SJDC PROBATION VIOLATION HEARINGS

Monthly Update: February 2016 | Report Date: March 10, 2016

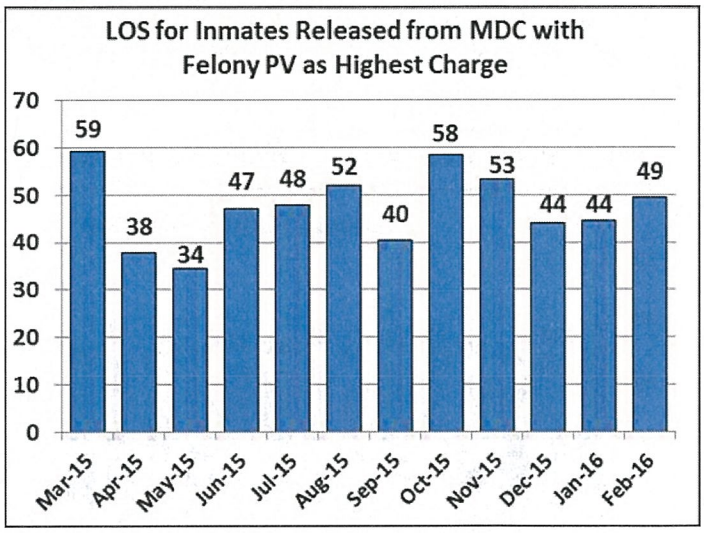
Several initiatives have been implemented that have impacted the case processing time and length of stay (LOS) for probation violators.

Starting March 24, 2014, the scheduling of PV hearings was changed from 30 days from the filing of the motion to revoke probation to 20 days from arrest. This coincides with the large dip in population in April and May of 2014 and faster case processing times.

Earlier samples of PV cases came from various sources (DA re-openings, probation, and court) and these showed that the median number of days from arrest to disposition between 30 and 33 days depending on the sample. In April of 2014, shortly after the implementation of court initiatives, the median time was 21 days.

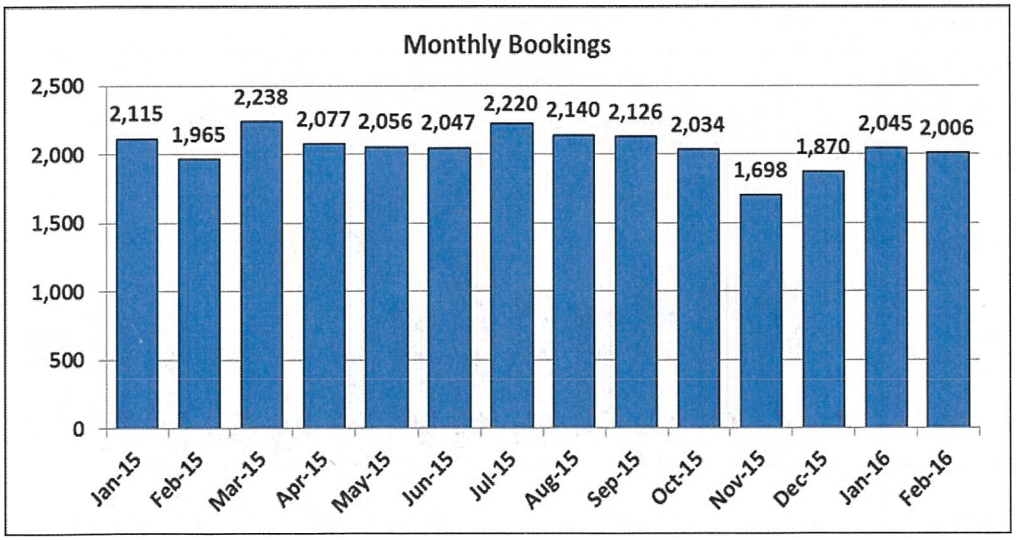
For a time, the courts were unable to schedule hearings at the 20 day goal due to availability on the calendars. This coincided with some increases in reset and vacated hearings as well as longer case processing times. Beginning in February of 2016 improvements to the program are being implemented that are reducing the time to the initial PV hearing and case dispositions.

Quick Monthly Figures for February	
Bookings with any Felony PV	232
Percent bookings with any Felony PV	11.6%
Bookings with Felony PV, highest charge	149
Percent bookings with Felony PV, highest charge	7.4%
Total Monthly PV Hearings[1]	305
Average Daily Hearings	25
Length of Stay (LOS), Felony PV Highest Charge	49 days
Percent of Hearings Reset or Vacated[2]	47%
Percent of Hearings Resolved[2]	46%



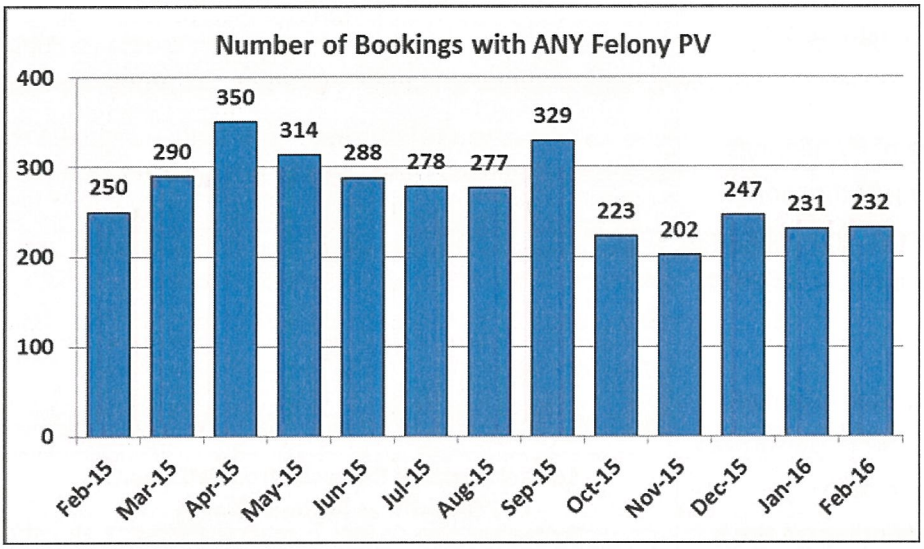
Note: Length of Stay (LOS) includes individuals who served a sentence.

Bookings



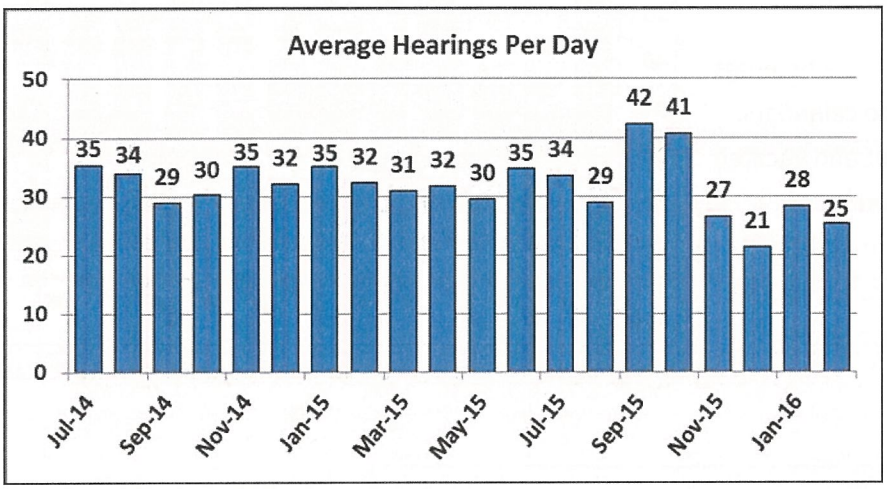
- Bookings into the MDC have decreased slightly over the last year.
- Since January of 2015 there have been an average of approximately 2,046 bookings a month.

Bookings (Cont'd)



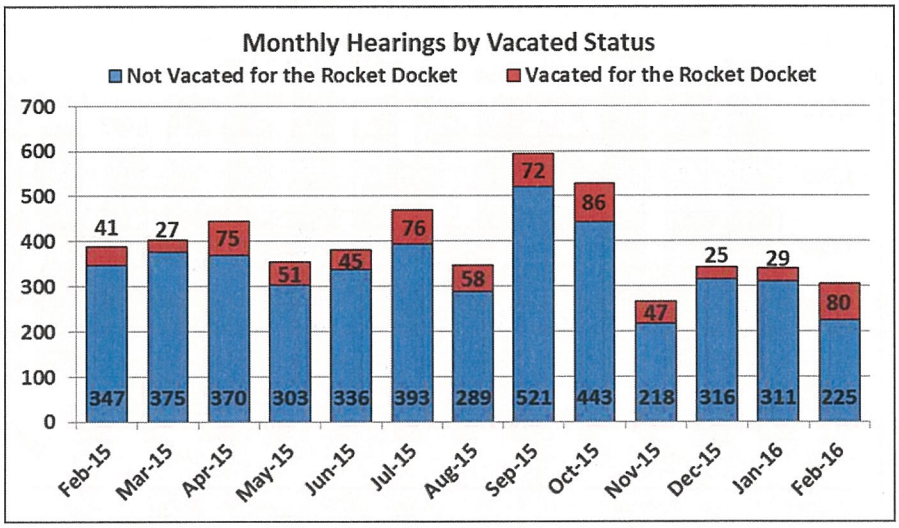
- The average number of bookings with a felony PV has averaged 272 per month over the last year.
- In February of 2015 there were 250 bookings of this type compared to 232 in February 2016, a decrease of 7.2%.

Number of Probation Violation Hearings Held



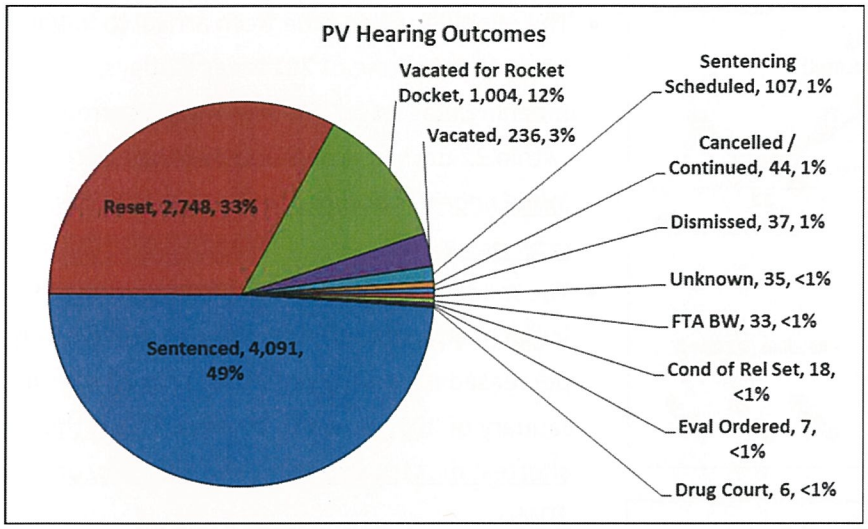
- Since July of 2014, an average of 32 PV hearings were held per day.
- Average PV hearings per day peaked at 42 and 41 in September and October of 2015.
- During February of 2016, an average of 25 PV hearings were held per day.

- A portion of hearings every month are scheduled on the PV docket and then vacated and heard as part of the PV rocket docket.
- Cases vacated for the rocket docket are included in monthly hearing counts as they take room on the regular docket.
- The number of hearings in a month that are vacated for the rocket docket varied a great deal, from as few as 27 to as many as 86.

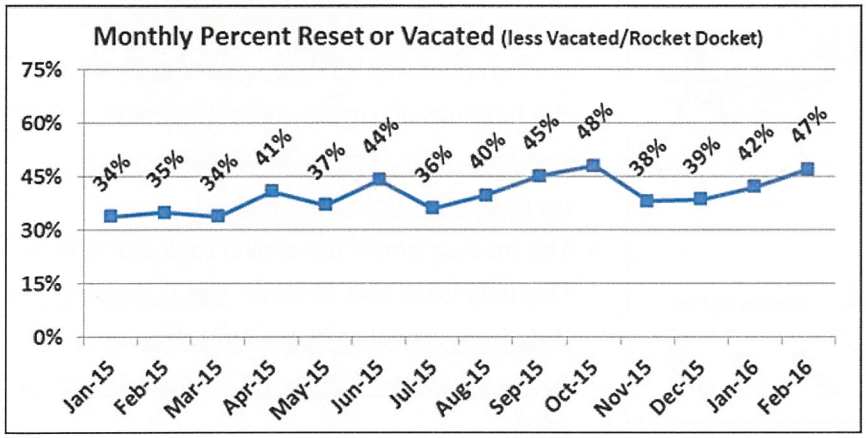


Case Outcomes

Between June of 2014 and October of 2015 there were approximately 8,366 hearings scheduled (not including status conferences, rocket dockets and afternoon dockets, and sentencings).

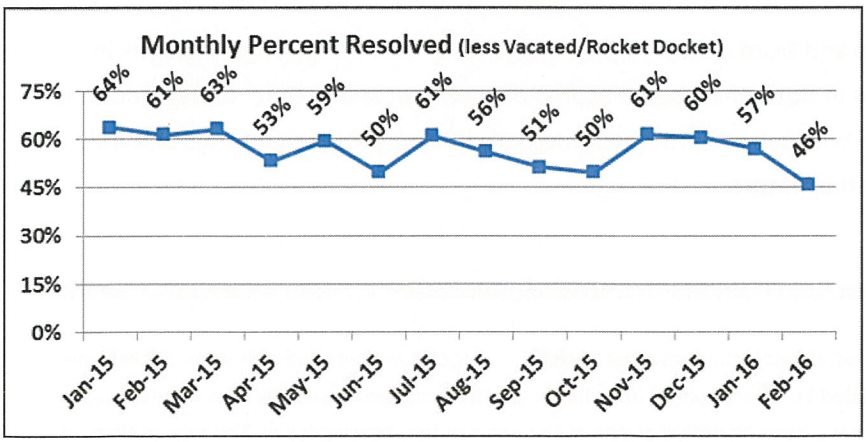


- Since June of 2015, approximately 49% of regular PV hearings (4,091) resulted in a sentence.
- Approximately 33% of hearings (2,748) were reset.
- Hearings vacated for the rocket docket account for approximately 12% (1,004) hearings.



Current and future estimates for resolved, reset, and vacated hearings will not include hearings vacated for the rocket docket. This will allow an improved measurement of the outcomes of hearings that the court has the opportunity to resolve at the scheduled PV hearing.

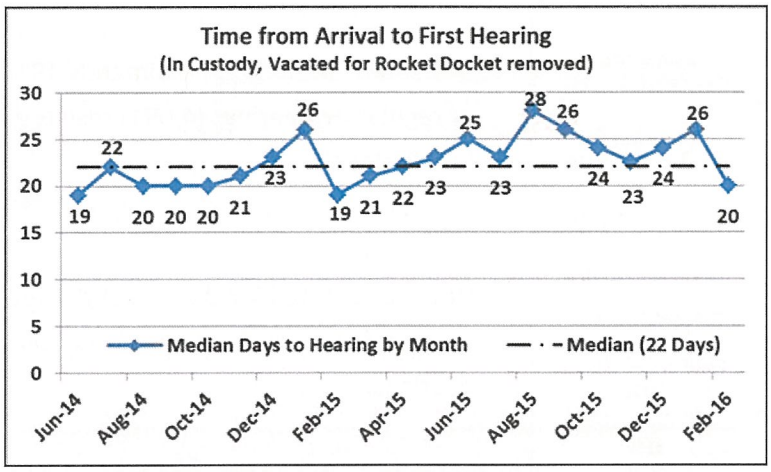
- The percentage of cases reset or vacated increased from 38% in November 2015 to 47% in February of 2016.
- The percent of hearings resulting in case resolution has decreased from 61% in November 2015 to 46% in February of 2016.

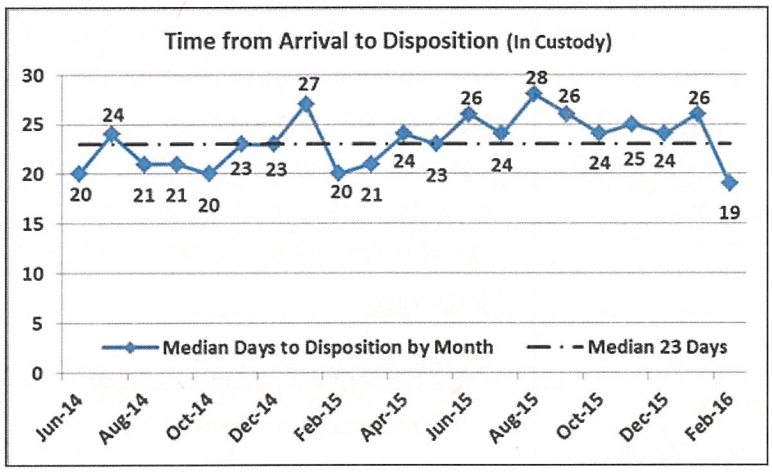


The need to hold additional hearings leaves less available room on the docket and reduces the number of resolved cases in a month. Less docket availability can increase time to the initial hearing, time to disposition, and the length of stay.

Case Processing Times

Several initiatives that were implemented for PV hearings improved case processing time and length of stay (LOS), both of which can be affected by changes in court scheduling procedures.





- The overall median time from arrival to initial hearing since June of 2014 was 22 days, meaning that half of the hearings occurred within 22 days of arrival and *over half of the initial hearings occurred more than 22 days after arrival*.
- The median[2] number of days from arrival to the initial hearing for all cases (for those in custody) decreased in February of 2016 from 26 days in January of 2016 down to **20 days**. This is the shortest monthly median since February of 2015.
- From June 2014 to February 2016 the overall median time was 23 days, meaning that half of the hearings occurred within 23 days of arrival and *over half of the initial hearings occurred more than 23 days after arrival*.
- The median time from arrival to disposition in February 2016 was **19 days**. This is the shortest time from arrival to disposition since data collection started on the PV program in June of 2014.

Overall, the time from arrival to first hearing and from arrival to disposition had been increasing. However in February of 2016, an improvement was seen in both of these measures of case processing time. It is hoped that the recent improvements in the PV program will lead to continued decrease in case processing times and help to reduce the length of stay for felony probation violators.

NOTES

1. Hearings include pro tem hearings scheduled not included (not including status conferences, rocket dockets and afternoon dockets, and sentencings). There were 9 hearings that were scheduled but there was no information on the outcome of the hearings. Due to changes in staff, some of the September hearings may have not have been identified as one of the non-pro tem hearing types. This was confirmed when possible, but a small portion of the increase in hearings may be due to this mislabeling.
2. Hearings that are vacated for the rocket docket are excluded from these calculations. This is discussed in more detail on pages 2 and 3.
3. The median value for time from arrival to hearing is used as it avoids skewing of the mean value due to probation violations that occur during incarceration, either in the MDC or on CCP, as well as those for which an individual is not booked into MDC.