

# Summary of Fulton County Dispossession Backlog

- **Background of Roles:**

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

- **March 2020** – As a result of COVID, all magistrate court hearings (including dispossession) 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 dispossession cases:

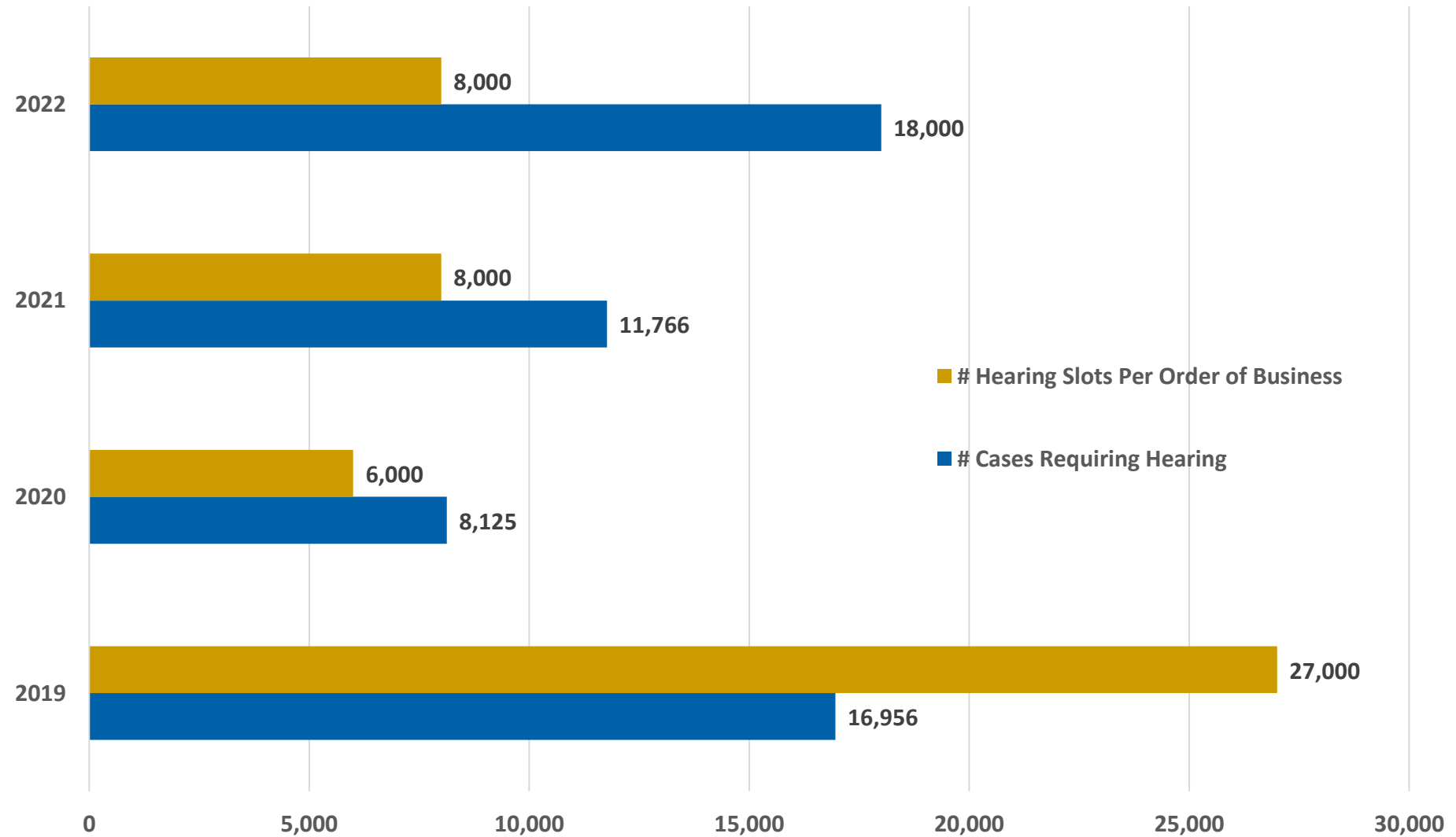
- 2019: 27,000 slots (pre-COVID)
- 2020: 6,000 slots
- 2021: 8,000 slots
- 2022: 8,000 slots

- **February 2021** - COSMC advises that the dispossession 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 dispossession case backlog persists:

- To date, the number of slots available for dispossession hearings remains significantly reduced from pre-pandemic levels.
- Concurrently, the number of dispossession 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 dispossession hearings through January 27, 2023.
- COSMC can only schedule dispossession 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 dispossessionary hearings
  - Night Court
  - Saturday Court
  - Maximization of current Tuesday/Thursday scheduling – limit to dispossessionary cases
- Monthly partner meetings while the backlog persists
  - Joint review of open case analysis report
  - Sharing of ongoing concerns
  - Discussion of impactful anecdotal information