



DENVER

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL
PUBLIC DEFENDER



Our Mission To provide excellent legal representation and holistic support to our clients by upholding their rights and telling their stories.

Our Vision Ensuring access to justice and equitable outcomes by advocating for the individuals we serve.

Our Core Values

- Fight for Equity and Equal Representation.
- Build Rapport and Trust through Support and Connections.
- Deliver Client-Centered Justice.
- Listen To and Advocate For Equity.
- Respect Dignity and Restore Hope.



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OMPD Clients

- **100%** are living at or below the poverty line
- **80% or more** are living with trauma, mental health, brain injury, or substance misuse conditions
- **Majority** are unhoused or experiencing housing instability
- **Highest users of safety services** including jail bed days in the City [1]
- **Limited access** to behavioral healthcare - especially for black, indigenous, and people of color [2]



1. OMPD. (2020). Black Lives Matter: Summary of research on the OMPD and Denver Municipal Court. Retrieved from <https://wp-denverite.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/08/OMPD.pdf>
2. Colorado Health Foundation. (2020). Colorado coronavirus survey. Retrieved from <https://coloradohealth.org/news/colorado-survey-finds-major-mental-health-impact-coronavirus-outbreak-especially-among-women>

**Holistic
representation
is a client-
centered,
community-
oriented
approach to
criminal
defense**



19 Lawyers representing
over
10,000 indigent
clients/year on
Denver Municipal
Ordinance Violations

- Disturbing the Peace
- Trespass
- Shoplifting
- Open Container
- Assault
- Prostitution



A photograph of a courtroom scene. A judge with a grey beard, wearing a black judicial robe, is seated on the left. He is holding a pair of glasses in his right hand and a pen in his left. He is looking towards the right. In the foreground on the right, the back of a woman with long brown hair is visible. She is also seated. The background shows a courtroom with large windows and wooden paneling. The text "OMPD in Court Seven Days a Week" is overlaid in white at the bottom.

OMPD in Court
Seven Days a Week

We the People of the United States

insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and including Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such Enumeration, shall be made, the Ratio of one Representative to every thirty Thousand shall be as near as possible to the Ratio of one Representative to every thirty Thousand.

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Chapter 38 - OFFENSES, MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS^[1]

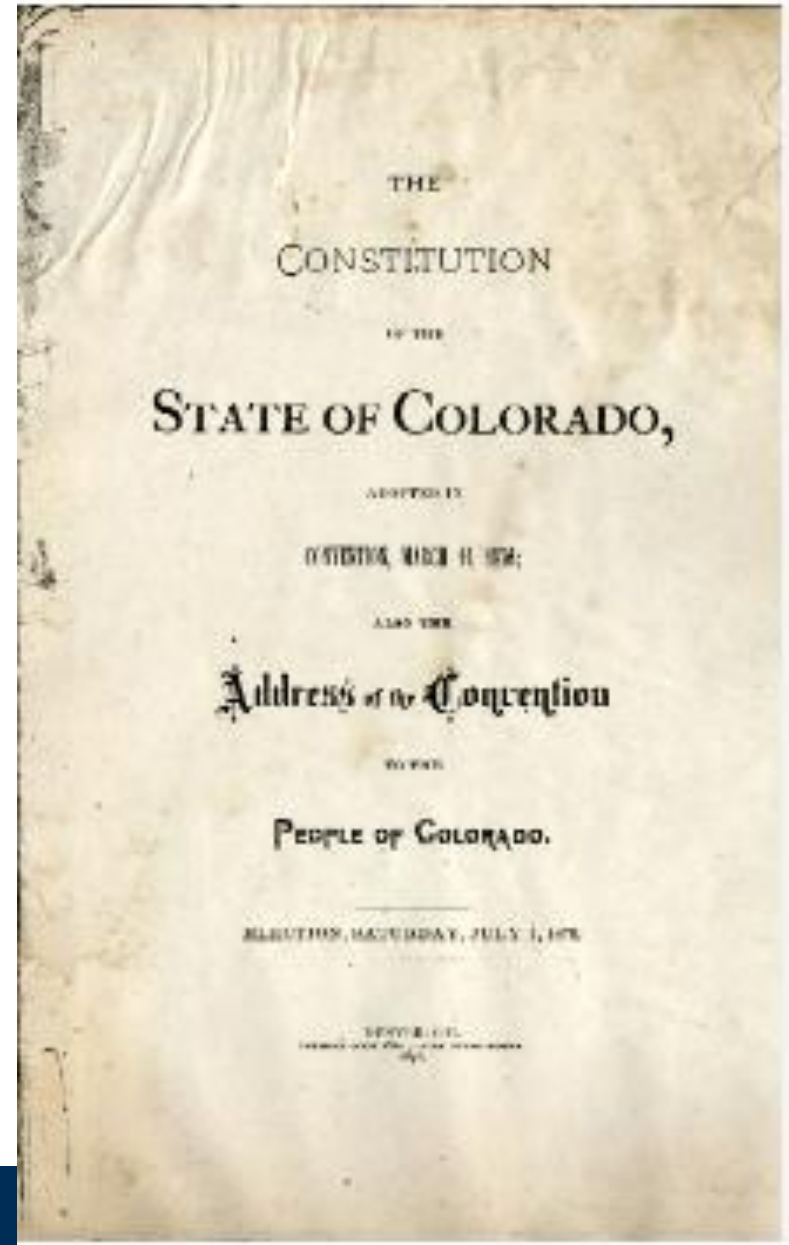
Footnotes:

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Case Law annotation— Violation of an ordinance which is of the counterpart of a criminal statute should be tried and punished under the protection applicable to criminal cases even though prosecuted in a municipal court. *Zerobnick v. Denver*, 139 Colo. 139, 337 P. 2d 11 (1959)

Cross reference— Court, Ch. 14; environmental tobacco smoke control, § 24-301 et seq.; offenses affecting minors, § 34-41 et seq.; offenses by minors, § 34-61 et seq.; nuisances generally, Ch. 37; police, Ch. 42; traffic regulations, Ch. 54.

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL



Client Support Team Goals

- Increase connections for help and support for OMPD clients and their families
- Increase the number of individuals appearing for court
- Reduce **recidivism** for program participants
- Increased skills and awareness for addressing mental health and substance misuse issues for OMPD staff



LeAnn Fickes
Program Manager

Ty Cope
Supervisor



Krystin Loera
Jared Gomez
Kiersten Davis
Peer Navigators



Lupe Gonzalez
Bilingual Outreach Case Coordinator

Hannah Lucey
Behavioral Health Navigator

2021 - 2023 Client Support Team Impact

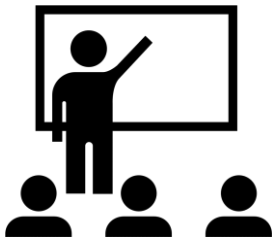
Feb. 2021 to September 2023



6 Behavioral Health Trainings held for all OMPD staff

40 Partnerships launched with City and community agencies

4 Courtrooms & Specialty Courts supported by CST staff



6 staff trained to facilitate the **Wellness Recovery Action Plan Workshop** for OMPD clients and staff



950+ client referrals

1,500+ resources shared



CST participants appeared for court 92% of the time compared to around 60% for Denver County Court



75+ Reentry plans created for individuals exiting Denver Jails

Denver Municipal Public Defender

**Client Support Team
(CST)**

*** = Referral process Developed**



Outreach Court

- Do you have outstanding city cases (**GS**, **GV**) or warrants to resolve? (we cannot address misdemeanor (**M**) or felony (**CR**) cases)?
- And are you experiencing housing instability?
- If so, we can help with connection to services.

Outreach Court is held from 8:30-10:30 on the following days and locations:



- 9/13, 10/11, 11/8 & 12/13 at the **Denver Rescue Mission** (Lawrence Street shelter)
1130 Park Ave West
- 9/27 & 11/22 at the **The AID Center**, 1370 Elati St.
- 10/25 & 12/27 at the **Denver Public Library** (Central location), 10 W. 14th Ave.

Services Offered:

- Substance use treatment
- Mental Health providers
- Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
- Peer Support
- Connections to other resources

Can't make it? Call (720) 337-0410 to be added to the in-person Duty Court docket M-F.



Denver Rescue Mission: 2nd Wednesday of Month
Denver Public Library; 4th Wednesday of Month



THE DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY CONNECT

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, JULY 21

10AM - 3PM

AT CIVIC CENTER PARK



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | [DENVERGOV.ORG](https://denvergov.org) | DENVER 8 TV



DENVER FRESH START

**SATURDAY | OCTOBER 28, 2023
9:00AM-2:00PM**

**A.I.D. Center of Denver County
1370 Elati Street
Denver, CO**

CLEAR YOUR WARRANTS

What you can expect

- Clear outstanding warrants
- Resolve your case or set a new court date
- Speak with defense attorneys
- Get back on track with probation

You are eligible if you have an active warrant for a:

- Denver misdemeanor case
- Denver municipal case
- Probation violation in a Denver County or Municipal Court case
- Failure to appear at 2nd advisement in a Class 4, 5 or 6 non-VRA felony

No appointment necessary

NO ARRESTS WILL BE MADE REGARDLESS OF ELIGIBILITY

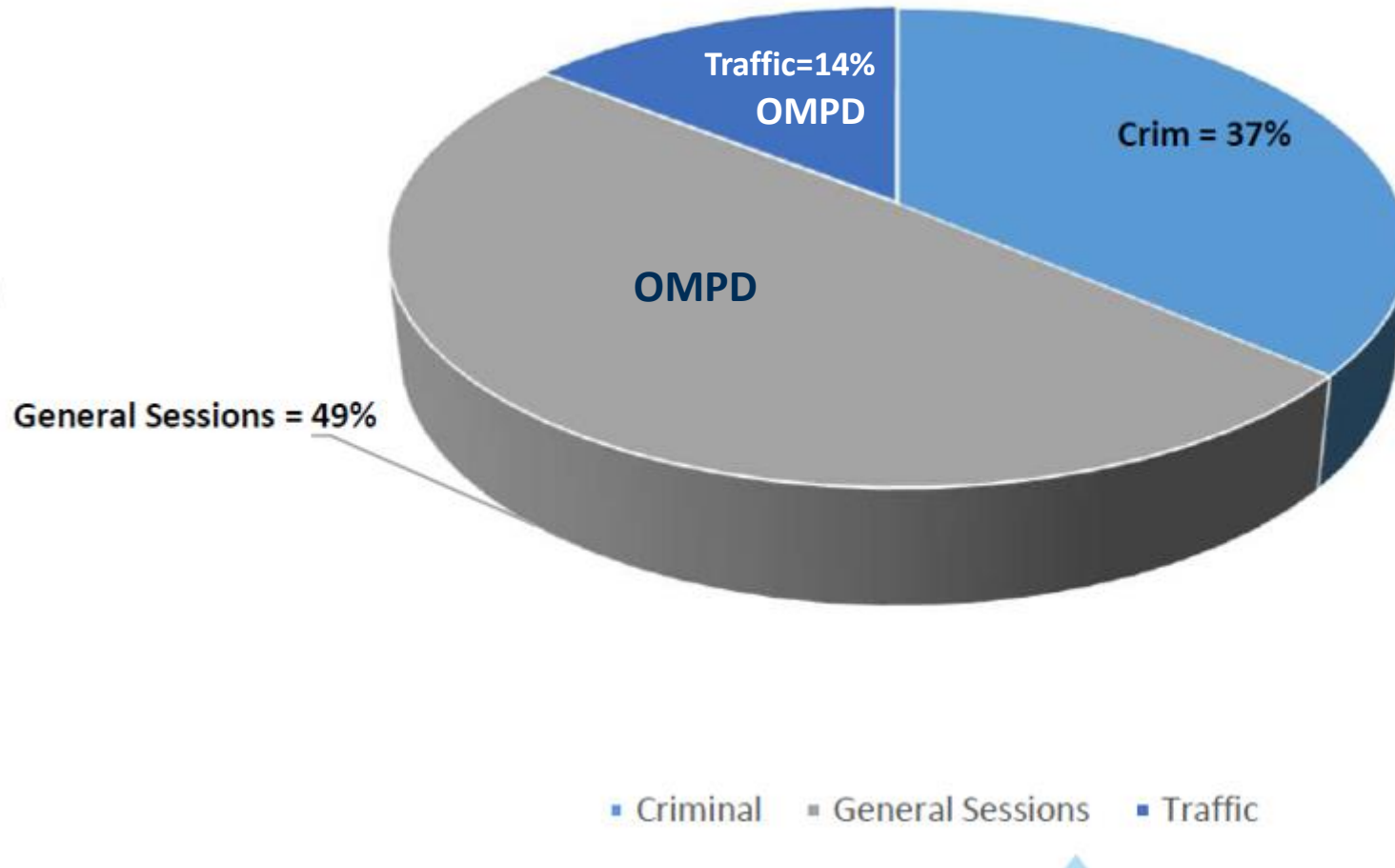
QUESTIONS? Denver@coloradodefenders.us

In Partnership With:

*Denver County Court | Denver District Attorney's Office | Office of the Municipal Public Defender |
Office of the Colorado State Public Defender
Alternate Defense Counsel | Denver County Probation | Denver Pretrial Services
Denver City Attorney | Denver Sheriff Department*



FRESH START 2023



Wellness Program

A voluntary program that is short-term, harm reduction based, designed to meet individuals where they are, engaging and helping them meet their goals to better their well-being and decrease their contact with the criminal legal system. Eligibility is based on being having a behavioral health need and a Municipal level case in Courtroom 2100, and a City Attorney approved charge.

Individuals enter into a deferred prosecution and have up to 56 days to complete their self-identified goals with the Wellness Community Connectors. Upon completion of the goals, the case is dismissed.

WELLPOWER MOU WITH OMPD

TherapyDirect

Quickly access a counselor for a full 55-minute, online session – no medical insurance needed. We welcome all Colorado residents ages 18 years and up, including those new to counseling. **TherapyDirect is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



[Learn More About TherapyDirect](#)

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Workgroup



2023 Strategies *OMPD's Racial Equity Action Plan*

1. Staff diversity in hiring and retention
2. Agency-wide Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion Training and Resources
3. Develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate a Language Access Plan (LAP) for OMPD clients
4. Increased # Bilingual Staff

OMPD Highlights

- Hosts one behavioral health training for all staff per quarter, to increase knowledge of mental health, substance misuse, and trauma
- In 2022, all staff participated in the City's *Race and Social Justice* training
- In 2023, OMPD piloted paid stipends for legal interns
- OMPD supports two specialty courts: Wellness and Outreach Court, along with other events to reach and support Denver's most vulnerable residents



Denver Municipal Juvenile Court OMPD Representation

OMPD Commissioners





OMPD Open House
Thursday, Nov. 16
From 3pm to 7pm



Thank you for
your support!

Participant Voices

From an Outreach Court Client to OMPD lawyer, "Thank you so much for everything you did for me today. I appreciate your professionalism and taking time for me. You treated my case like a lawyer should. As you know I've had a few PD lawyers and you stand out as one of the best! Thanks for everything!"

One participant remarked, *"the world needs more of you."* This client had over 30 trespass cases due to experiencing homelessness and had several jail stays. The CST connected them to transitional housing and behavioral health treatment; this past client now has permanent, supportive housing and has reconnected with their family.