



# 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.



# 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

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





OMPDP in Court  
Seven Days a Week



*We the People* of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquillity, 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.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be seven Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen.

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 seven Years in such Manner as they shall be directed. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and each such Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of seven Years in such Manner as they shall be directed.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall fill the Vacancies in such Manner as they shall be directed.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years, and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Chapter 38 - OFFENSES, MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS<sup>[1]</sup>



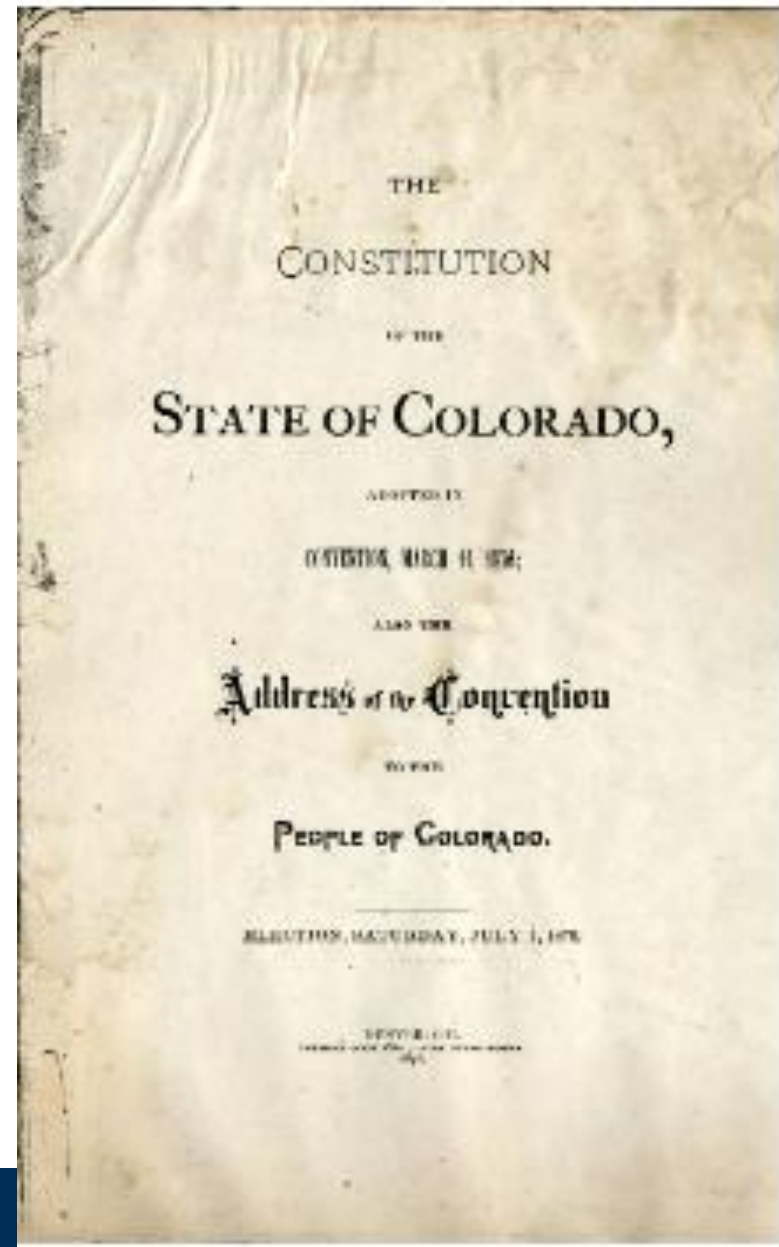
Footnotes:

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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



**950+** client referrals

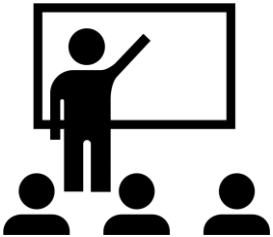
**1,500+** resources shared



**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



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

# 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:

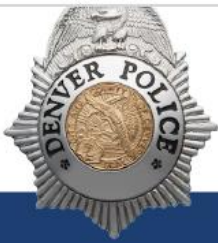
- Substance use treatment
- Mental Health providers
- Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
- Peer Support
- Connections to other resources

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





**Denver Rescue Mission: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Month  
Denver Public Library; 4<sup>th</sup> 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



CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | 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**

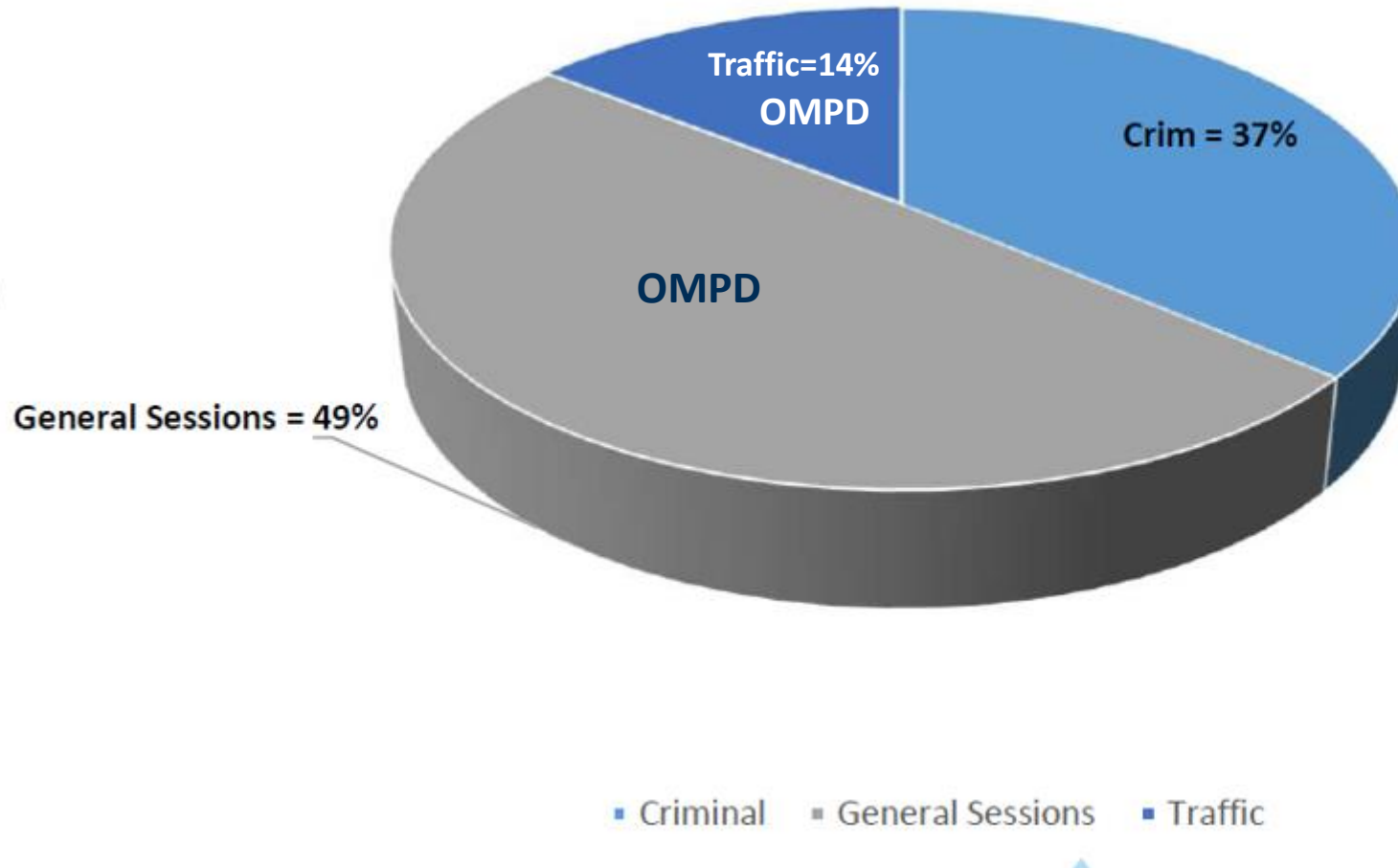
QUESTIONS? [Denver@coloradodefenders.us](mailto:Denver@coloradodefenders.us)

*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



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# 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.