

State of the Court

John Tatz

Presiding Magistrate

Court losses

- Judge Richard Garcia – Commissioner
- Paul Thomas – Court Administrator
- Judge Craig Fujii
- Presiding Judge Matt Tafoya

Timeline

- March 17 – June 1
 - In-custody and protective orders only
 - Limited Change of Pleas (COPs)
- June 1 – July 2
 - Added in arraignments, Pre-Trial Conferences (PTCs), non-jury trials
- July 6 - July 30
 - Back to in-custody, protective orders only, limited COP's

Timeline (continued)

- August 3 – August 28
 - Arraignments (telephonic) and PTCs outside of court
 - COP's - telephonic and in-person
 - Order to Show Cause (OSC) and Probation Revocation Arraignments (PRAs) – telephonic
- August 31 –October 29
 - Added back non-jury trials
 - Arraignments in person
 - Restarted Community Court, Veterans Court, Rule 11 Court

Timeline (continued)

- November 2 – November 24
 - PTCs in person
- December
 - Jury Trials

COVID-19 Considerations

- Constitutional Rights
- Administrative Orders of Arizona Supreme Court
- Administrative Orders of Maricopa County Superior Court
- City of Mesa policies and procedures
- Resources/technology
- Concerns of staff and court participants
- Effect on public safety

Biggest challenges

- Per Arizona Supreme Court Order:
 - 1. Staffing plan in place to avoid having to close the court in the event of infection or quarantine
 - Example given – Rotate staff working at court and working from home
 - 2. Physical distancing
 - We determined we can have 12 in a courtroom
- Other
 - Backlog, lack of notice to defendants, jury trials

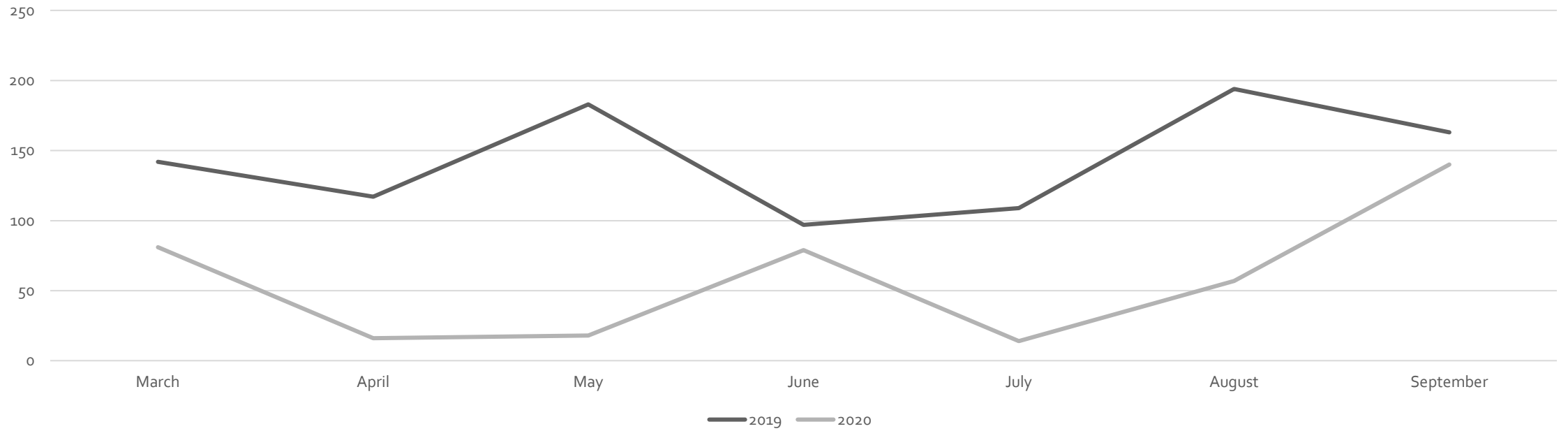
Court visitors

	2019	2020
April	12,843	1,260
May	11,808	562
June	11,432	3,237
July	12,743	683
August	11,448	903

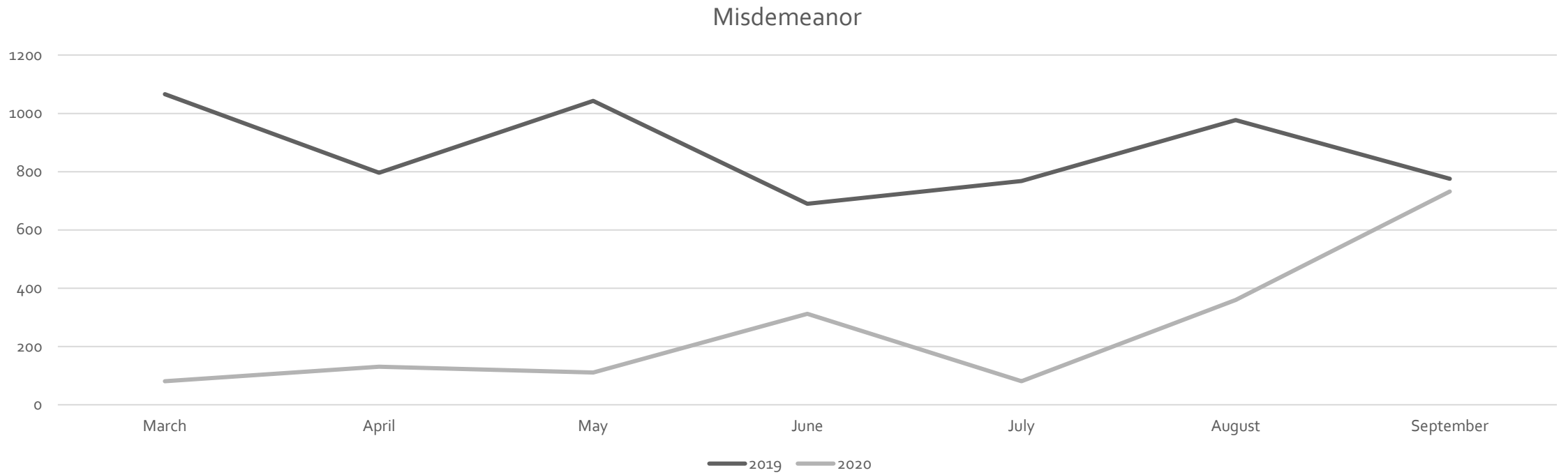
Court filings

	2019	2020
April	10,464	6,786
May	9,412	3,971
June	9,096	7,852
July	9,199	5,098
August	8,485	5,315

DUI

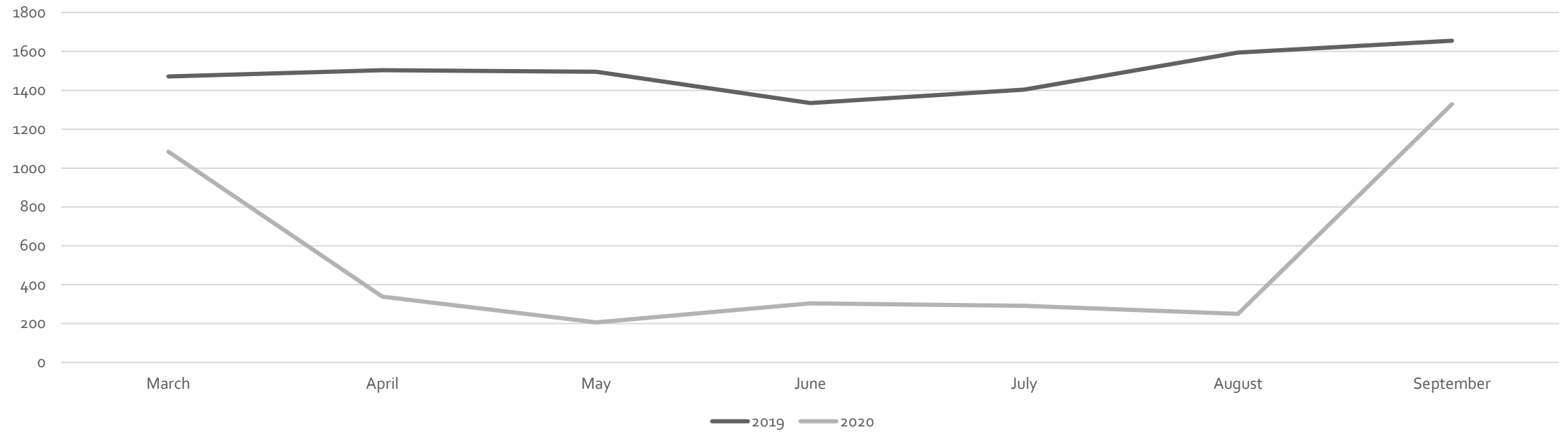


DUI's resolved



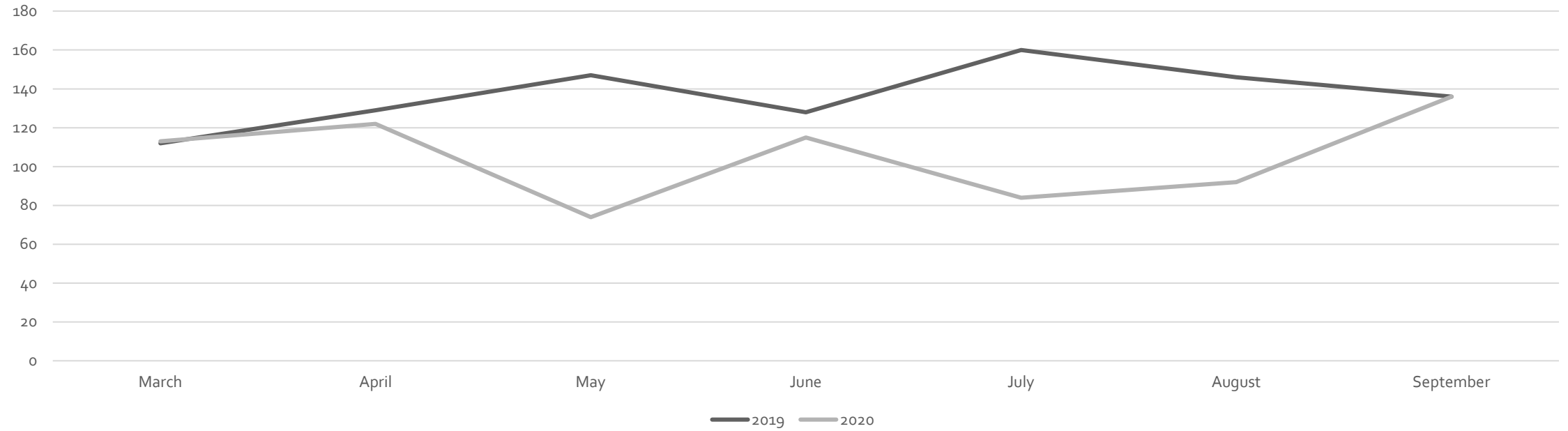
Other misdemeanors resolved

Civil Traffic



Civil Traffic resolved

ExParte Orders



Protective orders

Customer service

- Payments online, telephone (Interactive Voice Response (IVR) or person), mail or drop-box
- Average calls per month
 - To an agent increased from appx. 6000 to 7000 per month
 - IVR increased from appx.13,000 to 15,000 per month
 - Civil Traffic Hearing Officers (CTHOs) can handle a great deal of civil traffic cases over the phone or via email
- Many call agents working from home and production increased
 - Decrease in abandoned calls despite increase in calls

Challenges = opportunities

- Utilize technology to appear in uncontested hearings
 - Video and telephonic
 - “Paper” hearings
- Continue to take advantage of being at the forefront of court automation
 - Allows for working from home
 - Public court proceedings without the public appearing in court
- Mesa PD used Cares Act money to obtain hotel shelters for the homeless
 - Able to locate participants and work with them virtually
 - Often diverted into Community Court to give added incentive to take advantage of services
 - We have already seen some incredible success stories

State of the Court

- We are adapting and the Court is up and running
- All specialty courts are up and running
- We have a great new Commissioner, excellent judges, and outstanding administrators, supervisors and staff
 - We are currently recruiting for 1-2 new judges and a new Court Administrator
- We are working closely with the prosecutors and public defenders to ensure that we will continue to administer justice
- We are working to make our relationship with the police, court security and other city departments even stronger

Questions?