

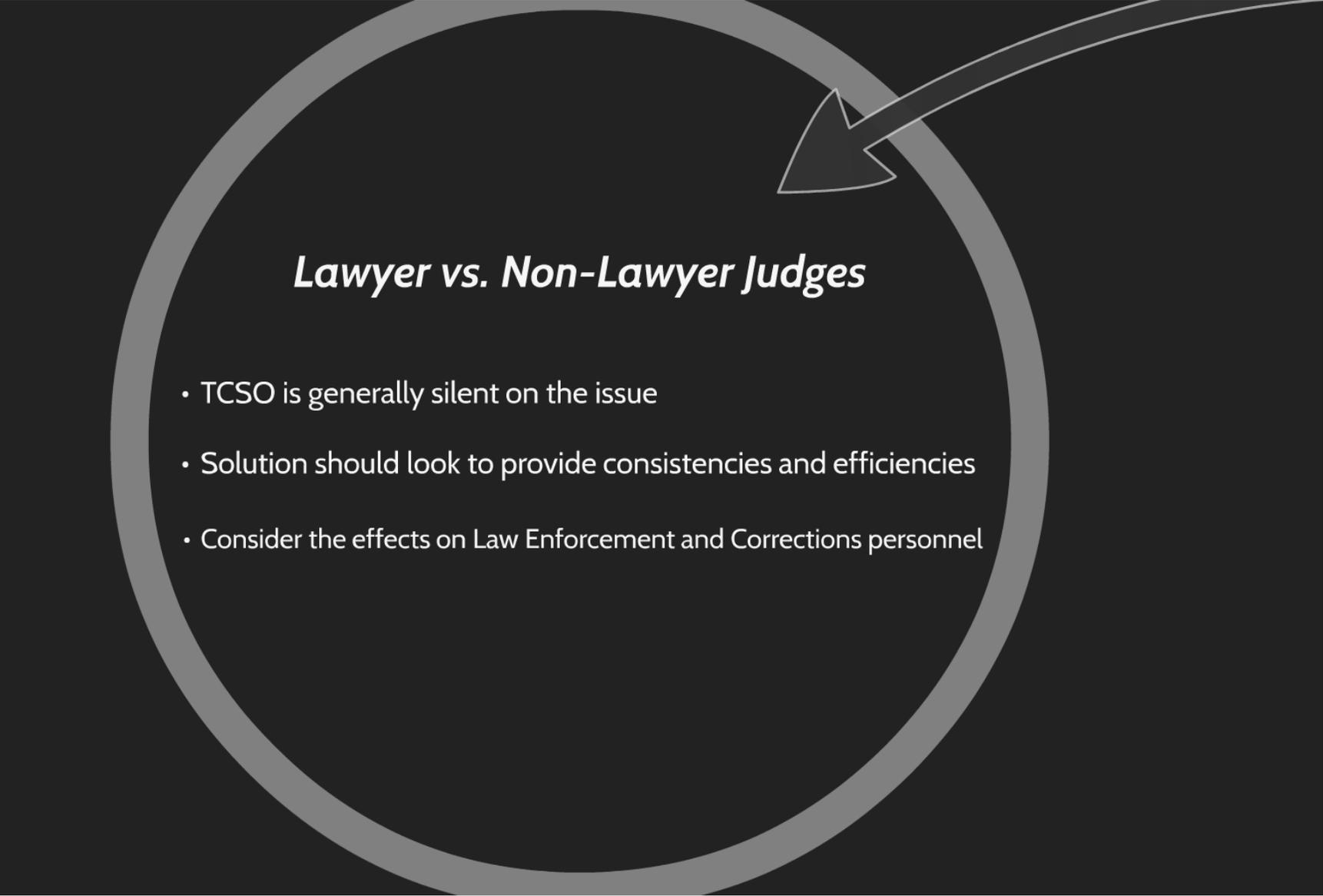
Municipal Courts Task Force

Recommendations by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office



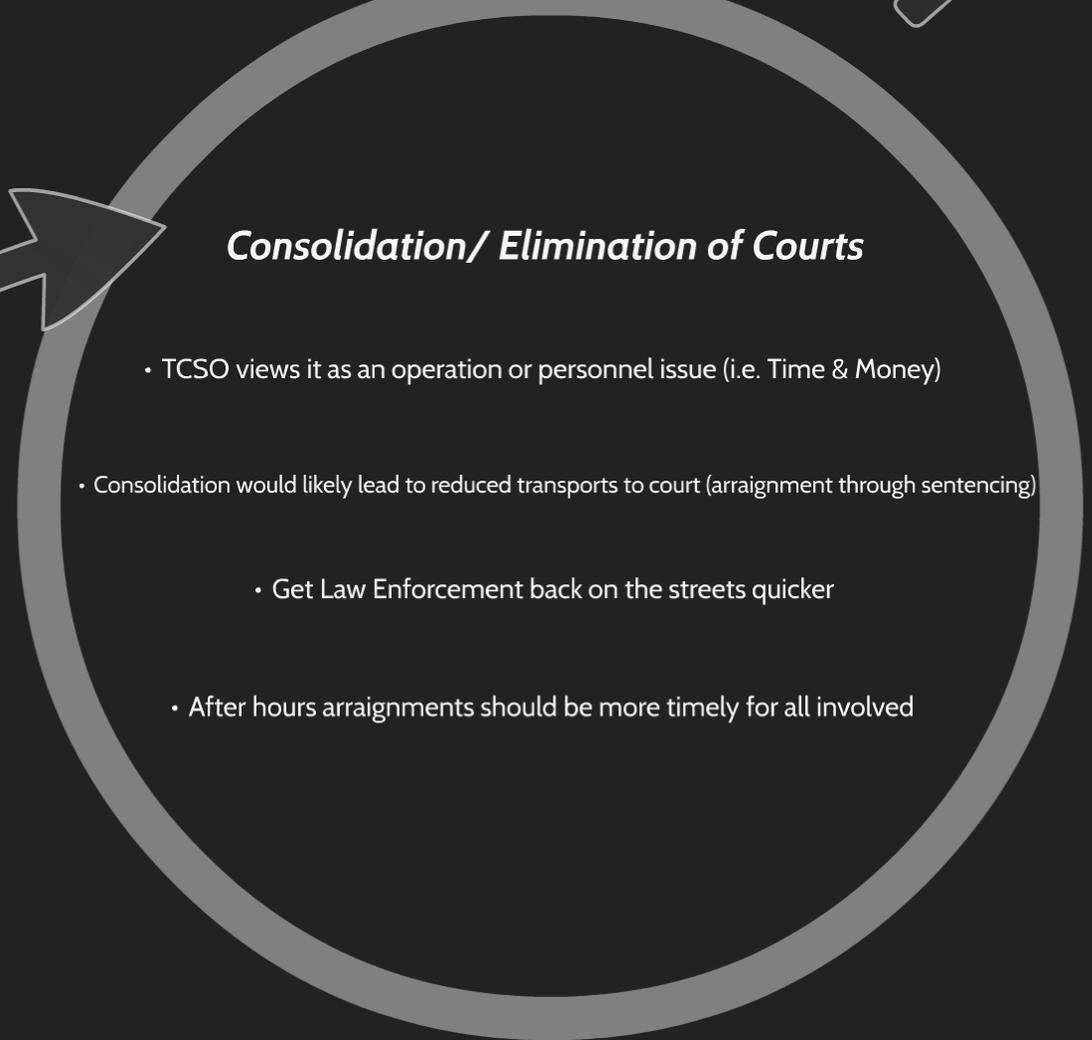
Areas of Consideration

- Lawyer vs. Non-Lawyer Judges
- Consolidation/ Elimination of Courts
- Central Booking and After-hours Arraignments



Lawyer vs. Non-Lawyer Judges

- TCSO is generally silent on the issue
- Solution should look to provide consistencies and efficiencies
- Consider the effects on Law Enforcement and Corrections personnel



Consolidation/ Elimination of Courts

- TCSO views it as an operation or personnel issue (i.e. Time & Money)
- Consolidation would likely lead to reduced transports to court (arraignment through sentencing)
- Get Law Enforcement back on the streets quicker
- After hours arraignments should be more timely for all involved



Central Booking & After-Hours Arraignments

- Tompkins County seems perfectly suited for centralization of Court functions
- TCSO, IPD, and other Law Enforcement agencies are in favor of Central Booking
- All after-hours arraignments at a central court

Recommendations

- Create 2 arraignment courts countywide
 - County arraignment court for all other cases and all after-hours arraignment (including City cases)
 - City Court for daytime arraignment and otherwise business as usual



- Locate this court at the Public Safety Building
- Locate Central Booking in the same building to facilitate smooth transition from court to jail
- Retain jurisdiction of all misdemeanor and above cases and remand cases; with the exception of City cases

Advantages

- Utilize close proximity to TC Jail for booking, arraignments, preliminary hearings, and misdemeanor trials, etc...

- *May want to utilize Lawyer Judges*
- *May be more convenient for Counsel at 1st arraignment, OAR, etc...*
- *Should eliminate many court transports*
- *Allows Law Enforcement to return to duty quicker*
- *May allow Town/Village Courts to reduce staff; including possibility of one justice per jurisdiction*

Disadvantages

- Would reduce Town/Village Courts to local infractions (traffic, small claims, municipal law)
- Costs

- ***Additional Judge(s) and staff for new court***
- ***Renovation of current Public Safety Building***
- ***Relocation of Sheriff's Office (i.e. Administration, Road Patrol, Investigations, and Civil Office)***
- ***Additional Corrections personnel***



Questions / Comments?