

MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

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MUNICIPAL COURT
MARIETTA, OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT

-2019-



For the Period:
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Judge's Comments	2-3
III.	Civil Division	4
IV.	Criminal/Traffic Division	5
V.	Criminal/Traffic Receipts/Disbursements	6
VI.	Unpaid Fines and Costs and Special Projects Funds	7
VII.	Cost of Operation	8
VIII.	Probation Report	9 - 12

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1901 of the Ohio Revised Code governs the conduct of Municipal Courts including the Marietta Municipal Court. Section 1901.14(A)(4) provides as follows:

“On or before the last day of March of each year, the Court shall render a complete report of its operation during the preceding year to the Legislative Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners of each county within its territory. The report shall show the work performed by the Court, a statement of receipts and expenditures of the civil and criminal branches, respectively, the number of cases heard, decided, settled and such other data as the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the Legislative Authority, and the Board of County Commissioners required.”

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Restitution

The Court collected \$47,816 in restitution through the Probation Department and the Clerk's Office. This sum was then paid over to victims of criminal offenses.

Court Building

The Court again made its payment of approximately \$175,000 on the capital improvement bond for building renovation. These funds are generated by special project fees imposed in court cases. A reserve fund equal to one annual payment is maintained in this fund to protect against unplanned contingences.

In terms of maintenance, and in cooperation with the Service Director's employees, the emergency systems are checked regularly, filters are replaced as recommended by the manufacturer, and the lot is kept clean of snow and ice. The Court contracts with Jani-Source to regularly clean carpets and to maintain the finish on the vinyl flooring. In addition, security staff is assigned responsibility for monthly checks of alarms and fire extinguishers.

When the court building was renovated, we established a secure IT room with a separate climate control system. The HVAC for the room failed in 2019 and the Court used special project funds to immediately replace the unit. The new system is an upgrade to the previous unit and will hopefully provide years of reliable service.

Crisis Intervention Training

The Judge hosted monthly planning meetings for the Crisis Intervention Training Team. Crisis Intervention is a nationally recognized program designed to provide important information to law enforcement officers on mental health disorders, appropriate methods to recognize and to de-escalate potentially dangerous contacts, to improve diversion to proper community resources and to protect safety of community members, their families and members of law enforcement.

Technology Grant

The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded a grant of \$106,914.30 to Municipal Court to fund various technology projects. This grant did not require matching funds from the City General Fund.

Weddings

The Court officiated twenty-nine weddings in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Dyar Welch, Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

A. New Filings – Comparative Table

Type	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Civil	1,317	1,186	1,093	854	764
Small Claims	107	103	93	94	93

B. Hearings – Comparative Table

Held By:	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Judge	40	52	47	37	38
Magistrate Small Claims	78	63	48	59	51

C. Receipts and Expenditures

Payee	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
City – General	129,589.77	109,848.33	103,237.91	84,887.72	75,960.86
Court – Computer	11,344	10,240	9,432.00	7,504.00	6,784.00
Court – Capital Imp.	20,430	18,392	16,973.00	13,326.00	12,000.00
Ohio – Legal Aid	34,940.07	31,447.35	29,025.81	22,854.29	20,491.02
Total Disbursements:	196,303.84	169,927.68	158,668.72	128,572.01	115,235.88

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

A. New Filings – Five Year Comparative Table

Type Offense	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Felonies	472	506	471	414	371
Misdemeanors	1,763	2,206	1,872	1,848	1,644
OVI	359	407	431	415	325
Other Traffic	7,106	8,292	7,881	6,917	8,182
Total:	9,700	11,411	10,655	9,594	10,522

B. Trials

The Court conducted 37 preliminary hearings on felony cases, 25 court trials on contested traffic and criminal cases and 6 jury trials. These totals do not include motion hearings, probation violations, contempts, or restitution hearings.

C. Criminal/Traffic Receipts and Disbursements – Comparative Table

Payee	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
City of Marietta General Fund	445,317.39	515,276.01	468,180.36	400,989.84	440,078.16
Capital Improvement Fund	181,324.43	211,886.58	202,675.33	185,453.51	208,039.26
Court Computer/ Convenience Fee	94,167.41	109,226.35	101,230.45	89,819.65	95,055.50
Indigent Alcohol Fund	14,305.10	17,166.00	16,537.00	14,780.00	15,843.50
County General Fund	207,753.89	222,366.48	217,876.23	197,924.43	191,954.72
House Arrest	58,732	49,960	45,864.00	50,780.50	36,599.00
Probation/ Security Fees	155,868.30	135,440.31	128,692.41	126,936.31	103,977.83
Law Library	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Sheriff	9,708.12	10,261.50	11,451.04	10,644.88	10,838.14
State of Ohio*	532,478.01	628,846.13	567,279.91	510,468.49	587,234.63
Beverly	114.00	392.00	248.00	398.00	289.00
New Matamoras	326.00	643.00	1,003.00	869.00	886.00
Lowell	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	50.00
Macksburg	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Capital Recovery	31,352.48	48,947.46	42,702.58	38,451.48	38,152.12
Belpre	1,181.00	3,352.60	4,454.40	3,452.00	1,354.00
College Law Enf.	-0-	700.00	450.00	350.00	450.00
Common Pleas Court	13,854.67	10,666.92	11,387.41	15,754.77	7,169.94
Total Disbursements	1,751,982.80	1,970,631.34	1,825,532.12	1,652,572.86	1,743,466.80

* State of Ohio includes Ohio State Highway Patrol, Criminal Reparations Account, Child Restraint, Pharmacy Board, Liquor Control, Division of Conservation, etc.

UNPAID FINES AND COSTS

The Court is owed \$618,901.72 for unpaid fines and costs imposed in calendar year 2019. Cases with delinquent fines and costs are assigned to the Court's collection agency, Capital Recovery, and the statutory thirty percent fee is added to the amount due. This collection fee is paid by the offender. The collection agency is not paid a portion of the fines and costs it collects. Collection efforts continue for prior years on accumulated fines and costs. Uncollected fines imposed prior to January 1, 2015 are deemed uncollectible but are subject to being reopened if the offender appears in court for another reason.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

In 2019 the Court expended \$62,400 from its Computer Fund primarily for conversion of paper files to electronic media. The Court paid the annual bond payment for its share of the renovation of the current court facility from its Court Capital Improvement Fund. The Computer Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund are separately generated by the Court through the assessment of fees on offenders and other users of court services. As noted earlier in this report, the Judge authorized use of Special Project Funds to replace the IT room HVAC.

COST OF OPERATION

General Fund Budget

	2019	2018	2017	2016
General Fund Budget	\$864,977.00	\$779,885.00	\$807,435.00	\$844,357.00
General Fund Actually Spent	\$845,474.00	\$766,870.00	\$782,877.00	\$840,917.00
Amount Under Budget:	\$19,503.00	\$13,015.00	\$24,558.00	\$3,440.00

Payments to the General Fund

Payment from Fines and Cost	\$624,996.00	\$676,935.00	\$600,134.00	\$500,647.00
Payment from Probation Funding	\$200,288.00	\$169,155.00	\$166,556.00	\$164,957.00
Total:	\$825,284.00	\$846,090.00	\$766,690.00	\$665,604.00

PROBATION REPORT

The Chief Probation Officer is responsible for security at the Court Facility. One full-time Court Security Officer provided security in and around the court building during the hours of operation. The security staff screened 28,588 people in 2019, an average of 550 people a week.

Offenders worked 3,185 hours of community service in lieu of jail for numerous departments, work which is valued at \$31,850. The Washington County Jail had 32 inmates work 1,932 hours of supervised community service totaling \$19,320 which was credited for court fines.

Case Management Services:

Case Managers Wright and Gregory received 232 new referrals to case management services who were classified moderate to very high risk of future criminal conduct. The Case Managers made 250 referrals to outpatient treatment. Following assessment, 77 individuals were referred and placed in long-term residential drug treatment, 4 referrals were made to Veterans Programs, and 68 were referred to Thinking-for-a-Change group.

Moderate - Very High Risk Offenders:

Probation Officers Ferrell, Brockmeier and Johnson provided supervision to moderate risk, high risk, and very high risk offenders. They worked with Case Management and targeted 77 moderate to very high risk offenders for extended, inpatient rehabilitation. The inpatient treatment phase is generally ninety days.

Each probation officer carried an average caseload of 116 offenders. These offenders reported to their assigned officer based on their assessed risk level with targeted offenders reporting several times weekly. In accordance with established policies, based on criminal risk factors, these offenders were referred to local intensive outpatient treatment providers as appropriate. Probationers were subject to frequent drug testing together with follow up home visits. The probation officer uses evidence based practices including motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral intervention techniques to improve rehabilitation objectives.

Pretrial Supervision:

The Judge establishes bond pursuant to Revised Code Chapter 2937 and Rule 46 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. In 2019, 98 individuals were referred to the probation department for pretrial services. The Court required continuous alcohol monitoring devices, electronically monitored house arrest, weekly reporting, drug and alcohol testing, and counseling/treatment in lieu of cash bonds where appropriate. These tools have been generally successful deterring criminal conduct while Defendants are awaiting trial and are protective of public safety.

Accomplishments:

Case Manger Gregory graduated with a Masters in Psychology in May, 2019. Ms. Gregory continues to serve as Program Director since being appointed in July, 2018 and oversees both the Community Corrections Grant as well as the JRIG Grant.

Probation Officer Johnson completed Probation Officer Training / Certification with the Supreme Court of Ohio in April of 2019. He is planning to start his Master's in Criminology in the fall of 2020.

Probation Officer Ferrell created a new program Artistic Recovery to Success. "ARTS", served as a venue where individuals who were under the supervision of the court and in recovery could display their artwork. This program broadened outreach in the community as well as provided some additional income to members of the recovery community. Ms. Ferrell was also instrumental in holding a clothing drive that provided low income families with an alternative for their clothing needs.

Training:

Probation employees received Evidence Based Training hours as follows:

J. Hamilton	25.75
M. Ferrell	24.5
D. Johnson	72.5
P. Brockmeier	24
S. Wright	19.5
L Gregory	45

2018 Breakdown of Persons Sentenced to Probation

795 persons were placed on probation. 70 Probation Violations were filed, 32 served the balance of jail suspended.

Gender	Age	Race
Male----- 548	18-21----- 96	White ----- 756
Female---- 247	22-25----- 98	Black ----- 31
	26-35----- 264	Hispanic---- 3
	36-45----- 173	Other----- 4
	46-55----- 102	
	56+ ----- 61	

Probationers by Officer	Conviction	Total
M. Ferrell	DUI	291
D. Johnson	Property	81
P. Brockmeier	Traffic	30
Community Control	Domestic Violence	45
	Other	227
Total:	Alcohol	29
	Violent/Crimes against Persons	22
	Drug Abuse Offenses	68
	Sex Offenses	2

4 Year Statistical Report

	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019
Urine Test Performed	1001	1239	881	1115
Positive Urine Test	340	441	334	357
Electronically Monitored House Arrest	17	25	53	24
Jail Beds Saved on EMHA	510	560	1190	545
Soberlink	58	68	51	70
Driver Intervention Program Enrollment	154	192	124	117
Ignition Interlock Program Enrollment	37	43	51	58
Total New Probationers (All Levels)	733	768	760	795
Community Service Hours Worked	3725	3883	3216	3185
Fines Credited for Community Service	\$29,246	\$29,693	\$25,102	\$22,100
Court Ordered for Community Service	3239	4497	4204	4020
Jail Beds Saved	4787	3764	3011	2885



Jason Hamilton
Chief Probation Officer