

2019 Municipal Court Moving Violations to Parking Violations, Crimes to Littering March 21, 2020

MUNICIPAL COURT DEALS ARE WASTING THE COPS' TIME, MAKING THE ROADS MORE DANGEROUS AND PUTTING OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR SHOPLIFTERS, BUT PUTTING MONEY IN LAWYERS' WALLETS. We looked at three West County cities starting with Chesterfield.

CHESTERFIELD CITY PROSECUTOR AND JUDGE: Justice? We don't need no stink'n justice." Let's take a look of how many cases got reduced to Illegal Parking and Littering. In the case of Chesterfield there were also some serious cases reduced to "Misc Health Code Violations."

In 2019 Chesterfield Police Officers issued 114 Parking Tickets or about one parking ticket every three days. However the Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer amended 1430 cases to illegal Parking and Judge Rick Brunk found over a 1,500 people guilty of offenses they never committed.

The police issued 2 citations for Littering in 2019, but Engelmeyer and Brunk convicted 85 people of littering who were originally charged with stealing, drug possession and even leaving the scene of accidents.

CHESTERFIELD:

Cases by Statute

Disposition: Amended to Illegal Parking

Plea: Guilty Plea

Disposition Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Plea Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Charges: All Charges

Total Cases: (1430) Statute Description

764 S ~ Speeding

118 SS ~ Stop Sign Violation

90 NPI ~ No Proof of Insurance

82	FEHC ~ Failure Exercise Highest Care
70	ES ~ Electric Signal Violation
65	ILU ~ Improper Lane Use
31	SL ~ Speeding Laser
27	FTY ~ Failure to Yield Right of Way
23	DWS ~ Driving While Suspended
23	SSZ ~ Speeding School Zone
17	FTC ~ Following Too Closely
13	FTS ~ Failure to Signal
10	DWR ~ Driving While Revoked
10	NOL ~ No Operators License
9	ARD ~ Aggressive & Reckless Driving
7	LSA ~ Leaving Scene of Accident
7	FTYEV ~ Fail to Yield to Emergency Vehicle
7	ILT ~ Illegal/Improper Left Turn
6	IB ~ Improper Backing
5	ELP ~ Expired License Plates
5	EDL ~ Expired Drivers License

- 5 IUT ~ Improper U Turn**
- 4 NH ~ No Headlights**
- 3 IRT ~ Improper Right Turn**
- 3 FDL ~ Failure to Dim Lights**
- 3 IPS ~ Improper Passing**
- 2 FRA ~ Failure to Register Annually with DOR**

- 2 ST ~ Stealing**
- 2 NLP ~ No License Plates**
- 2 DSBS ~ Disobey School Bus Stop Sign**

- 2 EA ~ Excessive Acceleration**
- 2 CVP ~ Comm Vehicle Proh Area**
- 2 OCR ~ Operate on Closed Roadway**
- 1 TW ~ Tinted Windows**
- 1 DPA ~ Display Plates of Another**
- 1 PM ~ Possession of Marijuana**
- 1 ITL ~ Improper Tail Lights**

- 1 DWI ~ Driving While Intoxicated**
- 1 TWD ~ Texting While Driving**
- 1 OT ~ Obstructing Traffic**

- 1 CRD ~ Careless and Reckless Driving
- 1 IPSR ~ Improper Passing-Right

Cases by Statute

Disposition: Amended to Littering

Plea: Guilty Plea

Disposition Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Plea Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Charges: All Charges

Total Cases: (85)	Statute Description
26	PM ~ Possession of Marijuana
22	PDP ~ Possession Drug Paraphernalia
14	ST ~ Stealing
6	OCL ~ Open Container Law
6	MPA ~ Minor Possession of Alcohol
3	TP ~ Trespassing
2	LSA ~ Leaving Scene of Accident
1	PTD ~ Possession Theft Device
1	ACC ~ Attempt to Commit a Crime

- 1 PSP ~ Possession of Stolen Property
- 1 A ~ Assault
- 1 DP ~ Destruction of Property
- 1 AFDL ~ Altered/Fictitious Drivers License

Cases by Statute

Disposition: Amended to Misc. Health and Safety
 Plea: Guilty Plea
 Disposition Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019
 Plea Date Between: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019
 Charges: All Charges

Total Cases: (71) Statute Description

- 20 S ~ Speeding
- 14 FEHC ~ Failure Exercise Highest Care
- 6 ST ~ Stealing
- 6 PDP ~ Possession Drug Paraphernalia
- 4 PM ~ Possession of Marijuana
- 3 DWS ~ Driving While Suspended
- 3 SSZ ~ Speeding School Zone
- 2 NOL ~ No Operators License
- 2 ES ~ Electric Signal Violation

- 2 SL ~ Speeding Laser**
- 1 TWD ~ Texting While Driving**
- 1 A ~ Assault**
- 1 STK ~ Stalking**
- 1 MPA ~ Minor Possession of Alcohol**
- 1 FFD ~ Filing False Declaration**
- 1 FTC ~ Following Too Closely**

Engelmeyer and Brunk got creative in 2019.



Engelmeyer



Brunk

They mixed the amended charges. For example:

Speeding 764 to Illegal Parking 20 to Misc Health Violations total 784
 Failure to Exercise the Highest Degree of Care While OMV 82 to Illegal Parking
 14 to Health Code Vio
 Total 96

Stealing 2 to Illegal Parking, 14 to Littering and 6 to Health Code Violation total 22
 Speeding in School Zone 23 to Illegal Parking, 3 to Health Code Violation total 26

Actually this is an improvement from 2018 that was even more outrageous, but with the addition of reducing more to Health Code Violations it evens out. It appears as if

Engelmeyer is hiding his unethical behavior by adding the Health Code Violations to the mix in 2019.

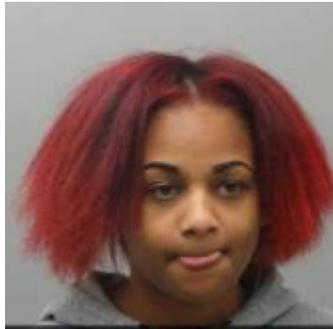
2018 Reduced to Illegal Parking: 1775 2019: 1430 -345

2018 Reduced to Littering: 116 2019: 85 littering plus 71 Health Code Violation =156

FROM LAST WEEK; We posted the below item in the police blotter section of the newsletter from last week. It is a perfect example of what is wrong in Chesterfield. The violator already had four moving violations reduced to Illegal Parking in other cities. Then she is cited for speeding 88 MPH and 95 MPH one month apart. The Chesterfield prosecutor and judge took care of her attorney by reducing the serious traffic charges to Health Code violations, only to have the violator be cited twice more by Creve Coeur and the Highway Patrol. She then came back to Chesterfield and assaulted two people at a high school.

03/06/2020, 2000 03/06/2020, 2000	3XX N WOODS MILL RD	Parkway Central High School	PARKWAY CENTRAL	1	1	Assault Common - Actual Assault
Arrested: Merkson, Mikayla E B 18 F						
Brief Narrative Description: 18 yo female attempted to assault victim while on school property.						

Mikayla Merkson of Wentzville



03/06/20	2-counts Common Assault	pending	Chesterfield PD
01/10/20	Speeding	pending	Creve Coeur PD
12/05/19	Speeding 20-25 mph over limit	pending	MO Hwy Patrol
10/12/19	Speeding 95/60	reduce to Heath Code \$260	Chesterfield PD
09/01/19	Speeding 88/60	reduce to Health Code Vio \$235 fine	Chesterfield PD
08/23/19	Moving Violation	reduced to Illegal Parking \$225 fine	Pagedale PD
08/06/19	Moving Violation	reduced to Illegal Parking \$191 fine	Bel Ridge PD
05/15/19	Moving Violation	reduced to Illegal Parking \$187 fine	Florissant PD
06/03/18	Moving Violation	reduced to Illegal Parking \$167 fine	St. Charles Co PD

OUTRAGEOUS! Look at what the Chesterfield Courts have done. This young lady with less than 2-years driving experience had four moving violations reduced to Illegal Parking. Then she appears in Chesterfield court for doing 28 MPH and 35 MPH over the limit and she keeps getting breaks. Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer likes to claim on stealing cases it is hard to get the witnesses to appear in court (it isn't if you try) but these excessive speeding cases that put the public and police officers at risk are easy to get the witness. It is Chesterfield Police Officers!

ALL THE WEST COUNTY CITIES CLAIMING THEY ARE THE SAFEST ARE LYING. THEIR COURT STAFF IS MAKING IT AS UNSAFE AS POSSIBLE

TOWN AND COUNTRY: T&C wasn't as detailed as Chesterfield. Here are the numbers:

Actual Parking Tickets issued by police in 2019: 22

Moving Violation Cases reduced to Illegal Parking: 494

Actual Littering Citations issued by Town and Country Police in 2019: ZERO

Criminal Cases reduced to Littering: 20



T&C Judge Andrea Niehoff Prosecutor Ed Sluys Ast. Prosecutor Keith Chueng

BALLWIN: Ballwin is included again this year because Chesterfield City Attorney Chris Graville is the Ballwin Prosecuting Attorney. Here is what Graville did to make sure all the "Traffic Law" lawyers who don't do anything but charge their clients and then briefly

show up at court to get a moving violation or criminal case reduced to Illegal Parking or Littering with a large fine are taken care of.

In 2019:

Ballwin police issued 186 parking tickets. Graville reduced the charges of moving violations to no-record and no-points Illegal Parking Violations 1,070 times.

- 1) 186 parking tickets issued but 1,070 reduced moving violations to Parking Violations.**
- 2) 2 actual littering citations issued but 345 times serious/criminal cases reduced to Littering.**



Ballwin Prosecutor Chris Graville
Chesterfield City Atty Graville

REASONS FOR COURT REFORM:

- 1) The justice system should not be turned into a money collection operation of reducing moving violations to \$225 parking tickets. Criminal offenses should be adjudicated as criminal cases and not littering and health code violations.
- 2) Traffic violators and criminal violators should be tried based on the charges filed. If the judge or prosecutor thinks they deserve a break place them on a No-Fine, No-Points probation and if they later committed similar offenses issue fines. Don't reduce a charge to a Parking Violation or Littering simply to collect money, that is not what justice is suppose to be. Chesterfield and Town and Country should be above this kind of action.
- 3) Municipal Court should not be an avenue for defense attorney to collect large fees to avoid and abort justice by simply showing up and getting charges dropped to No-Points Parking Violations or criminal charges reduced to littering or health code violations. The municipal laws and courts should not be there for bottom feeding attorneys to exist.

4) Stop discriminating against poor people. Poor people who cannot afford one of these bottom feeding attorneys should get the same deals as the rich people. Courts should stop reducing charges to Parking Violations and Littering and hand down fines based on defendants' ability to pay the fine not a sleazy traffic court lawyer.

5) Dangerous drivers should get points and not have all the good drivers underwrite insurance when the bad drivers should be paying higher rates but don't after multiple cases are reduced to Parking Violations.

6) It is the police officers' job to detect and identified dangerous drivers and criminal violators. It is the courts' job to find if the police were correct in their actions and not change charges to something the defendant never committed, like Illegal Parking while doing 95MPH.

7) The current actions of the Municipal Courts shows a total lack of respect and does not provide any tacit support to police officers, who chase after motorists breaking the law and thieves coming to Chesterfield to steal.