Euclid Municipal Court

2021 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 2021 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, 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.

Euclid Municipal Court
2021 Highlights

Right To Counsel in Eviction Actions

In concert with the efforts of City Council, the Court - in July, 2021 – began participating with The Legal Aid Society's program to provide a Right-To-Counsel to tenants' in eviction actions. On a weekly basis, the Court provides the Legal Aid Society ("Legal Aid") 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.

Community Outreach

Due to COVID, we were limited in our community outreach efforts. However, the Court was able to expand existing programs.

First Offenders Program

The number of participants in the Court's First Offender Program more than doubled from the previous year. Under this Program, the defendant must obviously 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

The number of participants in the Court's Expungement Program almost doubled from the previous year. At sentencing, we actively and intentionally advise Defendants that they will be eligible for expungement upon completion of their sentence. We also identify individuals who previously completed their sentences and may be eligible for expungement. That information is provided to Legal Clinics which then provide information and assistance to those individuals.

Computerization

In December, 2020, City Council authorized the purchase of 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.

In May, 2021, City Council authorized the Court to enter into a contract with an IT provider. Our new provider now host, maintain and secure our data and information on external servers, maintain workstations, implement and maintain remote access. In addition, the Court now has Wi-Fi service.

Website

In May, 2021, the Court received a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court of $35,100.00 for a Court website. A dedicated Court website will allow the Court to better communicate with members of the public, allow members of the public to transact business with the Court and improve the Court's transparency. We expect to go live with the Website by May, 2022.

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 or Diversion. Together all Officers are currently managing approximately 371 active cases as of 03/26/2021. 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 2021 Annual Statistics

End of The Year Case Count:

Number of Probationers on December 31, 2019 = **514 (These Numbers Include Traffic (DUS) Cases)**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2020 = **319**
Number of Probationers on December 31, 2021 = **314**

New Cases Assigned in 2021:	**288**
Male:	160
Female:	121
Unknown:	7

Reporting Status:

Officer Meetings:	340
Active Cases:	314
Inactive Cases:	12
First Offender Cases:	77
Presentence Investigations:	196

First Offender Interviews:	84
Expungement Request:	119 (Granted-75/Denied-3/First Offender Granted-41)
Probation Violation Request:	209
Early Termination Request:	67 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 2021:

Probation Conditions and Programs/Referrals for 2020:

Anti-Theft Program -	37	
Community Service –	**118**	**(1956 Total Hours Complete)**
A) CCS (Cleve):	56	(551.5 Hours Completed)
B) Euclid (Self Referrals):	62	(1,405 Hours Completed)
Chemical Dependency –		
A.) Assessments:	64	
B.) Cleveland Drug Court:	1	
C.) No Alcohol or Drugs:	129	
D.) Continue w/ Treatment:	23	
E.) Drug Test Conducted:	687	
D.V. & Anger Management –		
A.) Anger Management:	75	
B.) D.V. Program:	56	
C.) Parenting Classes:	9	
DUI/OVI Convictions –		
A.) 72 Hour Alternative to Jail:	46	
B.) MADD:	0	
C.) SCRAM/Interlock:	12	
Education & Employment –		
A.) Diploma/GED:	18	
B.) WDP or Obtain Employment:	27	
Mental Health –		
A.) Competency/Mental Eval:	77	
B.) Mental Health Counseling:	25	
Weapon Related Conditions –		
A.) CCW Program:	11	
B.) EPD Destroy Weapon:	17	

First Offender Program

2019 – 9 Participants
2020 – 35 Participants
2021 – 79 Participants
Currently 2022 – 14 Defendants Placed as of 03/01/2022

Expungements

	Request	Granted	FOP- Dissmissed & Seal	Denied	Cont., No Show, Withdraws
2019 –	**113**	**68**	**11**	**14**	**20**
2020 -	**81**	**49**	**17**	**10**	**5**
2021 –	**159**	**79**	**40**	**3**	**37**

(From 2019 to 2021) There were 353 expungement requests. There were 196 expungements granted. There were 68 First Offender cases dismissed and sealed. There were 27 expungement denials.

EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT
NEW CASE FILINGS – 2021

CIVIL CASES BY TYPE:	
SUBROGATION	13
GENERAL CIVIL	2003
EVICTIONS	967
DRIVING PRIVILIGES	61
SMALL CLAIMS	172
TOTAL	3216
CRIMINAL CASES BY TYPE:	
FELONY APPEARANCES	287
MISDEMEANORS	1090
OVI	91
TRAFFIC	1445
TOTAL	2913
TOTAL CASES	6129

DISBURSEMENTS 2021

CIVIL DISBURSEMENTS			
	DEPOSITS APPLIED & CITY COSTS	$846,367.55	
	JUDGMENTS	$2,609,392.74	
	DEPOSIT REFUNDS	$7,054.00	
	LEGAL AID	$81,930.42	
	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$0.00	
	REISSUE VOIDED CHECK	$142,662.97	
	NSF CHECK	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$3,687,407.68
RENT ESCROW DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY COSTS	$446.99	
	PAID TO LANDLORD	$30,692.62	
	MISCELLANEOUS REFUNDS	$18,284.07	
	TOTAL		$49,423.68
TRUSTEESHIP DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY COSTS	$0.00	
	CREDITORS	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$0.00
CRIMINAL DISBURSEMENTS			
	CITY OF EUCLID	$382,367.57	
	STATE & COUNTY	$13,823.40	
	METROPARKS	$11,402.50	
	REFUND CASH BONDS	$261,790.00	
	VICTIMS OF CRIME	$15,148.48	
	LAW LIBRARY	$802.57	
	SEAT BELTS (STATE)	$273.00	
	50%LIQUOR	$0.00	
	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$7,220.00	
	CHILD RESTRAINT FINES	$354.00	
	COLLECTIONS	$19,136.35	
	BMV (STATE)	$10.00	
	HIGHWAY PATROL	$7,341.55	
	NATURAL RESOURCES	$0.00	
	ODT	$100.00	
	RTA	$100.00	
	REDSS	$5,912.00	
	CRIMESTOPPERS	$394.00	
	INDIGENT DEFENSE SUPPORT	$50,038.52	
	JUSTICE PROG SVCS	$4,556.85	
	EXPUNGEMENT DEP RELEASED	$0.00	
	STATE EXPUNGEMENT	$330.00	
	TOTAL		$781,100.79
ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 2021			
	CIVIL	$32,890.62	
	RENT ESCROW	$21,707.00	
	TRUSTEESHIP	$0.00	
	CRIMINAL	$78,680.00	
	TOTAL		$133,277.62
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 2021			**$4,651,209.77**

RECEIPTS 2021

CIVIL RECEIPTS			
	CLERK AND BAILIFF FEES	$779,745.97	
	JUDGMENTS	$2,414,002.54	
	DEPOSITS	$2,724.00	
	LEGAL AID	$82,758.00	
	COMPUTER FEES	$32,894.00	
	SPECIAL PROJECTS	$32,900.00	
	VOIDED CHECKS	$142,662.97	
	TOTAL		$3,487,687.48
RENT ESCROW DEPOSITS			$52,566.68
TRUSTEESHIP DEPOSITS			$0.00
CRIMINAL RECEIPTS			
	CITY FINES	$186,177.48	
	CITY COSTS	$122,568.95	
	DRUG ENF/JUSTICE SVC	$4,556.85	
	FORFEITURES	$16,534.00	
	STATE & COUNTY FINES	$13,823.40	
	CLEVE. METROPARKS BOARD	$11,402.50	
	NATURAL RESOURCES	$0.00	
	CASH BONDS	$262,835.00	
	BOND POUNDAGE	$18,300.00	
	VICTIMS OF CRIME	$15,148.48	
	PARKING	$0.00	
	CHILD RESTRAINTS	$354.00	
	COMPUTER FEES	$17,190.41	
	EPD SAFETY	$1,528.50	
	SEAT BELTS (STATE)	$273.00	
	INDIG DEF. SUPPORT FUND	$50,038.52	
	HIGHWAY PATROL	$7,341.55	
	COLLECTIONS	$19,136.35	
	BMV FEES	$10.00	
	SPECIAL PROJECTS	$17,329.30	
	ODT	$100.00	
	RTA	$100.00	
	REDDS	$5,912.00	
	CRIMESTOPPERS	$394.00	
	LIQUOR FINES	$0.00	
	DWI (INDIGENT)	$3,541.50	
	EXPUNGEMENT DEPOSIT	$0.00	
	STATE EXPUNGMENT	$330.00	
	VOIDED CHECKS	$0.00	
	TOTAL		$774,925.79
BALANCES ON DEPOSIT FROM 2020			
	CIVIL DEPOSITS	$232,610.82	
	RENT/ESCROW	$18,564.00	
	TRUSTEESHIP	$0.00	
	CRIMINAL BONDS & DEPOSITS	$84,855.00	$336,029.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS 2021			**$4,651,209.77**

2021 GENERAL FUND OPERATING RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

BASED ON CITY OF EUCLID FINANCE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS

REVENUE

CRIMINAL FINES		$187,248.63
PARKING FINES		$121,780.03
FORFEITURES		$17,295.00
CRIMINAL COSTS		$123,887.25
TRUSTEESHIP		$0.00
RENT / ESCROW		$435.72
BOND POUNDAGE		$18,970.00
CIVIL COSTS		$764,144.98
	TOTAL REVENUE	**$1,233,761.61**

EXPENSES

PERSONAL SERVICES		
Salaries & Wages		$951,424.48
Overtime		$0.00
Retirement/Separation Pay		$18,795.02
Healthcare		$247,096.47
Vision/Dental/Life Insurance		$11,241.39
Mandatory Medicare		$13,579.27
Worker's Compensation		$21,328.08
P.E.R.S.		$133,793.39
		$1,397,258.10
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
Ouside Legal Services (Assigned Counsel)		$44,150.40
Other Professional Services		$120,321.15
Tech Services-Data Processing		$29,176.26
Rental of Equipment & Vehicle		$5,357.88
		$199,005.69
MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES		
Office Supplies		$5,537.75
Postage		$59,050.00
Books and Periodicals		$1,776.00
Other Supplies		$2,997.52
		$69,361.27
OTHER CHARGES		
Printing and Binding		$4,938.42
Travel		$0.00
Furniture & Fixtures		$4,507.88
Membership Dues/Licenses		$1,322.50
		$10,768.80
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,676,393.86**