



# Lincoln City Attorney Prosecution Division

County-City Consolidation Committee  
April 26, 2013

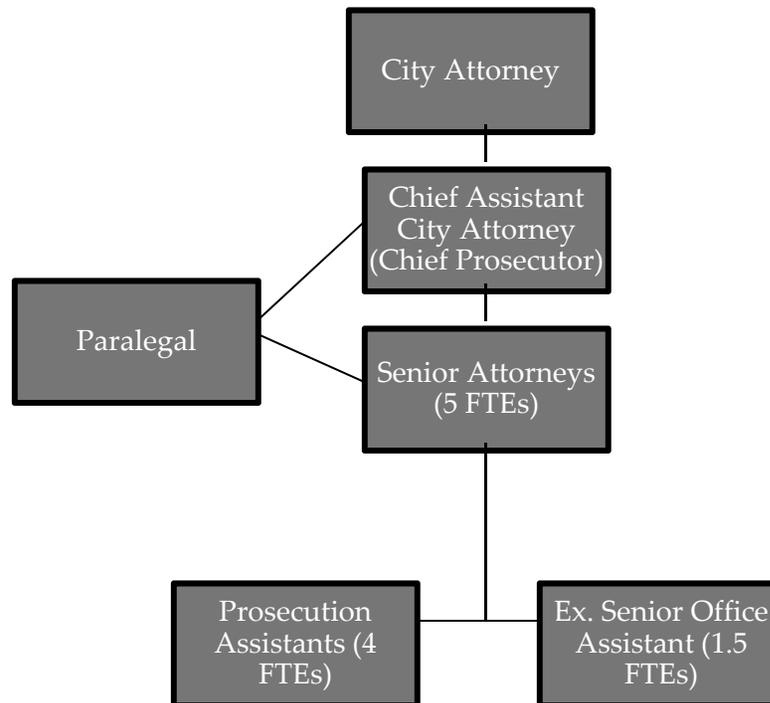


# City Attorney's Office Organization

- 17 Attorneys
- 12 Clerical and Administrative Staff
- Civil Division
  - 11 Attorneys
  - Office Administrator; Paralegal; 4.5 Clerical
- Criminal Division
  - Chief Prosecutor; 5 Senior Attorneys
  - Paralegal; 5.5 Clerical



# Criminal Division



# City Prosecutors

- Specialize in prosecution
- Average City Experience      21.8 years
- Average Salary                      \$112,978
- City Merit System: not at-will employees
- Misdemeanor prosecution not a training ground



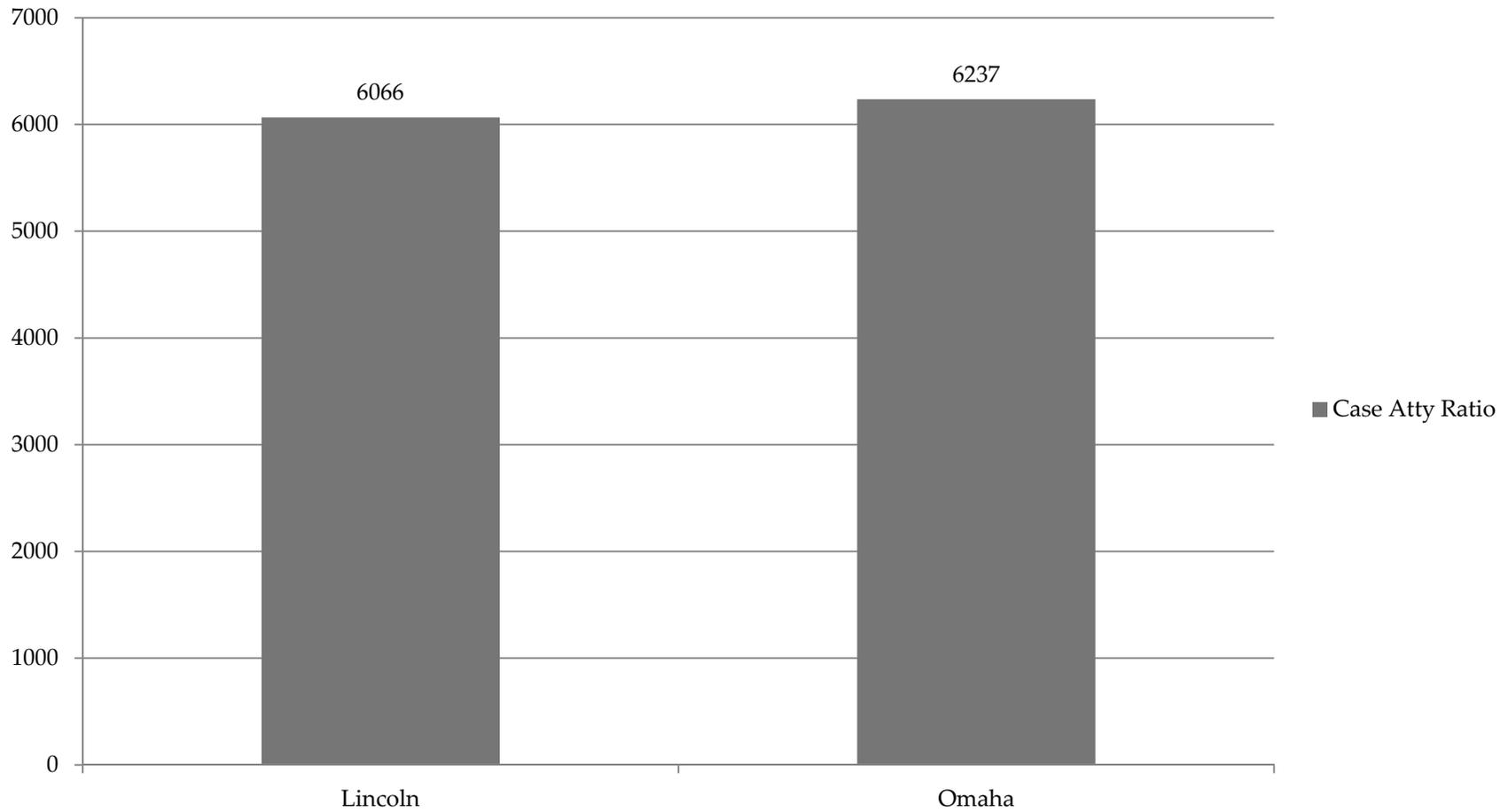
# High Volume Caseload

- About 2/3 of total misdemeanors and traffic charges in Lancaster County Court (29,000/42,000) filed by City
- City ordinance violations
- No jury trials
  - Cases assigned by courtroom



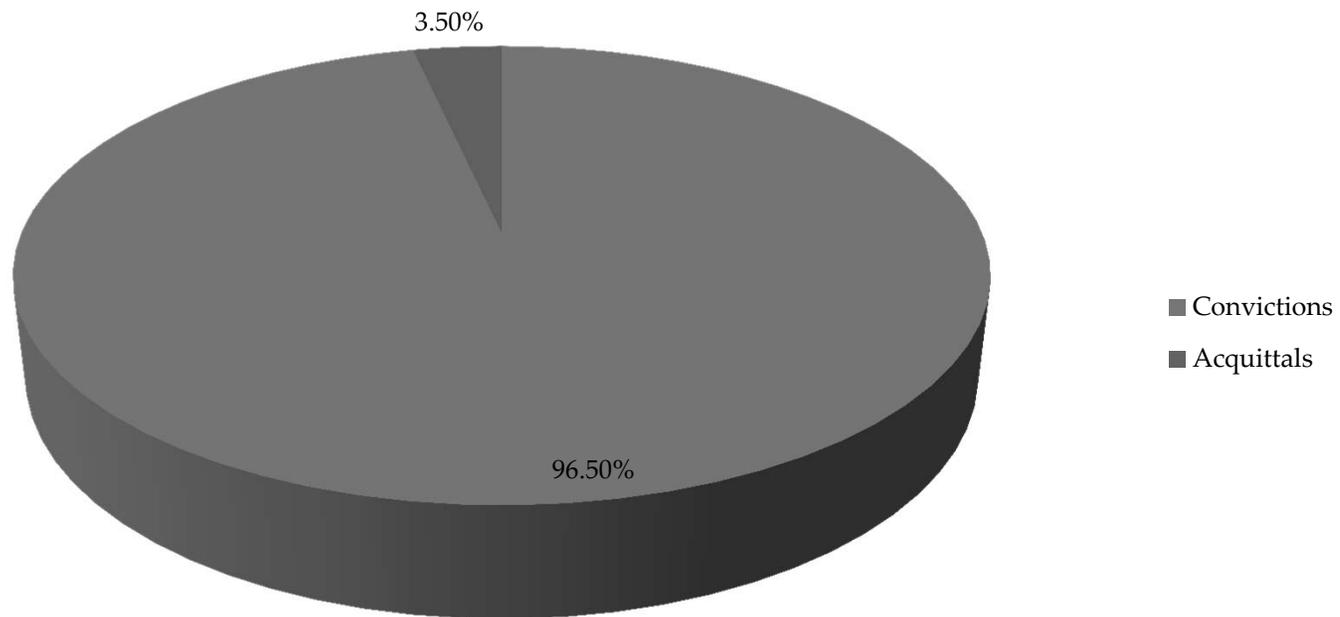
# Annual Caseload

## 6,066 Cases per Prosecutor



# Conviction Rate for Filed Cases = 96.5%

Calendar Year 2012



# Distinct City Interests in Lincoln Municipal Code Ordinance Prosecution

- Cooperation between City Attorney's Civil & Criminal Divisions
  - Zoning violations
  - Building Code enforcement
  - Health Code violations, including Animal Control
- Particular City Issues
  - Watering restrictions
  - Environmental
  - Donation boxes
  - Panhandling
- High Accessibility to Lincoln Citizens, Law Enforcement & Private Attorneys
  - 15,000 walk-ins and telephone calls annually



# Cost of City Prosecution Function

○ Salaries & fringe benefits	\$ 1,300,000
○ Supplies, services, other	100,000
○ Unreimbursed court costs*	<u>90,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,490,000

\* Includes: filing fees, witness fees, blood tests, DMV transcripts, certified copies

City cost per case ( $\$1.49\text{M}/36,398$ ) = \$40.93



# Current Cooperation between County Attorney and City Attorney in Criminal Prosecution

- City Executive Order
  - Appoints Deputy County Attorneys as Special Assistant City Attorneys
  - Applies to domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, junked and abandoned vehicles outside City limits and Juvenile Court ordinance violations in conjunction with state crimes
  - Also cases in which City Prosecutors have a conflict of interest
  
- Informal cooperation
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Assist each other in meeting staffing needs
  - Court scheduling and dockets
  - Setting mutual policies

