

MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

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MUNICIPAL COURT
MARIETTA, OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT

-2015-



For the Period:
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

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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

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, the exterior paint did not wear well and the Court undertook the responsibility for that project. 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. The Court invested in high quality mats to reduce the amount of dirt, salt and pebbles tracked in the building. In addition, security officers are assigned responsibility for monthly checks of alarms and fire extinguishers.

Restitution

The Court collected \$25,948.01 restitution through the Probation Department. This sum was then paid over to victims of criminal offenses. This figure does not include restitution paid at sentencing or paid through the Clerk's Office.

Building Wide Training

The Court hosted CPR as well as AED training and certification for all members of the Court and Law Director's staff.

Procedural Updates

The Court participated in a pilot program together with Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI&I), Ohio Court's Network (OCN) and The Supreme Court of Ohio to streamline records of convictions reported to BCI&I. In the past, convictions have been reported manually by filling out fingerprint cards and mailing them to BCI&I. The pilot program has permitted the Court to report convictions electronically and in a timelier manner. Our Court conviction records are transmitted or "dumped" into OCN nightly and then configured to be reported to BCI&I electronically. The Court receives email notifications regarding errors, which are then corrected and sent back in on the next nightly "dump."

The Court also participated as a pilot court with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in implementing Electronic Tickets. Before the pilot program a deputy clerk manually entered every traffic citation into the Court's case management system. Currently all Ohio State Highway Patrol traffic citations are uploaded daily to the Court's case management system. The Court has found that this presents fewer opportunities for errors, saves staff time, and reduces office expenses.

Weddings

The Court officiated thirty-five weddings in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Dyar Welch, Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

A. New Filings – Comparative Table

Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Civil	764	697	664	893	951
Small Claims	93	121	128	163	219

B. Hearings – Comparative Table

Held By:	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Judge	38	38	87	90	116
Magistrate Small Claims	51	69	88	102	155

C. Receipts and Expenditures

Payee	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
City – General	75,960.86	70,489.67	77,082.42	86,343.03	92,319.33
Court – Computer	6,784.00	6,384.00	6,080.00	8,168.00	9,192.00
Court – Capital Imp.	12,000.00	11,018.00	10,384.00	14,035.00	15,491.00
Ohio – Legal Aid	20,491.02	18,804.11	17,676.45	23,904.54	26,389.44
Total Disbursements:	115,235.88	106,695.78	111,222.87	132,450.57	143,391.77

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

A. New Filings – Five Year Comparative Table

Type Offense	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Felonies	371	376	381	409	352
Misdemeanors	1,644	1,550	1,717	1,823	1,795
OVI	325	264	330	372	365
Other Traffic	8,182	8,701	7,960	6,372	6,343
Total:	10,522	10,891	10,388	8,976	8,855

B. Trials

The Court conducted 50 preliminary hearings on felony cases, 33 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 Expenditures – Comparative Table

Payee	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
City of Marietta General Fund	440,078.16	477,033.67	450,498.17	400,754.50	400,008.22
Capital Improvement Fund	208,039.26	218,725.89	206,575.67	171,675.37	171,527.13
Court Computer/ Convenience Fee	95,055.50	96,539.14	91,832.00	76,260.00	76,384.93
Indigent Alcohol Fund	15,843.50	16,078.50	16,008.33	15,068.67	16,107.75
County General Fund	191,954.72	220,272.82	221,713.97	216,146.63	197,407.38
House Arrest	36,599.00	66,506.55	21,181.45	22,487.00	41,612.00
Probation Fees	103,977.83	109,973.85	126,056.45	139,406.83	142,858.20
Law Library	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Sheriff	10,838.14	12,063.13	13,962.10	13,938.55	14,880.40
State of Ohio*	587,234.63	604,375.12	596,735.76	524,250.52	527,196.55
Beverly	289.00	416.00	860.00	420.00	175.00
New Matamoras	886.00	770.00	355.50	1,237.00	449.00
Lowell	50.00	185.00	365.00	25.00	1,390.00
Macksburg	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Capital Recovery	38,152.12	34,674.18	32,043.12	28,310.26	33,927.68
Belpre	1,354.00	3,277.50	17,100.00	2,995.80	3,676.00
Belpre Police Sub	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
College Law Enf.	450.00	150.00	1,155.00	225.00	300.00
Common Pleas Court	7,169.94	11,891.22	11,514.80	19,260.75	11,821.19
Total Disbursements	1,743,466.80	1,878,432.57	1,803,457.32	1,637,961.88	1,645,221.43

* 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 \$424,891.42 for unpaid fines and costs imposed in calendar year 2015. 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, 2008 are deemed uncollectible but are subject to being reopened if the offender appears in court for another reason.

COST OF OPERATION

General Fund Budget

	2015	2014	2013	2012
General Fund Budget	\$892,312.00	\$924,166.00	\$873,532.00	\$778,720.00
General Fund Actually Spent	\$885,144.34	\$887,372.00	\$844,827.00	\$769,613.47
Amount Under Budget:	\$7,167.66	\$36,794.00	\$28,705.00	\$9,106.53

Payments to the General Fund

Payment from Fines and Cost	\$548,526.11	\$557,848.00	\$543,571.00	\$508,738.11
Payment from Probation Funding	\$140,576.83	\$176,481.00	\$249,226.00	\$229,230.90
Total:	\$689,102.94	\$734,329.00	\$792,797.00	\$737,969.01

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

In 2015 the Court expended \$71,330 from its Computer Fund, including \$27,412.50 on an upgrade to the Court's security camera system and \$10,000.00 for a copy machine. 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.

2015 PROBATION REPORT

The Chief Probation Officer is responsible for building security at the Court Facility. He is aided by three part-time Court Security/Community Control Officers. The security staff screened 53,865 people in 2015, an average of 1035 people a week. In addition, the Marietta Police Department and the Washington County Sheriff's Officer Security Division provided a welcome presence during the hours of peak public presence.

Offenders worked 3046 hours of community service in lieu of jail for numerous departments, work which is valued at \$24,368.00. The Washington County Jail had 31 inmates work 2,218 hours of supervised community service totaling \$17,746.00 which was credited for court fines.

Case Management Services:

Of the 135 served, 98 were referred to counseling, 4 were referred to inpatient treatment, 9 were referred to the ABLE program for their GED classes, 55 were referred for employment, 25 for housing programs, 16 for Medicaid, 4 were referred to Veterans programs, 12 received assistance working toward their Children's Services case plan goals, and 28 were referred to Thinking for a Change group.

Thinking for a Change:

Of the 28 people attending the group, 16 were successful while 12 were unsuccessful. Probable reasons for the high failure rate are opioid addiction and the fact that all who are referred to the group are moderate or high risk offenders. The Probation Officers and Quality Assurance

Officers intend to focus on addressing the risk factors which are commonly referred to as the “criminogenic needs” of the offender. When successful, the Court, the community, and the offender all are better served by lower recidivism rates and improved community results.

Other noteworthy items:

Starting in September, ten probationers were placed on the Vivitrol Program to assist them in breaking their addiction to Opiates. In addition to Vivitrol, the program requires intensive outpatient counselling and increased monitoring and services by Probation staff.

Two Kiosks were purchased with one located in the Marietta City Building and one located in the Belpre City Building. Low risk offenders check in through interactive Kiosks as a way to report to a Probation Officer and to comply with Probation conditions.

The Probation Department was awarded a \$102,000 PIIG grant, part of which will allow Alcohol and Drug assessments to be conducted in-house.

A \$70,000 Addendum grant was awarded to Probation to establish a position of Quality Assurance.

A \$36,000 Technology Grant was awarded which provided new security cameras for the Court building.

Alexa Fouss and Brittney Deskins participated with the Probation Department for Student Government Day.

The Probation Department wishes to honor Randy Wilson who passed away in 2015. Randy was a tremendous help to Probation through his work installing and monitoring Ignition Interlock at C & C Toyota.

The Probation Department was nominated for the statewide Cliff Skeen award and received a certificate of excellence for its jail diversion program.

In October, Chief Probation Officer Dale Willson retired after 10 years of dedicated service.

In December, retired Police Captain Jeff Waite was hired as the new Chief Probation Officer.

Training:

Probation employees received training hours as follows:

D. Willson	32
M. Ferrell	33.5
E. Brockmeier	30.25
P. Brockmeier	33.5
S. Whittekind	64.25

2015 Breakdown of Persons Sentenced to Probation

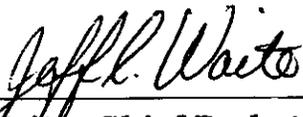
622 persons were placed on probation. Probation Violations filed were 125 with 95 revoked.

Gender	Age	Race
Male----- 440	18-21----- 123	White ----- 601
Female---- 182	22-25----- 100	Black ----- 14
	26-35----- 184	Hispanic---- 6
	36-45----- 99	Other----- 2
	46-55----- 77	
	56+ ----- 40	

Probationers by Officer	Conviction	Total
Ferrell	124 DUI	232
E. Brockmeier	125 Property	109
P. Brockmeier	138 Traffic	28
Community Control	236 Domestic Violence	31
	Other	131
Total:	622 Alcohol	38
	Violent/Crimes against Persons	37
	Drug	14
	Sex	3

4 Year Statistical Report

	<u>Year 2012</u>	<u>Year 2013</u>	<u>Year 2014</u>	<u>Year 2015</u>
Urine Test Performed	616	370	396	1034
Positive Urine Test	178	126	142	382
Electronically Monitored House Arrest	27	19	12	20
Jail Beds Saved on EMHA	0	381	241	400
Soberlink	0	19	71	95
SCRAM	36	17	2	0
Driver Intervention Program Enrollment	170	170	130	128
Ignition Interlock Program Enrollment	22	21	22	24
Total New Probationers (All Levels)	902	719	678	622
Community Service Hours Worked	6,770	3,945	3046	3243.75
Fines Credited for Community Service	\$43,983	\$34,233	\$24,368	\$25,267
Court Ordered for Community Service	4,920	6,141	5,696	2,972
Jail Beds Saved	3,678	2,414	2,448	2613



Jeff Waite, Chief Probation Officer