

Summary of Fulton County Dispossessory Backlog

- **Background of Roles:**

- The Fulton County Chief Magistrate Judge is responsible for determining the number slots available for the scheduling of dispossessory hearings through the Order of Business.
- COSMC is responsible for using the Order of Business to schedule dispossessory hearings.

- **March 2020** – As a result of COVID, all magistrate court hearings (including dispossessory) stop.

- **May 2020** – COSMC advises Mag Court of continued filings and a burgeoning backlog through the weekly report provided to Mag Court Admin

- **November 2020** – Magistrate Court releases new Order of Business with a reduced number of slots for dispossessory cases:

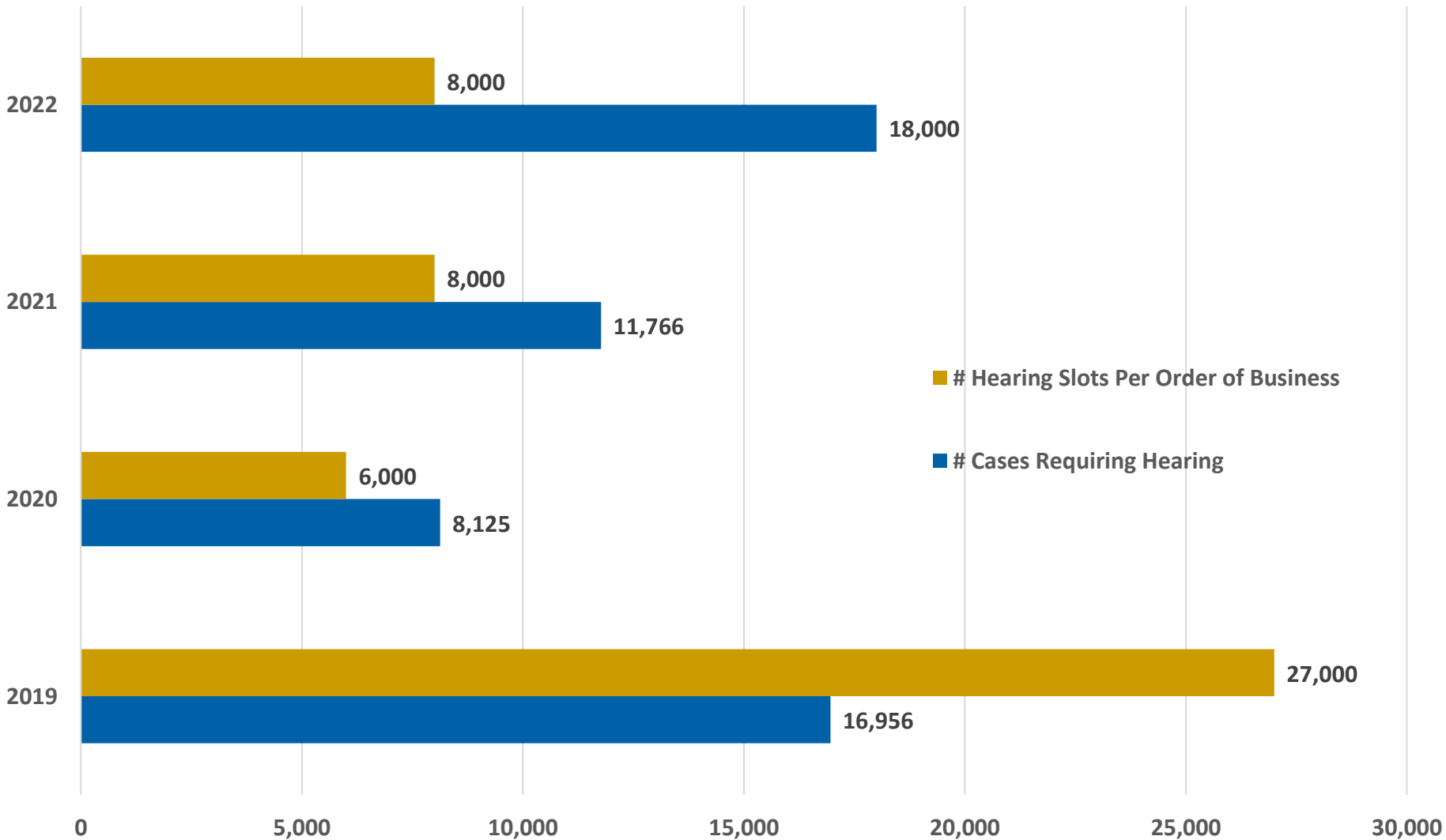
- 2019: 27,000 slots (pre-COVID)
- 2020: 6,000 slots
- 2021: 8,000 slots
- 2022: 8,000 slots

- **February 2021** - COSMC advises that the dispossessory slots provided in the Order of Business will not accommodate the hearings that need to be scheduled and that the backlog of attorney-represented cases cannot be addressed with the current number of available slots. (See attached emails)

- **December 2022** – Fulton County dispossessory case backlog persists:

- To date, the number of slots available for dispossessory hearings remains significantly reduced from pre-pandemic levels.
- Concurrently, the number of dispossessory filings have returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Currently there are 7,200 cases, dating back to February 2022, awaiting scheduling.
- The latest abbreviated Order of Business only authorizes slots for dispossessory hearings through January 27, 2023.
- COSMC can only schedule dispossessory hearings through this date.

Snapshot of Year-End Dispossession Cases
Requiring a **Hearing** versus Number of Hearing **slots**
2019 - 2022



COSMC-focused Proposed Solutions

- Increase the number of slots available for the scheduling of dispossession hearings
 - Night Court
 - Saturday Court
 - Maximization of current Tuesday/Thursday scheduling – limit to dispossession cases
- Monthly partner meetings while the backlog persists
 - Joint review of open case analysis report
 - Sharing of ongoing concerns
 - Discussion of impactful anecdotal information