

2010 Municipal Court Report

For all of 2010, the Town of Kiawah Island Municipal Court handled 350 traffic, criminal and town ordinance cases, up from 239 in 2009, due principally to increases in traffic-related volumes (203 cases) and business license violations (74 cases). This year's total of 350 is significantly higher than the 2003-2009 average annual case volume of 248. In addition to the business license violations, there were 18 underage alcohol possessions prosecuted under our ordinances (10 more than '09), as well as several leash law, disorderly conduct, and marijuana possession violations.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Deputies reported another all-time high of 524 traffic contacts during 2010, up from the former record of 432 in 2009. There were 246 contacts in 2008; 197 in 2007; and 348 in 2006. Of the contacts made, 60% resulted in the issuance of a citation with the remaining receiving a written warning. Historically, citations have comprised about 60% of the contact results, except for '09 when the rate dropped to 40%.

On the business end of the court, \$13,600 of fines were received for the town's coffers in 2010, up from \$10,000 in '09 and in '08. Court expenses consisted of \$3,500 of software upgrades and \$1,000 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 \$16,500. In the court's 15 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