



Welcome to the  
Community  
Conversation!



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

**MUNICIPAL COURT**

# Agenda

- I. Registration, Meal, Pre-Survey
- II. Welcome & Introductions
- III. Game Plan & Ground Rules
- IV. Discussion Questions
- V. Closing Comments & Post Survey
- VI. Adjournment

# Game Plan

1. Question appears on the screen.
2. Write your ideas on the post-it notes.
3. Discuss your ideas at your table.
4. Theme Team will look for common themes.
5. Common themes will be presented on screen.
6. Move on to the next question and repeat.

# Ground Rules

- 1. Each person's input is important.** Take turns without interrupting.
- 2. Focus on the discussion.** Be sure to answer the question.
- 3. Keep it short** so others have time to share.
- 4. Remember, someone else might have a very different story** than you.
- 5. We are here to share, not convince others.** We can agree to disagree.
- 6. Be respectful** of one another, the process and the other tables.
- 7. Take a break when you need it.** Leave phones off at the table.

# Roles

**Community Participants:** Share input and ideas

**Lead Facilitators:** Pose the questions and keep it moving

**Table Facilitators:** Make sure each person gets a chance to share and keep the discussion on the question

**Notetakers:** Make sure ideas get written down and help write as needed

**Runners:** Take post-it notes to Theme Team

**Theme Team:** Review post-it notes and present themes

**Court Staff:** Listen and learn

# Table Introductions

## Table Facilitator

- Name
- Where you live
- How long you have been in KC

Wait for Opening Question (Q1)...

# Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Three Rounds

- Trust
- Fairness
- Access

Learnings and Follow-up

Q1: “What brought you here today?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team



Q1: “What brought you here today?” – **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

# Answering Multiple Choice

✓ [ ]  
READY

i>clicker 2

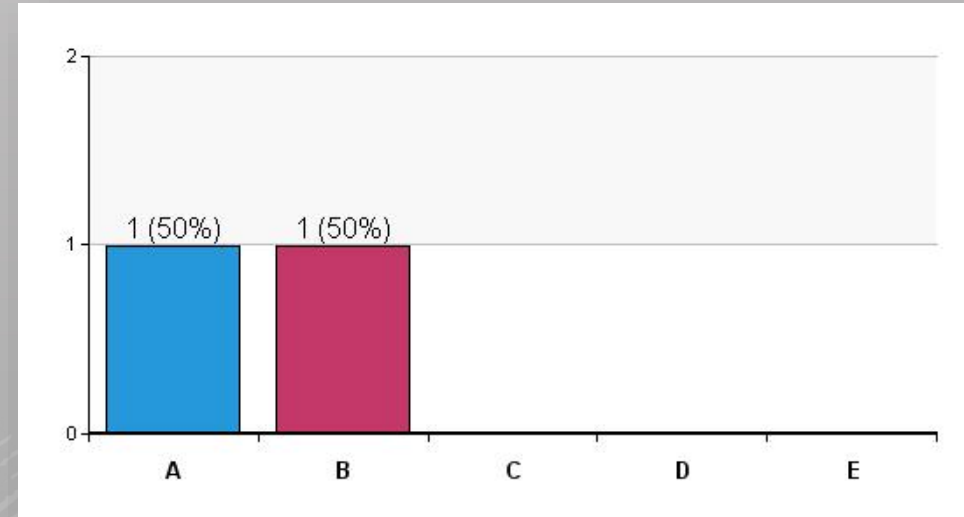
The image shows a horizontal toolbar from the i>clicker 2 application. From left to right, it contains: a back icon (an 'X' in a circle), a red circular stop icon, a list icon (three vertical bars), and a settings icon (a gear). To the right of these icons is a digital timer displaying '0:17' in blue. Further right is a green score display showing '0'. The entire toolbar is set against a light gray background with a subtle grid pattern.

Click here

# Answering Multiple Choice

E  
READY

i>clicker2



Click here

i>clicker®

I know how to use iClicker.



A. Yes

B. No

C. Maybe

How do you feel about this  
weather?



A. Love it

B. Hate it

C. It is what it is

The Kansas City Chiefs are going to win the Super Bowl this season.



- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Neutral, neither agree nor disagree
- D. Disagree
- E. Strongly Disagree

Q2: “How much do you trust or distrust Municipal Court?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q2: “How much do you trust or distrust Municipal Court?”



A. Trust a lot

B. Trust some

C. Neutral, neither trust nor distrust

D. Distrust some

E. Distrust a lot



Q2: “How much do you trust or distrust Municipal Court?” –

## **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q3: “What does the Court do well or that you find helpful?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q3: “What does the Court do well or that you find helpful?” –

## **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

## Q4: “How fair or unfair does Municipal Court treat people?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q4: “How fair or unfair does  
Municipal Court treat people?” –

## **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q5: “What issues related to fairness and equity do you see at the Court?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q5: “What issues related to fairness and equity do you see at the Court?” – **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q5 Theme A: “How concerned are you with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness at the Court?”



A. Highly concerned

B. Concerned

C. Only somewhat concerned

D. Not at all concerned



Q5 Theme B: “How concerned are you with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness at the Court?”



A. Highly concerned

B. Concerned

C. Only somewhat concerned

D. Not at all concerned

Q5 Theme C: “How concerned are you with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness at the Court?”



A. Highly concerned

B. Concerned

C. Only somewhat concerned

D. Not at all concerned

Q5 Theme D: “How concerned are you with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness at the Court?”



A. Highly concerned

B. Concerned

C. Only somewhat concerned

D. Not at all concerned

Q5 Theme E: “How concerned are you with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness at the Court?”



A. Highly concerned

B. Concerned

C. Only somewhat concerned

D. Not at all concerned

## Q6: “Why don’t people show up for Court?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

# Q6: “Why don’t people show up for Court?” – **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q7: “What do you like or dislike about the plain language summons?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q7: “What do you like or dislike about the plain language summons?” – **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.



Q8: “What resources could the Court provide to help the public better handle their Court business?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q8: “What resources could the Court provide to help the public better handle their business?” – **Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q9: “What are the most important things learned during this engagement?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q9: “What are the most important things learned during this engagement?” – **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Q10: “What would you like to see as a follow-up to this engagement?”

1. Write down your response on the post-it note
2. Share your response with the Table Facilitator and participants
3. Give post-it to the Runner
4. Listen for themes from the Theme Team

Q10: “What would you like to see as a follow-up to this engagement?” –

## **Common Themes**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

# KCMO Municipal Court Overview

- Largest Municipal Court in Missouri
- 9 Judges: 8 full-time, 1 part-time
- 330,934 Pending Cases
- 141,452 Warrants issued in 2018
- 15,051 Placed on probation in last 12 months

## Most common cases:

### Traffic

Speeding, Driving Under the Influence, Parking Tickets

### General Ordinance

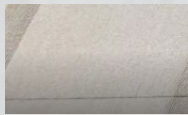
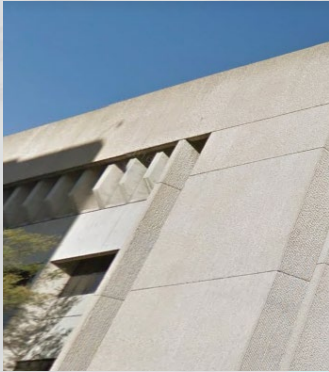
Trespass, Assault\Domestic Violence Assault, Disorderly Conduct

### Building Codes and Nuisance

Insufficient Property Maintenance, Weeds, Trash

### Animal Health and Public Safety

Animal License, Animal Abuse, Neglect, Animal attacks



# Know Your Rights in Municipal Court

## Right to release pending hearing

**You have a right to be released on your promise unless a judge finds:**

1. Your promise alone is not enough to ensure your appearance

OR

2. Your release poses a danger to the community.

**If the judge decides either, then you may have to post bond**



# KCMO Municipal Court by the numbers

## 191,698 Cases filed in FY2018-19

Traffic



104,386

Parking



52,126

**General Ordinance  
Violations**

- Trespass
- Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Disorderly Conduct
- Etc.



17,843

Housing



13,484

Animal



3,850

# Know Your Rights in Municipal Court



- **Hours:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding holidays
- **Court docket times:** 9, 10 and 11 a.m. and 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.
- **All dockets are open to the public.**

**Right to know when the court is open and attend court**





# Know Your Rights in Municipal Court

## Right to release pending hearing

You have a right to be released on your promise unless a judge finds:

1. Your promise alone is not enough to ensure your appearance

OR

2. Your release poses a danger to the community.

**If the judge decides either, then you may have to post bond**

# Know Your Rights in Municipal Court



## Right to an attorney

- You can hire an attorney, but it's not required
- You may represent yourself
- You may hire an attorney at any time
- At your first court date, you can ask for a continuance to hire an attorney

## Right to a free attorney

- If you show you can't afford an attorney
- And you're facing jail time
- Court will provide a free attorney to you

# Did you know?

## Municipal Court has walk-in dockets

### Speak to a judge

- **To lift your warrant**
  - But it is strictly up to the judge
  - Might have to post bond
- **For a continuance**
  - Before court date
  - If don't qualify for one online or by phone
- **For more time**
  - To pay fines
  - To complete a class or community service

# Did you know?

## Municipal Court has payment plans

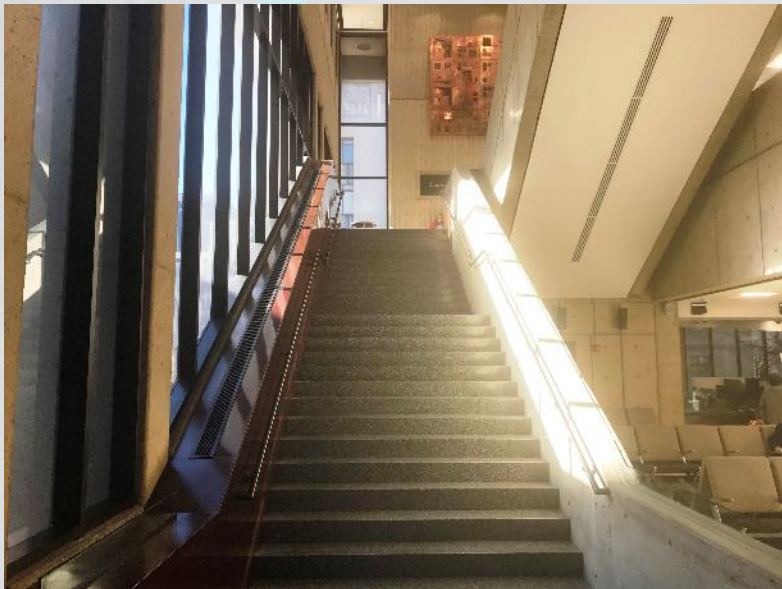
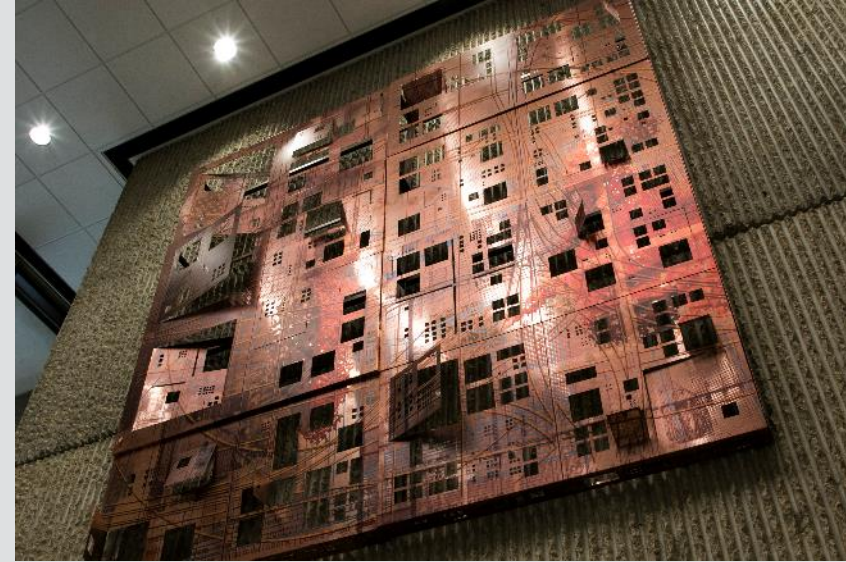
- No money down! First payment due in 30 days, unless there is a warrant
- Pay 25% down up front if there is a warrant
- Remainder due in equal installments



# Did you know?

## You can ask for community service instead of a fine

- You may have to show your inability to pay the fine
- You may have to fill out papers regarding your income



# Did you know?

## Municipal Court has several specialty courts



### Problem-Solving Courts

- Mental Health Court-Developed in 2002
- Drug Court-Developed in 2002
- Veterans Treatment Court-Developed in 2009

### Other Specialized Dockets

- Animal - 2012
- Truancy - 2012
- Domestic Violence Compliance Docket – 2015
- Housing - 1987 Charter Amendment
- Reinstatement Court - 2019





# Conversations with Municipal Court Partners

## Steering Committee

- Municipal Court
- City Manager's Office
- City Prosecutor's Office
- Health Department/Aim for Peace
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Private Defense Bar
- Veronica's Voice
- Kansas City, Missouri Public School District
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Ad Hoc Group Against Crime
- Guadalupe Centers
- P.O.S.S.E (Peers Organized to Support Student Excellence)
- Faith Community (Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church)

## Additional Assistance

- KCPD
- DataKC
- City Communications
- City Human Resources: Education and Development
- The Summers Advisory Group



# **Closing Comments and Post Survey**

# Adjournment

Thank you for your participation, your input and your ideas today!

We appreciate you taking the time to be with us today!