



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: December 3, 2024

In Control: Municipal Court Advisory Committee

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Courts

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carla Obledo

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Community Court Program

SUMMARY:

The San Antonio Municipal Court will provide the Municipal Court Advisory Committee with a briefing on the Community Court program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The primary purpose of Community Court is to address quality-of-life issues in downtown San Antonio by providing innovative sentencing options for individuals committing public order Class C offenses. The court works to eliminate legal barriers to stability by offering voluntary, personalized solutions that help defendants resolve fines and fees.

Many cases involve individuals experiencing homelessness, with a large portion of offenses committed by repeat offenders who cycle through the criminal justice system, imposing high costs

on community services. By partnering with local shelters and service agencies, the court assists homeless individuals in addressing legal challenges, helping them avoid punitive measures that can perpetuate homelessness.

Through alternative sentencing structures, Community Court connects defendants to critical services, helping them overcome barriers such as obtaining ID cards, accessing support services, and working with law enforcement. This approach not only promotes self-sufficiency but also optimizes community resources by reducing unnecessary arrests and creating pathways to long-term stability.

Community Court is committed to administering justice with fairness and compassion, fostering trust, accountability, and a more equitable system for all.

ISSUE:

Briefing on the operation and purpose of Community Court.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purpose only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purpose only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purpose only.