

2009 Municipal Court Report

For all of 2009, the Town of Kiawah Island Municipal Court handled 239 traffic, criminal and town ordinance cases, up from 165 in 2008, due principally to increases in traffic-related volumes (147 cases) and business license violations (48 cases). This year's total of 239 is in line with the 2003-2008 average annual case volume of 250. In addition to the ordinance business license violations, there were 8 underage alcohol possessions and several leash law prosecutions.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Deputies reported an all time high of 475 traffic contacts during 2009, up from 246 in 2008 and 197 in 2007. There were 348 contacts in 2006. Of the contacts made, only about 40% resulted in the issuance of a citation with the remaining receiving a written warning. Historically, citations comprised about 60% of the contact results.

On the business end of the court, \$10,000 of fines were received for the town's coffers in 2009, about the same as in 2008. Court expenses consisted of \$5,000 of software upgrades and \$1,250 of education/training. At the end of the year, the town's Victim's Assistance Fund, funded by a portion of fines and assessments levied against defendants, totaled over \$13,000. In the court's 14 year history, nothing has been paid from the Fund. For information on Victim's Assistance Funds go to: <http://www.oepp.sc.gov/sova/index.html>

For all you want to know about TOKI Municipal Court's jurisdiction, case types and volumes, statistical trends and "Court Jottings", visit the Town's website at www.kiawahisland.org and click on "Municipal Court" under "Town Government."

Respectfully submitted,

C. Gregory Brown
Municipal Judge