

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION:

TEEN COURT

APRIL 19, 2022

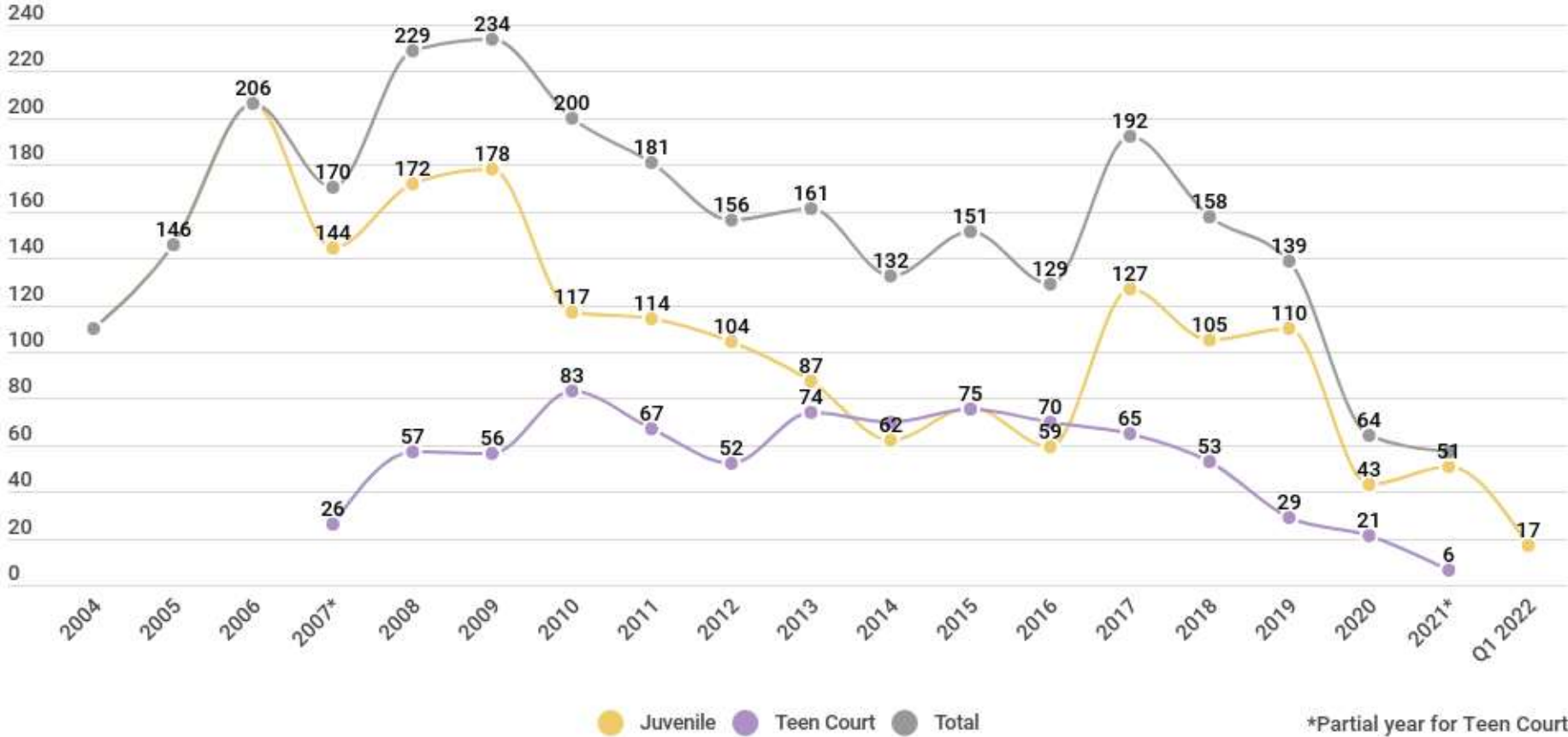


ABOUT TEEN COURT

- Established in Castle Rock in 2007
- Community-based program; provides an alternative to the traditional justice system for first-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders
- Operates on restorative justice principles of accountability, learning and community safety
- Provides volunteer opportunities for youth ages 12 to 18 to serve as jury members for their peers' cases
- Because of case trends, staff did not seek to fill the part-time Teen Court Coordinator position when it became vacant in August 2021



Castle Rock Municipal Court juvenile case data 2004-2021



*Partial year for Teen Court

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

- In addition to the Teen Court vacancy, Municipal Court has a full-time vacancy for a Court Technician. Staff proposes seeking one candidate to fill both roles.
 - The hiring range for the position would be \$25-\$30 an hour. Municipal Court has the budget capacity for the position – including benefits and supply costs – and intends to post the vacancy yet this month
- In addition to a staff member, reactivating Teen Court will require volunteers.
 - Teen Court had about 15 active volunteers when the program was paused in August 2021. Staff will reach out to those volunteers to see if they are interested in continuing their participation
 - Staff will also recruit and train new volunteers
- Any teen volunteering with the court must complete 16 hours of general legal training
 - Staff intends to hold volunteer training in July, prior to local students returning to school in August
- With volunteers and a coordinator on board, staff could have Teen Court available to hear any qualifying cases starting in August



PROPOSED MOTION

"I move to direct staff to work with the Municipal Judge to reactivate the Town's Teen Court as outlined."