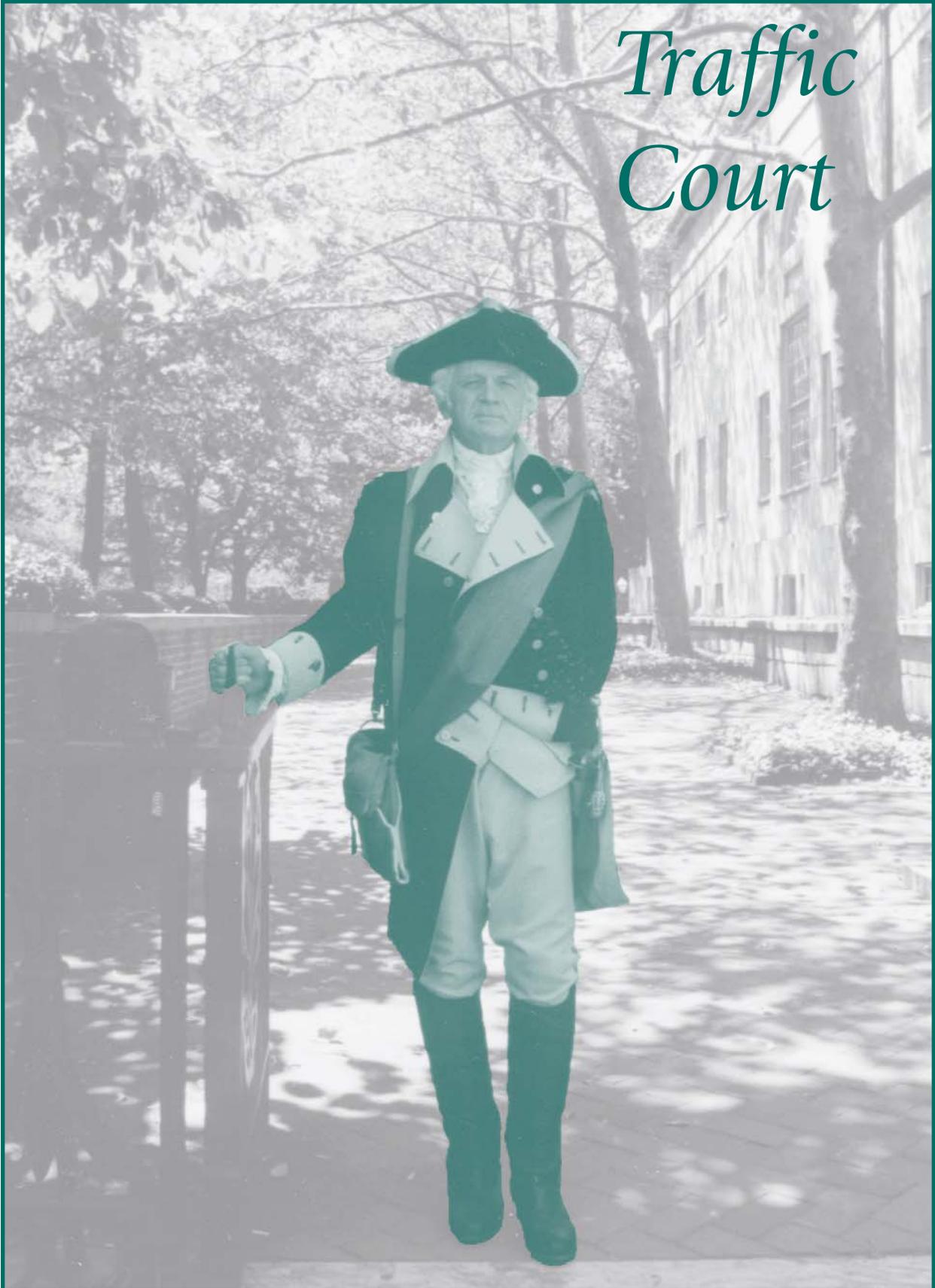


Traffic Court



Traffic Court

PURPOSE

The Traffic Court functions as the judicial vehicle responsible for the processing and adjudication of all motor vehicle violations charged within the County of Philadelphia. While President Judge Frank Little oversees the special needs of the Court, Administrative Judge Bernice DeAngelis directs all court policies, operations, and personnel. Traffic Court is the filing repository for all moving violations; the adjudicative and dispositive agent of those proceedings; the enforcement arm for dispositions, statute and rules; and a receiver and disperser of revenues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Traffic Court judges preside over six daily courts. These Judges are: Judge Willie Adams; Judge Joseph A. Howlett; Judge Francis E. Kelly; Judge Fortunato Perri; Judge Thomasine Tynes; and Senior Judge Lillian Podgorski. Trials are held daily, nightly, and each Saturday.

Court operations are sustained by experienced and knowledgeable personnel who staff such units as a multi-faceted, informational Customer Service Department, the Citation Control Unit, an Enforcement/Boot and Tow Unit, the Central Records Unit, the Financial Control Unit, and the Court Officers Department. Together, they receive citations from the Philadelphia police and maintain accurate records reflecting citations, customer histories, and collection and disbursement of funds. Employees respond to requests for information and pleadings, schedule hearings, facilitate the disposition of cases, and collect and properly disperse public funds geared toward the efficient administration of justice in the interest of public safety. Customer service representatives serve the public through the provision of information regarding citations and records; receipt of payments for violations; scheduling hearings; and providing assistance with other governmental entities concerning license suspension when requested. Access is afforded through scheduled hearings before capable judges who allow the public to state their defense and then render fair and equitable decisions.

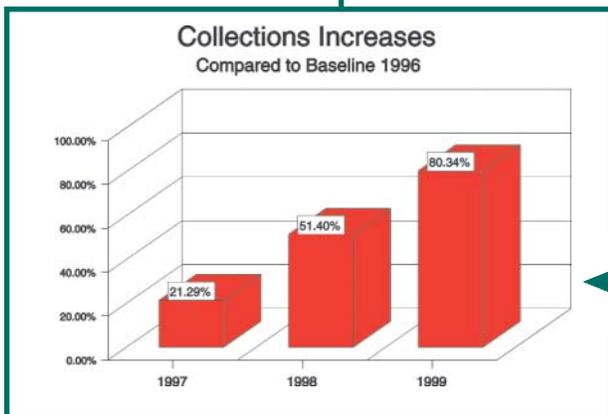
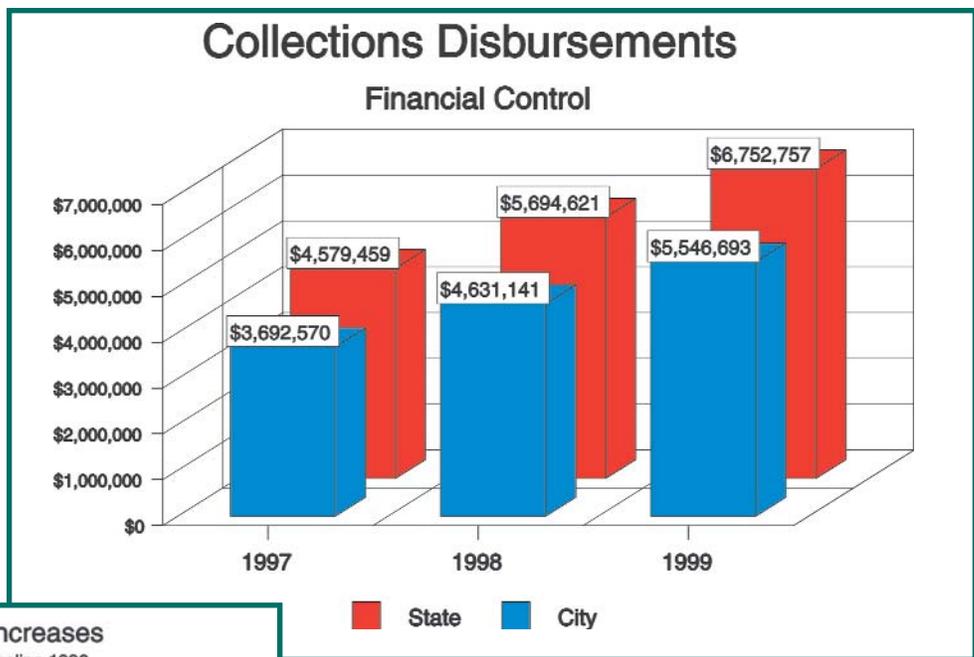
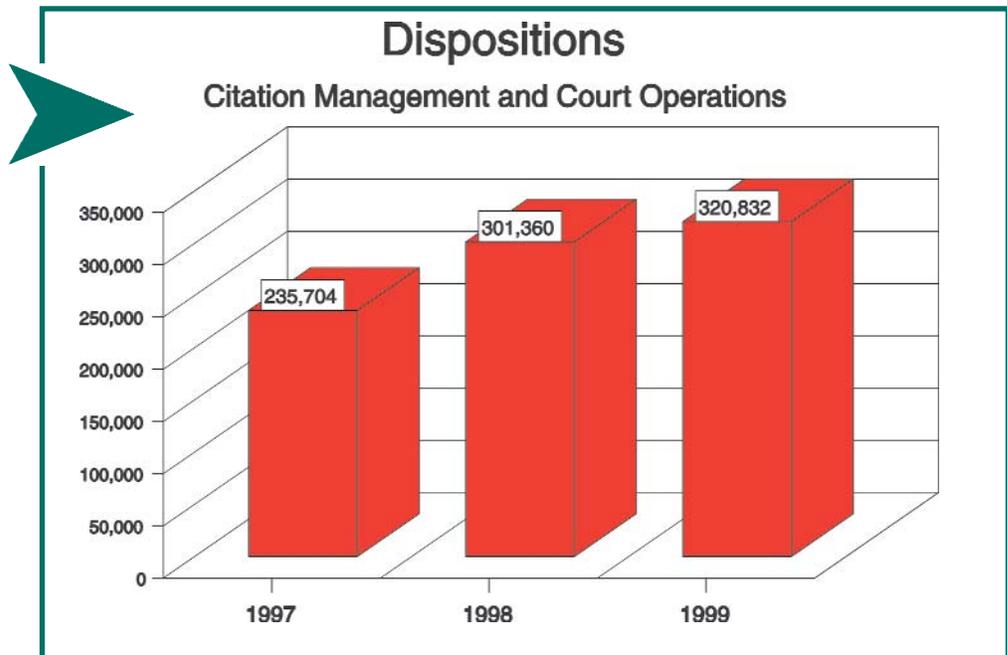
Citizens who access the system are accorded fair and equitable treatment by judiciary and employees alike who realize that, for the majority, Traffic Court will be their only judicial experience.

In 1999 ...

- ◆ The Citation Control Unit processed 418,881 citations.
- ◆ The Enforcement/Boot and Tow Unit, worked in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police Department to arrest unlicensed scofflaw drivers and to remove 8,670 unlawful vehicles from the streets of Philadelphia.
- ◆ Court Officers and employees of the Central Records Unit maintained courtroom operations for the approximate 8,000 citations that are scheduled weekly.
- ◆ The Financial Control Unit provided financial accountability – through the Payment Adjustment and Lockbox Departments – to both the city and state. For Calendar Year 1999, the Court disseminated an historic \$12,299,450 (\$13,204,000 for FY1999) in revenues.
- ◆ Since 1996, the Court has disseminated almost \$31 million to City and State authorities. Collections increased by an average of \$2,013,711 annually.

Traffic Court

The Traffic Court continued to push the drive for dispositions in this, the busiest Court in the District. A full 48% of all the filings in the First Judicial District flow into Traffic Court. Here too, the largest number of citizens are directly involved in the Court's proceedings. To keep pace with the rising numbers of filings, dispositions have been increasing at healthy rates every year. From 1997 through 1999, the Court disposed of 857,896 cases. In 1999, 85,128 more dispositions were made than in baseline 1997. This is an increase in output of 36%.



The data in the chart at left depicts the steady increases in Calendar Year collections since 1996.