Euclid Municipal Court

2020 Annual Report

Patrick J. Gallagher
Judge

India L. George
Chief Probation Officer

Keith M. Hurley
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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 2020 Euclid Municipal Court staff included three part-time Magistrates; a Chief Probation Officer and two Probation Officers; a Clerk of Courts and three Division Chief Deputies, ten 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.

2020 Court Program Highlights

COVID-19

Like everyone else - COVID caused us to make significant changes to the Court's operations. Due to the nature of our work, we have remained open and operating throughout the COVID crisis. We did stay civil cases for a period of time but we continued to hear certain criminal cases.

We obtained a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court for video equipment for each courtroom. This equipment allows us to conduct remote proceedings involving prisoners at the County Jail. This eliminated the need for officers to drive to the County Jail each day to pick-up and return prisoners. In addition, we now have the ability to conduct remote proceedings involving defendants who are incarcerated at State prisons.

We added an additional day for pretrials to reduce the number of people in the Courthouse at any given time. For criminal/traffic pretrials, we also now assign a date and timeslot for defendants to appear. In addition, we use ZOOM to conduct some criminal proceedings that do not require in-person attendance. On the civil side – we now use ZOOM to conduct the majority of our hearings.

We also received a grant to redesign and reconstruct the public desk of the Clerk's office. We added two (2) windows to permit more space for persons who are conducting business at the Clerk's window. This design also permits us to help more members of the public at the same time thereby reducing the amount of time each person has to spend in the building.

Community Outreach

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to conduct Community Clinics. However, we did conduct a Warrant Recall Program which allowed persons with warrants for Failure to Appear at previous Court proceedings to request that the warrant be recalled without posting a bond. This program provides several benefits. First, the person no longer has a warrant for his arrest. In addition, the issuance of a warrant also results in a warrant block being imposed by the BMV which prevents someone from obtaining or renewing their driver's license or registration. This Warrant Recall Program resulted in warrant blocks being removed which allowed individuals to obtain a valid driver's license.

First Offender Program

We also expanded our First Offenders Program. Under this Program, the Defendant must obviously be a first offender. The Defendant is required to enter a plea of guilty to the charge(s). However, there is no finding of guilt. The Defendant is required to complete a period of probation which includes other requirements such as community service hours, counseling programs, completion of school or GED, drug and alcohol testing, and/or drug and alcohol treatment. If the Defendant successfully completes the First Offender Program, the charges are dismissed and defendant's record is sealed. Despite COVID and reduced operations, we actually increased the number of participants in our First Offender Program by 75%.

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 monitors all defendants who have been sentenced to a term of community control. Together the Probation Department currently manages approximately 355 active cases with in the City of Euclid. The Probation Department is responsible for conducting investigations for Pre-Sentence Hearings, First Offender (Diversion) Referrals and Expungement request; along with various projects as requested. 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 has been complete.

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 2020 Annual Statistics

End Of The Year Case Count:

Number of Probationers on December 31, 2018 = **386**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2019 = **514**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2020 = **372**
***The decrease in numbers is due to moving the driver license cases to their own compliance docket along with the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

New Cases Assigned in 2020: **(343)**

Male:	222
Female:	121

Reporting Status:

Officer Meetings:	386
Active Cases:	319
Inactive Cases:	229
Diversion Cases:	35
Presentence Investigation:	198
Expungement Request:	79 (Granted-49/Denied-13/First Offender Granted-17)
Probation Violation Request:	302
Early Termination Request:	110 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 and court cost and fines to ensure that the defendants that receive any form of sentencing has the means to successfully fulfil their court obligations. Below are program referrals made in 2020:

Probation Conditions and Programs/Referrals for 2020:

Anti-Theft Program -	8	
Community Service –	**75**	**(1,966 Total Hours Complete)**
A) CCS (Cleve):	8	(280 Hours Completed)
B) Euclid Court Order:	67	(1,686 Hours Completed)
Chemical Dependency –		
A.) Assessments:	59	
B.) Cleveland Drug Court:	3	
C.) No Alcohol or Drugs:	87	
D.) Continue w/ Treatment:	35	
E.) Drug Test Conducted:	791	
D.V. & Anger Management –		
A.) Anger Management:	60	
B.) D.V. Program:	51	
C.) Parenting Classes:	15	
DUI/OVI Convictions –		
A.) 72 Hour Alternative to Jail:	53	
B.) MADD/AA Meetings:	26	
C.) SCRAM/Interlock:	37	
Education & Employment –		
A.) Diploma/GED:	10	
B.) WDP or Obtain Employment:	18	
Mental Health –		
A.) Competency/Mental Eval/:	42	
B.) Mental Health Counseling:	16	
Weapon Related Conditions–		
A.) CCW Program:	5	
B.) EPD Destroy Weapon:	6	