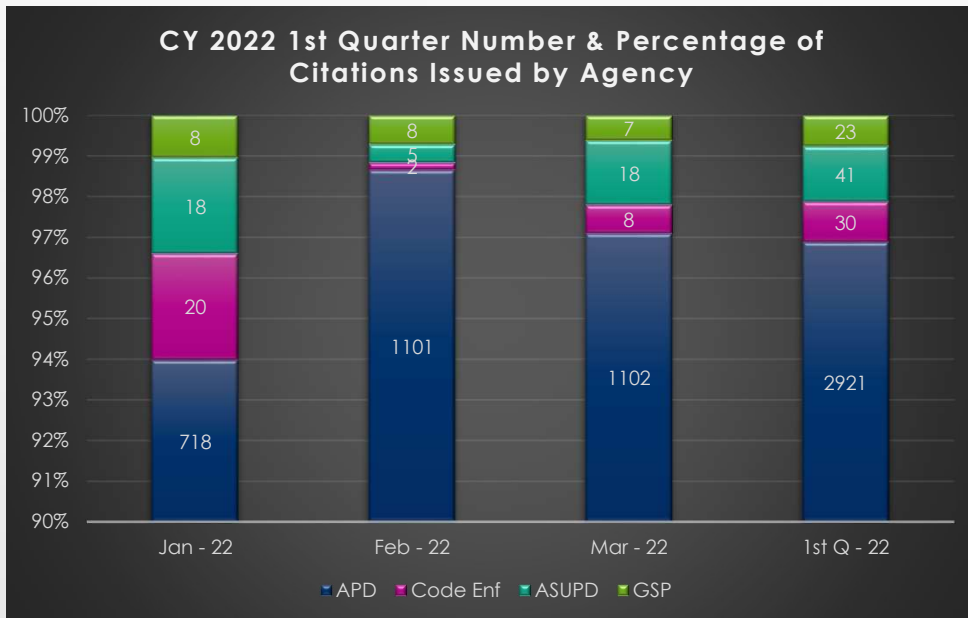
NOTES:

- CY 22 FIRST QUARTER CITATION VOLUME IS UP BY 23% COMPARED TO CY 21.
- OPEN CASES FOR THE SAME PERIOD COMPARISON ARE UP BY 46%.



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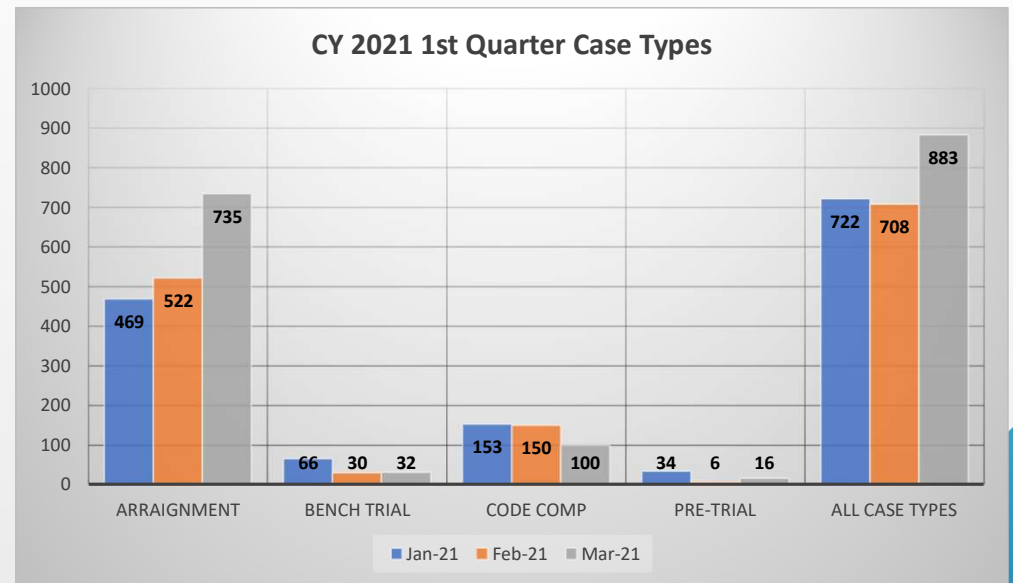
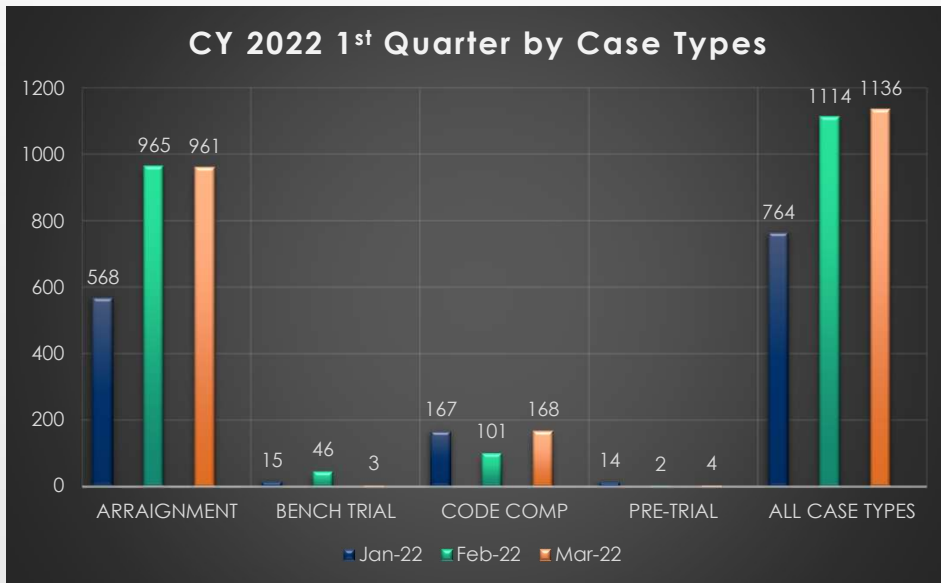
NOTES:

- ALBANY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT IS THE PRIMARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UTILIZING THE COURT.
- APD'S CITATIONS HAVE INCREASED BY 24% IN CY 22 1ST Q VS. THE 1ST Q OF CY 21.



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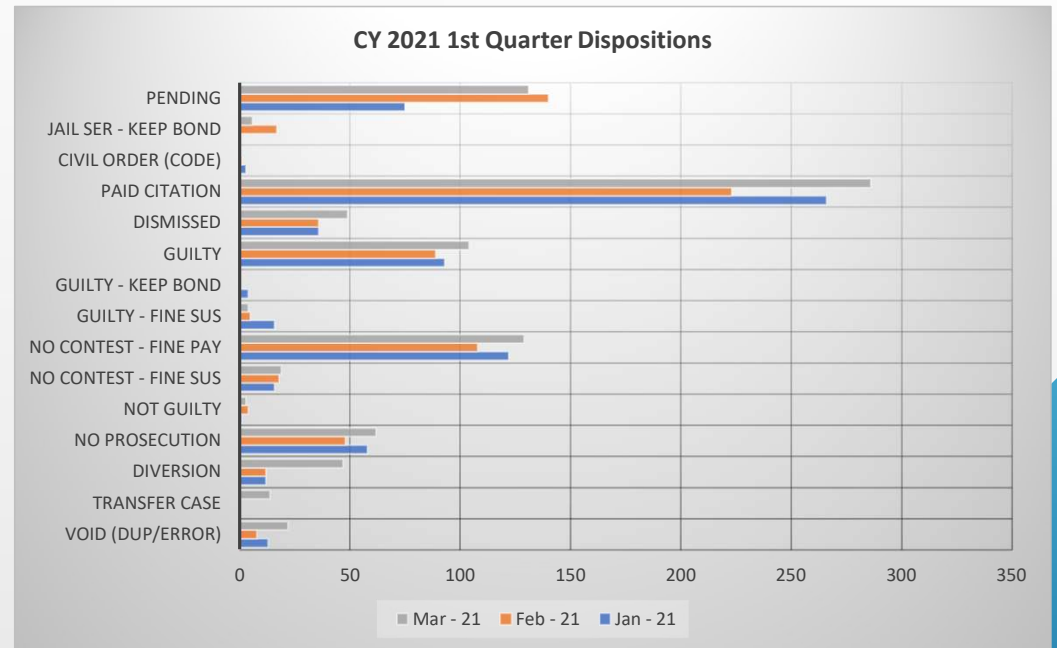
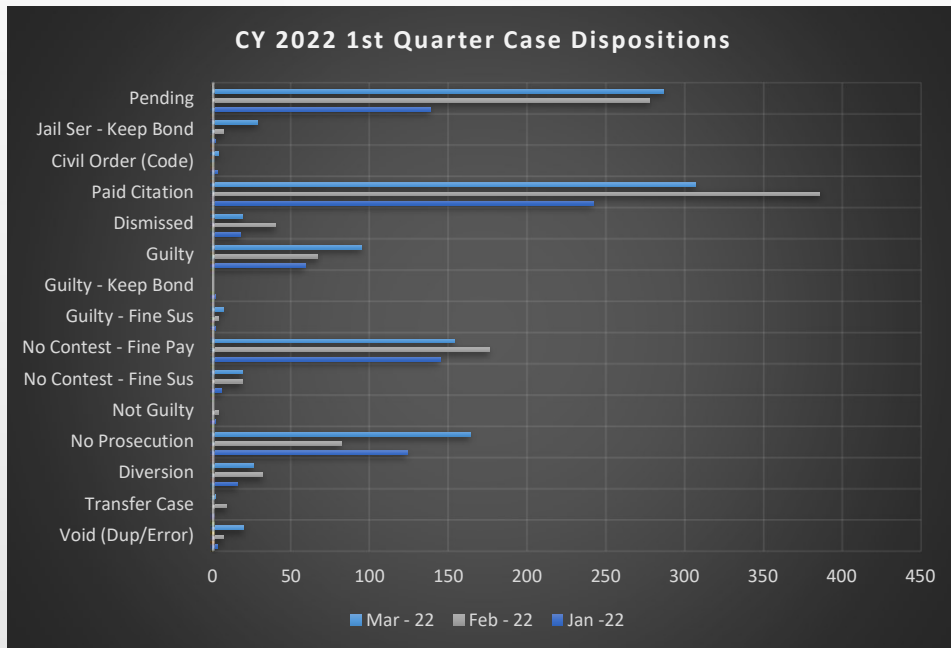
NOTES:

- MUNICIPAL COURT HAS SEEN ABOUT A 25% INCREASE IN ITS MONTHLY CASELOADS IN THE 1ST Q OF CY 22 VS. CY 21'S 1ST Q.
- IMPROVEMENTS IN THE VOLUME OF CASES MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO IMPROVED COURT PROCESSES AND LARGER CASE DOCKETS IN CY 22 VS. CY 21 (COVID).



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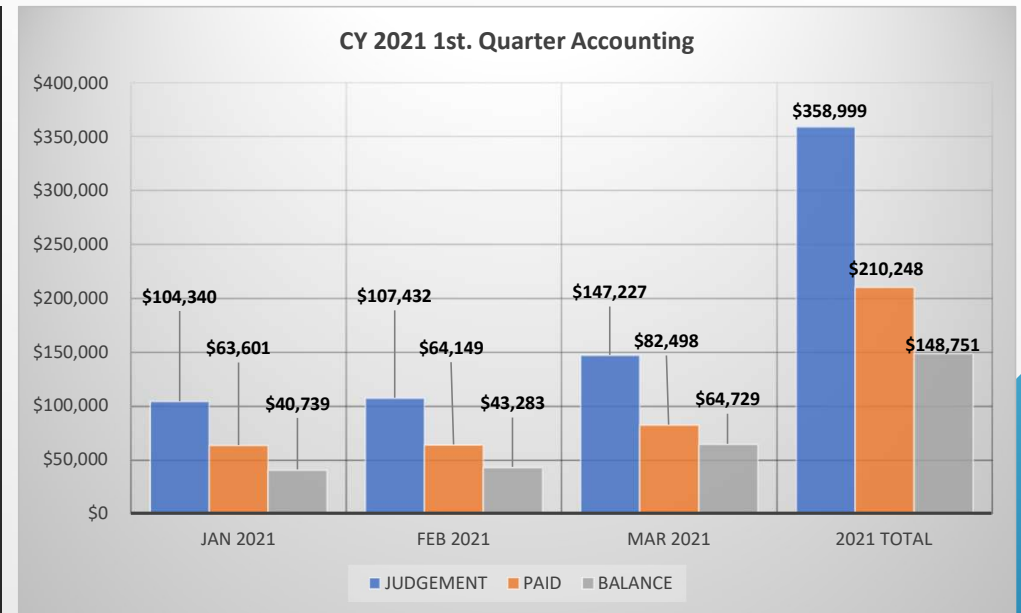
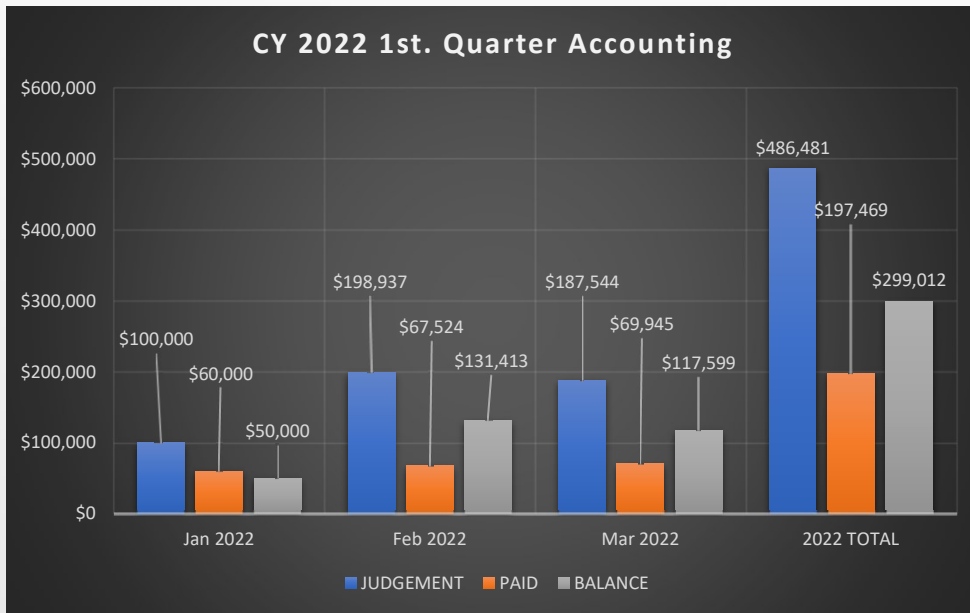
NOTES:

- CITATIONS PAID REMAINS THE LARGEST DISPOSITION FOR TICKETS ISSUED EACH MONTH OVER THE QUARTER.
- THE CURRENT BACKLOG OF CASES IS REFLECTED IN THE CASES PENDING. WITH MORE CITATIONS BEING ISSUED THE COURT'S BACKLOG HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT FOR THE 2022 FIRST QUARTER.



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NOTES:

- THE COURT WILL NEED TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE BALANCE OF JUDGEMENTS DUE. THE 2022 FIRST QUARTER REFLECTS A LARGER BALANCE OF JUDGEMENTS TO BE PAID, WHEREAS THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021 INDICATES THE OPPOSITE.



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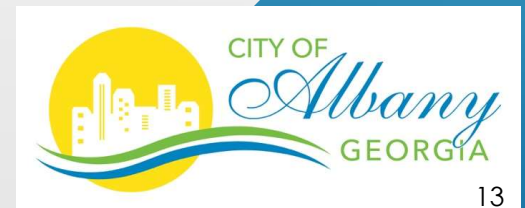
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3rd Quarter FY 2022 Municipal Court Budget Combined vs. FY 2021

MUNICIPAL COURT	FY 22 Budget	END of 3rd Quarter FY 22	% Used YTD FY 22	FY 22 Balance
TOTAL Salaries & Benefits	\$684,869	\$356,110	52.00%	\$328,759
TOTAL Contract Services	\$104,139	\$130,928	125.72%	(\$26,789)
TOTAL Maintenance & Misc.	\$102,130	\$73,205	71.68%	\$28,925
TOTAL Materials & Supplies	\$39,310	\$30,649	77.97%	\$8,661
GRAND TOTAL MUNI COURT	\$930,448	\$590,892	63.51%	\$339,556

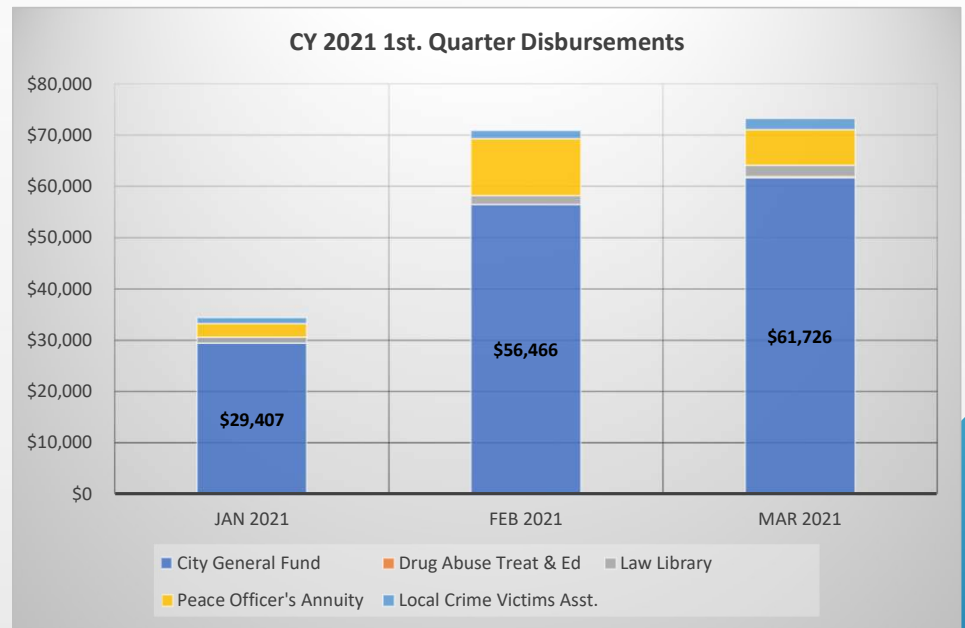
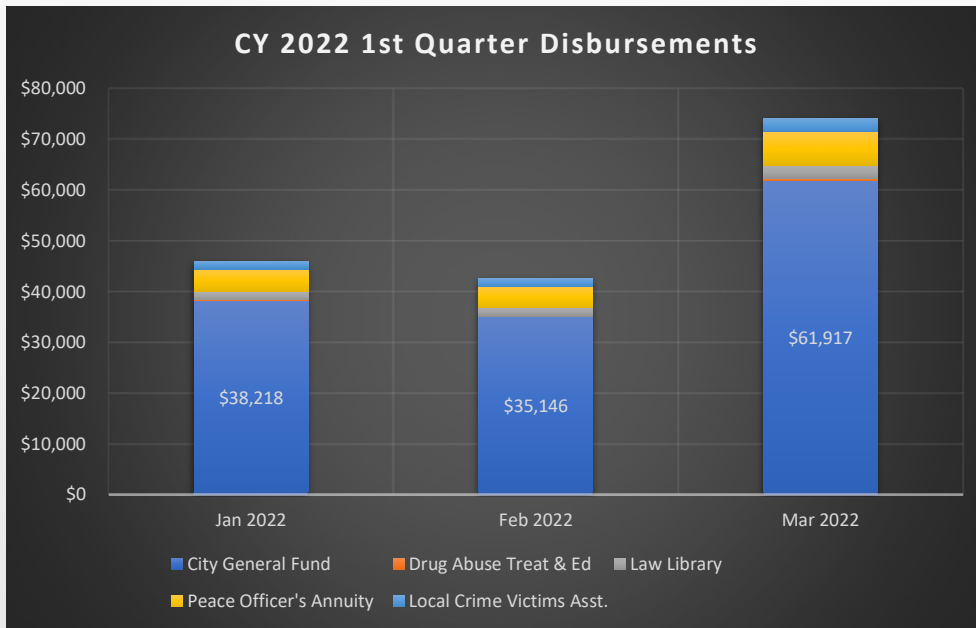
NOTES:

- THE COURT HAS EXCEEDED ITS BUDGET IN CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR FY 22, HOWEVER THE TOTAL EXPENSE EXPENDITURES REMAINS WITHIN BUDGET AND MAY BE ADJUSTED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT. THE COST OF THE ReENGINE CONTRACT WAS PAID THROUGH THIS CATEGORY THOUGH NOT IN THE BUDGET AT THE TIME OF APPROVAL.



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NOTES:

- THE DISTRIBUTIONS OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY THE COURT ARE CALCULATED MONTHLY THROUGH THE COURTWARE SOFTWARE.



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Municipal Court Contacts – Payment & Hours:

Main line Number (229)431.2865
Fax line Number (229)432.8193

STREET ADDRESS:

Albany Municipal Court
Albany-Dougherty Judicial Building
225 Pine Ave. Suite 201
Albany, Georgia 31701

WEBSITE:

www.albanyga.gov/about-us/city-departments/municipal-court

COURTHOUSE PAYMENT WINDOW SCHEDULE:

Monday through Friday (Except for Holidays & Special Circumstances)
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

****NO CASH - Certified Funds and Credit Cards Accepted for Payments****

****Credit Card Payments have a Convenience Fee****

ONLINE PAYMENTS:

www.ticketfastpay.com



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The Municipal Court is a misdemeanor court that has jurisdiction over City Ordinance violations and State and Local traffic offenses. Specific type cases handled by the court include routine traffic offenses, driving under the influence of alcohol, possession and consumption by a minor, truancy and curfew violations, possession of marijuana less than an ounce, firearms violations, nuisance and abatement cases, animal control citations, false alarm, and lot cleaning cases.

Produced June 2022

Developed by

**Mr. Barry G. Brooks, MPA, CFCA Director of Municipal Court
Administration**

