Euclid Municipal Court

2022 Annual Report

Patrick J. Gallagher
Judge

India L. George
Chief Probation Officer

Keith M. Hurley
Clerk of Court

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Euclid Municipal Court

Euclid Municipal Court is a single jurisdiction Court serving the City of Euclid.

The Court is located at 555 East 222nd Street, in Euclid, Ohio.

At the direction of Administrative/Presiding Judge Patrick J. Gallagher, the 2022 Euclid Municipal Court staff included one part-time Magistrate; two full-time Magistrates: a Chief Probation Officer and two Probation Officers; a Clerk of Courts and three Division Chief Deputies, nine Deputy Clerks, two Bailiffs, and six part-time Court Security Officers.

Euclid Municipal Court has two Divisions:

- Civil/Small Claims Division consists of civil actions with the statutory monetary limit of $15,000 and small claims actions with a statutory limit of $6,000.

- Criminal/Traffic Division consists of the handling of initial appearance hearings of felony cases, criminal misdemeanor cases, and traffic citations issued by the Euclid Police Department, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Cleveland Metroparks Police Department, Cuyahoga County Sheriff, and the Cleveland Clinic Police Department.

Euclid Municipal Court
2022 Highlights

Collaboration of Municipal Courts

We are now collaborating with various Municipal Courts in the area to provide assistance to defendants to clear open warrants. Historically, in order to clear an open warrant, a defendant would have to surrender to the local police department and either pay a bond or sit in jail until the defendant appeared in Court. Many defendants do not have funds to post a bond and most will be terminated from their employment if required to sit in jail for even one day. A process is now in place in the participating Courts whereby a defendant can appear in court without posting a bond and request that the warrant be recalled.

Towards Employment

Towards Employment is present at the Court twice per month. Each session is two (2) hours. Towards Employment provides:

- assistance in securing employment;
- assistance in securing transportation, tools, and uniforms;

- assistance to clear warrants, prevent evictions and foreclosures, address child support arrears, and clear debt;
- career planning, coaching, and skill building through work experience and technical training so newly hired workers can succeed in their current job and then advance along a career pathway.

This is not just for Euclid Municipal Court defendants. Anyone can walk-in and meet with the Towards Employment representatives. In addition, other Courts may refer defendants to the Towards Employment sessions at the Euclid Municipal Court.

Right To Counsel in Eviction Actions

We continue to cooperate with the Legal Aid Society's program to provide Right-To-Counsel to tenants in eviction actions. On a weekly basis, the Court provides the Legal Aid Society with a list of all eviction cases filed in our Court. Legal Aid then sends information to the tenants about the legal assistance program. The Court also mails with the Summons and Complaint a handbill explaining that the tenant may be eligible for free legal assistance and providing contact information for the Legal Aid Society and United Way.

For tenants, this program may stop evictions by asserting valid legal defenses, get tenants additional time to move, protect tenants' property, reduce or avoid liabilities, address unit repairs and apply for rental assistance. For landlords, this program may streamline proceedings where there is no valid legal defense, provide a negotiated resolution, protect landlords' property and facilitate payment to the landlord through tenants' rental assistance programs.

By providing access to legal counsel, this program promotes public confidence in the judiciary. This improves the litigants' perceptions of the fairness of the judicial system and thereby promotes the community's confidence in the outcomes of the judicial system.

First Offenders Program

The number of participants in the Court's First Offender Program continued to increase over the previous year. In 2022, we admitted 84 defendants to the First Offender Program. Under this Program, the defendant must be a first offender and must complete community service hours, counseling programs, undergo drug and alcohol testing and treatment (if necessary), obtain employment, and not engage in any criminal conduct. If defendant successfully completes all requirements, the charges are dismissed and defendant's record is sealed. This program has huge implications and benefits – especially for young people

Expungements

In 2022, we processed 163 requests for expungements. This represents an increase over 2021. We actively and intentionally advise and encourage Defendants to pursue expungement at the appropriate time.

Computerization

The Court has now replaced all computers. We are continuing the implementation of the Pioneer Benchmark Case Management System. Once operational, this new case management system will provide electronic filing, on-line access to imaged documents, remote access by Court personnel, calendaring, in-court processing, email and text message notification to attorneys and parties. These functions will directly impact the Court's efficiency, user-access and transparency. We expect the new case management system to go live this year.

Website

The Court received a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court of $35,100.00 for a new Court website. We went live with the new website in May, 2022. Our website can be found at euclidmunicourt.com

Euclid Municipal Court Probation Department

The Euclid Municipal Court Probation Department is staffed with two (2) full-time Probation Officers and a Chief Probation Officer who supervises all defendants who have been sentenced to a term of community control or diversion. Together all Officers are currently managing approximately 509 active cases as of 03/28/2023. The Probation Department is responsible for conducting investigations for Pre-Sentence Hearings, First Offender (Diversion) Referrals, supervising defendants that are court ordered to complete a term of Community Control and conditions along with completing Expungement request and any additional referrals and request. The Euclid Probation Department is here to ensure that Court ordered conditions are satisfied and that the rules of probation are abided by until the term of probation is complete or terminated.

We (the Probation Department) are working diligently to assist with the safety of the community, the rehabilitation of the offenders that are referred and or assigned to the Probation Department and improving public confidence in justice by treating everyone with procedural fairness.

Euclid Probation Department 2022 Annual Statistics

End of The Year Case Count:

Number of Probationers on December 31, 2020 = **319**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2021 = **314**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2022 = **370**

New Cases Assigned in 2022	**348**
Male:	190
Female:	151
Unknown:	7

Reporting Status:

Officer Meetings:	321
Active Cases:	268
Inactive Cases:	13
First Offender Cases:	89
Presentence Investigations:	188
First Offender Interviews:	79
Expungement Request:	163

(Granted w/hearing-6/Withdrawal-8/First Offender Granted-78/Granted w/out hearing-71)

Probation Violation Request:	306
Early Termination Request:	71 Successfully Granted

The Euclid Municipal Court is working to incorporate alternative sentencing recommendations such as community service, house arrest monitoring, treatment and prevention programs etc., in lieu of the traditional jail sentencing, court cost and fines to ensure that the defendants that receive any form of sentencing have the means to successfully fulfill their court obligations. During Covid the Probation Department utilized alternative appointment reporting options such as reporting by phone, email and zoom to limit the foot traffic coming in and out of the Euclid Municipal Court building for safety precautions. Below are program referrals made in 2022:

Probation Conditions and Programs/Referrals for 2022:

Anti-Theft Program -	**72**
Community Service –	**2,950 Total Hours Complete**
A) CCS (Cleve):	279 Hours Completed
B) Euclid (Self Referrals):	2,671 Hours Completed (Various locations)
Chemical Dependency –	
A.) Assessments:	47
B.) Cleveland Drug Court:	1
C.) No Alcohol or Drugs:	94
D.) Continue w/ Treatment:	51
E.) Drug Test Conducted:	684
D.V. & Anger Management –	
A.) Anger Management:	52
B.) D.V. Program:	43
C.) Parenting Classes:	16
DUI/OVI Convictions –	
A.) 72 Hour Alternative to Jail:	47
B.) MADD:	2
C.) SCRAM/Interlock:	6
Education & Employment –	
A.) Diploma/GED:	8
B.) WDP or Obtain Employment:	20
Mental Health –	
A.) Competency/Mental Eval:	85
B.) Mental Health Counseling:	40
Weapon Related Conditions –	
A.) CCW Program:	13
B.) EPD Destroy Weapon:	17

First Offender Program

2019 – 9 Participants
2020 – 35 Participants
2021 – 79 Participants
2022 – 89 Participants

Expungements

	Requests	Granted	FOP - Dismissed and Sealed	Denied	Continued/No Show/Withdrawn
2019	113	68	11	14	20
2020	81	49	17	10	5
2021	159	79	40	3	37
2022	163	84	78	0	8
TOTALS	516	280	146	27	70

EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT
NEW CASE FILINGS - 2022

CIVIL CASES BY TYPE:	
SUBROGATION	19
GENERAL CIVIL	1912
EVICTIONS	1531
DRIVING PRIVILIGES	61
SMALL CLAIMS	436
TOTAL	3959

CRIMINAL CASES BY TYPE:	
FELONY APPEARANCES	415
MISDEMEANORS	945
OVI	95
TRAFFIC	1807
TOTAL	3262

TOTAL CASES	7221

RECEIPTS 2022

CIVIL RECEIPTS			
	CLERK AND BAILIFF FEES	$795,892.86	
	JUDGMENTS	$2,539,647.08	
	DEPOSITS	$10,206.87	
	LEGAL AID	$95,566.00	
	COMPUTER FEES	$39,267.00	
	SPECIAL PROJECTS	$39,270.00	
	VOIDED CHECKS	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$3,519,849.81
RENT ESCROW DEPOSITS			$56,101.75
TRUSTEESHIP DEPOSITS			$482.00
CRIMINAL RECEIPTS			
	CITY FINES	$188,905.54	
	CITY COSTS	$107,367.86	
	DRUG ENF/JUSTICE SVC	$4,795.00	
	FORFEITURES	$18,075.00	
	STATE & COUNTY FINES	$12,537.80	
	CLEVE. METROPARKS BOARD	$13,477.10	
	NATURAL RESOURCES	$0.00	
	CASH BONDS	$127,215.00	
	BOND POUNDAGE	$4,220.00	
	VICTIMS OF CRIME	$15,065.00	
	PARKING	$0.00	
	CHILD RESTRAINTS	$415.00	
	COMPUTER FEES	$17,666.00	
	EPD SAFETY	$847.00	
	SEAT BELTS (STATE)	$81.00	
	INDIG DEF. SUPPORT FUND	$49,525.50	
	HIGHWAY PATROL	$5,198.50	
	COLLECTIONS	$8,473.45	
	BMV FEES	$15.00	
	SPECIAL PROJECTS	$18,255.50	
	ODT	$0.00	
	CCF PD	$300.00	
	RTA	$0.00	
	REST PYMT	$407.00	
	REDDS	$6,195.00	
	CRIMESTOPPERS	$399.25	
	LIQUOR FINES	$0.00	
	DWI (INDIGENT)	$2,892.50	
	EXPUNGEMENT DEPOSIT	$0.00	
	STATE EXPUNGMENT	$1,500.00	
	VOIDED CHECKS	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$603,829.00
BALANCES ON DEPOSIT FROM 2021			
	CIVIL DEPOSITS	$32,890.62	
	RENT/ESCROW	$21,707.00	
	TRUSTEESHIP	$0.00	
	CRIMINAL BONDS & DEPOSITS	$78,680.00	$133,277.62
TOTAL RECEIPTS 2022			**$4,313,540.18**

DISBURSEMENTS 2022

CIVIL DISBURSEMENTS			
	DEPOSITS APPLIED & CITY COSTS	$875,376.74	
	JUDGMENTS	$2,506,148.92	
	DEPOSIT REFUNDS	$9,146.87	
	LEGAL AID	$94,610.34	
	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$0.00	
	REISSUE VOIDED CHECK	$0.00	
	NSF CHECK	$439.00	
	TOTAL		$3,485,721.87
RENT ESCROW DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY COSTS	$589.06	
	PAID TO LANDLORD	$52,894.69	
	MISCELLANEOUS REFUNDS	$8,035.00	
	TOTAL		$61,518.75
TRUSTEESHIP DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY COSTS	$35.00	
	CREDITORS	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$35.00
CRIMINAL DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY OF EUCLID	$357,874.39	
	STATE & COUNTY	$12,537.80	
	METROPARKS	$13,477.10	
	REFUND CASH BONDS	$122,650.00	
	VICTIMS OF CRIME	$15,065.00	
	LAW LIBRARY	$355.01	
	SEAT BELTS (STATE)	$81.00	
	50%LIQUOR	$0.00	
	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$0.00	
	CHILD RESTRAINT FINES	$415.00	
	COLLECTIONS	$8,473.45	
	BMV (STATE)	$15.00	
	HIGHWAY PATROL	$5,198.50	
	NATURAL RESOURCES	$0.00	
	ODT	$0.00	
	CCF PD	$300.00	
	RTA	$0.00	
	REST PYMT	$407.00	
	REDSS	$6,195.00	
	CRIMESTOPPERS	$399.25	
	INDIGENT DEFENSE SUPPORT	$49,525.50	
	JUSTICE PROG SVCS	$4,795.00	
	EXPUNGEMENT DEP RELEASED	$0.00	
	STATE EXPUNGEMENT	$1,500.00	
	TOTAL		$599,264.00
ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 2022			
	CIVIL	$67,018.56	
	RENT ESCROW	$16,290.00	
	TRUSTEESHIP	$447.00	
	CRIMINAL	$83,245.00	
	TOTAL		$167,000.56
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2022			**$4,313,540.18**

2022 GENERAL FUND OPERATING RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

BASED ON CITY OF EUCLID FINANCE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS

REVENUE

CRIMINAL FINES		$225,304.28
PARKING FINES		$83,082.66
FORFEITURES		$17,405.00
CRIMINAL COSTS		$165,162.20
TRUSTEESHIP		$4.30
RENT / ESCROW		$409.96
BOND POUNDAGE		$15,775.00
CIVIL COSTS		$688,805.36
	TOTAL REVENUE	**$1,195,948.76**

EXPENSES

PERSONAL SERVICES		
Salaries & Wages		$933,602.34
Overtime		$0.00
Retirement/Separation Pay		$40,147.82
Healthcare		$228,832.87
Vision/Dental/Life Insurance		$10,908.06
Mandatory Medicare		$13,683.16
Worker's Compensation		$20,802.58
P.E.R.S.		$130,055.47
		$1,378,032.30
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
Ouside Legal Services (Assigned Counsel)		$44,848.00
Other Professional Services		$35,504.45
Tech Services-Data Processing		$43,127.01
Rental of Equipment & Vehicle		$5,605.86
		$129,085.32
MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES		
Office Supplies		$6,977.68
Postage		$54,050.00
Books and Periodicals		$3,813.00
Other Supplies		$2,110.87
		$66,951.55
OTHER CHARGES		
Printing and Binding		$14,799.00
Travel		$0.00
Furniture & Fixtures		$3,399.00
Membership Dues/Licenses		$1,420.00
		$19,618.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,593,687.17**