

Cleveland Heights Municipal Court

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



A. Deane Buchanan
JUDGE

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Employee Roster



To: Council of the City of Cleveland Heights
Cuyahoga County Executive

Re: Cleveland Heights Municipal Court's Annual Report for 2015

The Cleveland Heights Municipal Court continues to place a premium on providing efficient and courteous delivery of quality service to all persons who appear before the court. In addition, we have continued to improve courtroom security and collection procedures by improved diligence in these areas. In this, the court's 2015 Annual Report, I would like to bring to your attention the following matters:

- This year the court remitted over \$1,551,473 of revenues from all divisions to the City of Cleveland Heights.
- In 2014, the number of traffic charges handled by the court was 22,246, in 2015 that number decreased to 17,780 charges processed. The number of charges for persons driving under suspension or without valid driver licenses is consistent with 2014, there were 4,074 such charges. The number of speeding charges processed through the court decreased from 7,480 in 2014 to 6,075 in 2015.
- In the criminal division, the number of cases heard by the court in 2015 was 2,642 which were slightly less than the previous year. Our Probation Department continues its excellent work of supervising over 1,103 active cases.
- The court continues to make significant progress in its efforts to collect monies owed to the court. The court's strict enforcement of the policy that "all fines and costs are due on the day imposed", has resulted in an improved collection rate of fines imposed. The Court continues to refer some persons who are unable to pay fines and costs imposed to the Public Works Department of the City of Cleveland Heights, to perform community service for the city. The 33 individuals referred to Public Works performed a total of 1,041 hours of community service saving the city approximately \$20,892 in labor costs.
- The Court technology upgrade is yielding benefits in many ways:
 - Through effort to have paperless official records all court records in the Clerk's office are electronic.
 - Judge approves most of the official records electronically and they are filed and process directly to case files within the computer.
 - The Court conducted 43 remote arraignments of defendants incarcerated in county and prison facilities throughout the State of Ohio. We have been able to resolve many cases while seeing and speaking with prisoners while they remain incarcerated. Police officers do not have to transport prisoners to and from facilities, a significant savings in transport costs and allowing officers to spend more time patrolling city streets.

We look forward to further improving the level and quality of services provided in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Deane Buchanan, Judge



TRAFFIC OFFENSES BY INDIVIDUAL CHARGE FOR 2015

Assured Clear Distance	282	Bicycle/Toy Vehicle	26	Child Restraint	28	Display of License	212
Display of Plates	276	Driving on Sidewalk	31	Driving Under Suspension	1,898	Expired License<6months	154
Expired Plates	891	Failure to Control	267	Failure to Yield	185	Fictitious Plates	86
Fleeing	4	FRA Suspension	970	Hit Skip/Leave Scene	57	Improper Lane Change	55
Improper Passing	20	Improper Turn	194	Improper use of Electronic Device	5	Left of Center	35
No Operator's License	1,540	Operation without Title	19	Other License Violations	477	Other Moving Violations	184
One Way Street	27	OVI/Alcohol/BAC	277	Parking Complaints	746	Pedestrian Violations	22
Reckless Operation	41	Seat Belt Violation	657	Speeding Violations	6,075	Stop Sign Violations	191
Traffic Control Lights	327	Traffic Control Device	52	Turn Signal Violation	120	Unattended Vehicle	8
Unlawful Entrustment	11	Unlawful/Illegal Plates	70	Unsafe Vehicle Violation	465	Vehicle Light Violation	791

TOTAL CHARGES FOR 2015 17,780

PREVIOUS YEARS:

- 2014 22,246
- 2013 26,456
- 2012 25,464
- 2011 19,622
- 2010 26,198



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CRIMINAL OFFENSES BY INDIVIDUAL CHARGE FOR 2015

Aggravated Robbery/Burglary	29	Arson	2	Assault	137	Barking Dog	24
Breaking and Entering	24	Building	15	Burglary	16	Business Requirements	60
Carrying Concealed Weapon	29	Child Endangering	55	Contempt of Court	12	Criminal Damaging	18
Criminal Mischief	20	Criminal Tools	11	Criminal Trespass	65	Disorderly Conduct	180
Dog/Cat/Animal Offenses	48	Dog Vicious	7	Domestic Violence	98	Drug Instrument	66
Drug Possession	177	Drug Trafficking	22	Falsification	9	Felonious Assault	25
Firearms	22	Housing	447	Housing/Occupancy	288	Intoxication	61
Kidnapping/Unlawful Restraint	13	Menacing/Stalking	56	Murder/Attempt Murder	7	Obstructing Official Business	103
Open Container	71	Passing Bad Checks	12	Receive Stolen Property	33	Riot	22
Robbery	6	Search Warrant/Probable Cause/Extradition	98	Sexual Offenses	8	Telephone Harassment	4
Theft/Petty Theft	125	Unauthorized Use MV/Property	7	Unlawful Conduct with Minor	9	Unreasonable Noise	71
Underage Possession/Consumption	8	Vandalism	3	Violation of Protection Order	19		

2015 **2,642**

TOTAL CHARGES:

- 2014 3,020
- 2013 3,310
- 2012 3,334
- 2011 2,805
- 2010 2,919



RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2015

RECEIPTS:

City of Cleveland Heights	2013	2014	2015
Local Costs	717,710.90	632,845.40	646,820.00
Computer Fund	92,825.00	76,990.50	64,204.50
Indigent Fund	21,927.00	19,400.69	16,148.92
Special Projects Fund	155,038.00	128,486.00	107,159.00
Fines	<u>1,114,549.00</u>	<u>938,535.50</u>	<u>812,564.00</u>
Sub-Totals	2,102,049.90	1,796,258.09	1,646,896.42
Cuyahoga County			
CRIS	66,009.00	53,202.00	44,227.00
Crime	<u>1,569.00</u>	<u>1,442.00</u>	<u>1,417.00</u>
Sub-Totals	67,578.00	54,644.00	45,644.00
State of Ohio			
Indigent Defense Support Fund	426,862.50	358,726.00	300,500.41
General Revenue	653.00	634.00	627.00
Victims Crime	<u>129,514.00</u>	<u>107,004.50</u>	<u>88,676.00</u>
Sub-Totals	557,029.50	466,364.50	389,803.41
Other Receipts			
OVI Fines	13,937.00	19,090.00	19,613.00
Miscellaneous	<u>22,525.55</u>	<u>15,885.50</u>	<u>26,286.92</u>
Sub-Totals	36,462.55	34,975.50	45,899.92
GRAND TOTALS	<u><u>2,763,119.95</u></u>	<u><u>2,352,242.09</u></u>	<u><u>2,128,243.75</u></u>





RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2015

DISBURSEMENTS;

City of Cleveland Heights

	2013	2014	2015
Fines	970,045.90	812,106.40	697,137.23
Costs	718,341.25	632,860.42	648,192.50
Housing	2,993.50	4,000.00	5,393.00
Computer Fund	92,825.00	76,990.00	64,096.50
Special Projects Fund	155,038.00	128,486.00	107,159.00
Indigent Fund	21,924.50	22,280.15	19,291.92
Drug Fines	200.00	350.00	0.00
Other Cost	883.70	1,346.64	1,322.50
Visa Convenience Fee	13,474.86	6,454.00	10.50
Sub-Total	1,975,726.71	1,684,873.61	1,542,603.15

Cuyahoga County

Regular Fines	40,200.75	34,436.00	28,807.50
Uniform Traffic Fines	86,543.50	78,639.50	75,315.00
CRIS Fund	66,009.00	53,202.00	44,227.00
Crime Stop	1,569.00	1,442.00	1,417.00
1/2 Liquor Fines	342.00	337.50	400.00
Public Defender	2,102.00	1,118.00	936.00
Reimburse/Witness/Jury	522.00	804.00	536.00
Sub-Total	197,288.25	169,979.00	151,638.50

State of Ohio

RRF/Victims Fund	129,514.00	107,004.50	88,675.50
Indigent Defense Support Fund	426,862.50	366,857.00	308,782.41
GRF/General Fund	653.00	0.00	0.00
Seat Belt	16,275.00	11,770.00	10,290.00
Expungements	1,590.00	1,740.00	1,590.00
1/2 Liquor Fines	342.00	337.50	400.00
BMV Fees	195.00	75.00	135.00
Pharmacy Board (Drug)	600.00	460.00	300.00
Sub-Total	576,031.50	488,244.00	410,172.91

Other Disbursements

DUI Housing Fund*	4,230.00	6,514.00	5,991.00
DUI Arrest Agency*	1,837.00	2,646.00	2,879.00
Sub-Total	6,067.00	9,160.00	8,870.00

GRAND TOTALS

2,755,113.46	2,352,256.61	2,113,284.56
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*Money from these two funds goes directly into accounts for the Cleveland Height Police Department for future D.U.I education and enforcement.

**CIVIL/SMALL CLAIMS BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2015**

RECEIPTS:

City of Cleveland Heights	2013	2014	2015
Local Costs	165,116.00	160,423.00	173,723.50
Computer Fund	12,084.00	12,174.00	11,568.00
Special Projects Fund	20,140.00	20,290.00	19,260.00
Sub-Total	197,340.00	192,887.00	204,551.50
State of Ohio Legal Aid Judgements & Refunds	30,642.00	30,914.00	30,685.00
Bailiff Fee	262,392.40	323,115.17	298,150.10
Miscellaneous Receipts	386.95	209.15	0.00
Sub-Total	2,600.00	2,920.00	2,795.00
Total	296,021.35	357,158.32	331,630.10
	493,361.35	550,045.32	536,181.60

GRAND TOTAL

DISBURSEMENTS;

City of Cleveland Heights	2013	2014	2015
Costs	165,116.00	160,438.03	168,984.76
Computer Funds	12,084.00	12,174.00	11,604.00
Bailiff Fees	386.95	209.15	0.00
Marriage Fees	2,600.00	2,920.00	3,155.00
Special Projects Fund	20,140.00	20,290.00	19,330.00
Sub-Totals	200,326.95	196,031.18	203,073.76
State of Ohio Legal Aid Judgements & Refunds	30,642.00	30,604.86	30,077.00
Sub-Totals	262,392.40	323,115.17	298,150.10
Totals	293,034.40	353,720.03	328,227.10
	493,361.35	549,751.21	531,300.86

GRAND TOTALS

**CIVIL/LANDLORD-TENANT BRANCH
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2015**

RECEIPTS:

Rent Deposits January 1, 2015	19,017.30
Deposits in 2015	44,037.98
	<hr/> 63,055.28

DISBURSEMENTS:

2015

City of Cleveland Heights	414.25
To Landlords	27,553.48
To Tenants	12,787.70
Transfer to Cuyahoga County	2,524.50
TOTALS	<hr/> 43,279.93

Rent Deposits on Hand December 31, 2015	<hr/> <hr/> 19,775.35
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To: Judge A. Deane Buchanan

From: William Gibson
Chief Probation Officer



Re: **Probation Office, 2015**

I. PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION/PROBATION VIOLATION, 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Presentence Investigation Reports	515	483	650	915
Probation Violation Reports	6	4	9	139
Expungement Reports	61	60	45	79
Reviews	169	154	124	99

II. SUPERVISION CASELOAD, on December 31, 2015

	12-31-12 Caseload	12-31-13 Caseload	12-31-14 Caseload	12-31-15 Caseload
Active (Supervised)	416	426	322	387
Inactive (Non-Supervised)	571	508	444	483

Supervision caseload, per Probation officer (3) on December 31, 2015

On 12-31-12	On 12-31-13	On 12-31-14	% INCREASE
107	139	142	65%

III. **SUPERVISION, 2015 inclusive**

2014, 2013 and 2012 numbers provided for comparison

		2015	2014	2013	2012
Total active probation cases, supervised, Jan.-Dec.2013 inclusive		1,103	993	1,141	1,267
Driving Under Suspension cases Jan-Dec.2013, inclusive count & % of cases		465/42%	260/22%	322/29%	481/38%
Total inactive probation cases, Jan.-Dec. 2013, Inclusive		1,295	1,186	1,373	1,579
New active probation cases added in 2013:		720	615	730	810
New inactive probation cases Added in 2015:		802	751	811	980
2015 154	2015 14%	Number of active probation cases on 12-31-2015, Whose sentences included jail time, with % of caseload		146	35%
Number of probation cases (active/inactive), on 12-31-15, whose sentences also included jail time, with % of caseload		322	324	327	323
Percentage		30%	41%	36%	35%



IV. MAJOR OFFENSES OF PROBATIONERS on supervision, Dec. 31, 2015

	2015 Cases/%	2014 Cases/%	2013 Cases/%	2012 Cases/%
Driving Under Suspension	143/20 %	77/23%	91/22%	111/27 %
Petty Theft	143/20 %	69/21%	103/25 %	102/25 %
Domestic Violence	22/3%	9/3%	11/2%	25/6%
Assault	78/11%	34/10%	44/10%	39/9%
OVI	211/29 %	86/27%	63/15%	26/6%
Menacing/Harassment	6/1%	2/1%	9/2%	13/3%
Trespassing	8/1%	2/1%	4/1%	23/5%
Other	109/15 %	43/13%	94/23%	77/19%

V. RESTITUTION/COMMUNITY SERVICE, 2015 inclusive
(2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 total year numbers provided for comparison)

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Restitution transferred to victims,	\$898	\$1,500	\$4,186	\$1,230
Community Service referred by Court to CCS	4	0	2	8
Total Community Service hours worked in Cleveland Heights non-profit agencies through CCS by all courts in county area.	NO REPORT	8,656	8,279	4,313

Total additional Community Service hours worked in Cleveland Heights, CCS Work: Crew litter collection.	1,041.5	326		
		268	353	329

Community Service/Public Works Referrals 2015

- As of December 31, 2015 the court referred **72** individuals to the Cleveland Heights Public Works Department. A total of **1,041** hours were completed saving Public Works **\$20,892.49** in labor cost.

Alternative to Jail/Home Detention Referrals:

- As of December 31, 2015, 12 defendants were referred to the Home Detention Program Sponsored by COURTMON. Each defendant paid a \$25.00 registration fee. Total fees collected \$300.00. These funds are used to assist in supporting indigent defendants referred to this and other community control based service providers.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT
IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY DURING 2015



A. Deane Buchanan, Judge
Georgeann Schmidt, Magistrate
Juanita Bryant, Court Administrator/Chief Bailiff
Sandra Draper Berry, Clerk

Larry Allen, Retired Assigned Judge
Mabel Jasper, Retired Assigned Judge

Russell Baron
Alan Kraus
Mark L Hoffman
James J. Costello
Acting Judge

Lincoln Scott, Housing & Special Projects Coordinator
Richard Baker, Court Security

Lawrence Jasper, Deputy Bailiff
Cassandra Jones, Deputy Bailiff
Virginia Journee', Deputy Bailiff
Rashawn Morrison, Court Information Tech Specialist

William Gibson, Chief Probation Officer
Ernest Jones Jr., Probation Officer
Emily Stanley, Probation Officer
Clovice Ramsey, Probation Administrative Assistant

Karen Szekely, Chief Deputy Clerk
Lisa Walker, Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Bonner, Deputy Clerk
Arlene Frierson, Deputy Clerk
Sarena Hudson, Deputy Clerk
Antionette Jones, Deputy Clerk
Santino Montanez, Deputy Clerk
Carole Motyka, Deputy Clerk
Maria Parker, Deputy Clerk
Samira Parker, Deputy Clerk
Kimberly Rudolph, Deputy Clerk

