

**What If?  
Issues in Assuming Mayor's Court Jurisdiction**

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**WHAT IF?  
ISSUES IN ASSUMING MAYOR'S COURT JURISDICTION**

**Matthew Pandy**

**ABSTRACT**

The Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk's office serves the Municipal Court, which has territorial jurisdiction within the city of Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. Also within the county are 17 Mayor's Courts. Based on recent legislative trends, it is possible that the Mayor's Courts could be abolished and their cases absorbed by the larger Municipal Court. This court project allows for the Franklin County Municipal Court to have a strategic developmental plan if the caseloads of 17 Mayor's Courts are absorbed. The project was conducted with the help of the Mayor's Court Clerks, the Judges and Magistrates of the Franklin County Municipal Court, and Franklin County Municipal Clerk's office staff.

The project answers the following questions about the future needs of the Municipal Court if it were to assume a significant, additional caseload.

1. What are the major issues around which the Franklin County Municipal Court/Clerk would need to plan to address the needs of the staff, public, and attorneys with the increase in workload?
2. How would the Court/Clerk deal with these changes in a structured fashion?
3. Does the current Court/Clerk staff feel this would be a challenge if the consolidation were to occur?

To answer the above questions, one first must realize how much of a challenge this would be to the Franklin County Municipal Court. Depending on the legislative change, there is potential for 17 Mayor's Courts to be abolished at the same time into the larger Municipal Court. There would also be a backlog of past cases that would need to be entered into the Courtview management database.

The history of the Mayor's Courts is reviewed to provide an understanding of the context for these Courts within Ohio. The literature review explores the concepts of Court organization, access to justice, Court consolidation, public trust and confidence, and multiplicity of Courts.

Two different surveys were used for the Franklin County Municipal Court Judges and Magistrates to obtain specific information about their thoughts on the potential consolidation. Within the surveys for both parties, the focus was on how the increase in cases would affect each Judge/Magistrate's Courtroom as well as how they thought the Clerk's office would handle the increase in workload. Using information on new filings and terminations, most of the questions focused on how confident they thought the office as a whole would be able to handle the consolidation. A focus group was also formed among key staff members in the Clerk's office to gauge how well each section felt it could perform given such an increase in workload.

Findings were generated regarding judicial and staff perceptions, workload and staffing, work processes, access to justice, expedition/timeliness and Court organization. The essential findings from the research were that individual justice in individual cases is a major concern of the Court/Clerk. Mayor's Courts and the Franklin County Municipal Court/Clerk both have excellent termination numbers. Access to justice was a concern if

the Mayor's Courts were to close due to the Franklin County Municipal Court/Clerk having only one location, currently in the downtown Columbus Courthouse.

The findings produced the following conclusions and recommendations:

The Court/Clerk both felt that the increased workload would not be a problem. However, recommendations were made to continue the dialogue regarding increased workload, add staff, reengineer work processes, consider additional use of technology and continue monitoring the caseload process. It was also recommended that if the Mayor's Courts were to be abolished, the Court/Clerk should create and implement a transition plan.



## **INTRODUCTION**

In early February 2013, the Brice Police Department cited Flo for driving under suspension. However, the Brice Mayor's Court closed its doors in April due to legislation stating that if a township operating a local Mayor's Court did not have 250 residents they would have to close. Since the Village of Brice did not have a sufficient population, the Brice Mayor's Court was forced to close its doors.

Brice simply posted a sign on the door of the former Mayor's Court stating that anyone seeking a case file would need to come to the Franklin County Municipal Court. Flo arrived at the Franklin County Municipal Court to resolve her traffic case. The records Brice had given the Franklin County Municipal Clerk's office were searched, but her case was not included in the information that had been transferred. The Franklin County Municipal Court ran her information in the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) database and found that she had a suspended license from her Brice Mayor's Court case. She was told that since the Municipal Court did not have her case file, she would need to talk to Brice again or travel to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to try and resolve her license forfeiture with them.

In this instance, Brice Mayor's Court had not followed the guideline to bring all of its cases to the Municipal Court in a timely manner. Days went by and eventually Flo's case and the remaining Mayor's Court cases were delivered to the Clerk's Criminal/Traffic division. Flo returned sometime within the next week and was able to get her case added onto the docket for Court. She was frustrated that the Brice Mayor's Court had not followed the guidelines and voiced her displeasure to the Clerk's staff after her appearance in Court. This was one small, but important problem that denied the

defendant access to justice and delayed the resolution of her case due to Brice Mayor's Court not following the directive.

There is a possibility that the Ohio General Assembly could pass legislation abolishing all Mayor's Courts and transferring their jurisdiction to the established Municipal Courts. Although there is no current proposal to do so in Franklin County, the Municipal Court Clerk's office needs to determine the impact such an eventuality would have on the caseload capacity of the Court. By having a plan that addresses the fiscal impact and provides staffing solutions in preparation for consolidation, the Court will be better prepared to address the complexities that this problem presents.

There are 17 Mayor's Courts in Franklin County. The Municipal Court Clerk's office could potentially inherit the caseloads from all of them if they were abolished. The possibility that Flo's experience could be replicated many times over suggests the need for thorough analysis and planning. Absorbing the caseloads of 17 other Courts would present many challenges including; the structure of the Courthouse, caseload, staffing, budget, and additional Judges or Magistrates that would all potentially be needed to be able to maintain the access to justice that all customers expect to receive. Without proper planning, adding the caseloads of 17 other Courts to existing dockets that are already full would inhibit access to justice. This change would affect the public's trust and confidence in the Court system and would necessarily be an outcome of how the Municipal Court chooses to implement the consolidation.

First, the public needs to understand the volume of work in which the Municipal Court would be undertaking. Second, the Court and Clerk would need to determine whether changes in work processes would be needed to deal with the increase in new

cases, as well as all pending cases that would be transferred. Finally, the Court and Clerk would need to determine whether more employees are needed, including Judges and Magistrates. This data should permit the development of a contingency plan for the eventuality that some or all Mayor's Courts will be abolished.

This report is not an attempt to determine the effectiveness of the Mayor's Courts, nor does it advocate for the closure of those Courts. Rather, it is to identify the issues that must be addressed in an action plan for a smooth transition if Court consolidation becomes a reality in the future. A significant challenge is to identify best practices in the current Court structures relating to the Mayor's Courts in Franklin County, Ohio.

The Brice Mayor's Court was the smallest of those present in Franklin County, Ohio. The Franklin County Municipal Court and Clerk faced an arduous challenge when that Court was abolished in 2013. There is a real possibility that those problems will be magnified greatly if the remaining 17 Mayor's Courts are abolished and their cases transferred. This project serves as a first step in anticipating and solving the problems attending the transition of the Mayor's Courts to the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk's office.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAYOR'S COURTS**

The model for Mayor's Courts has a long history, traced mainly to Great Britain in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries and adopted by the American colonies. Courts of Mayors, Recorders, and Aldermen had been provided also by Municipal charters, and an act of 1772 gave the Mayor, Recorder, or an Alderman the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace as to petty causes. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 82) The idea of the Mayor's Court is not something new to the Americas. In the United States, Mayor's Courts have existed in the past to resolve cases seeking damages under a certain dollar amount. This helped the trial Courts focus on disputes where higher damages were sought.

Georgia provided for holding special or extraordinary Courts of Common Pleas for the trial of causes "arising between merchants, strangers, and mariners." On petition of any master of a vessel, supercargo, or transient person, "having a dispute with any merchant, dealer, or other person in the Province," of Common Pleas, might order a special Court to be held within seven days. Such Courts as this and the Hustings Court at Williamsburg, Virginia have been referred to as Courts of Piepowders. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 82-83) These Courts served a similar purpose to Mayor's Courts in that each hearing was to be held within seven days. Thus, history suggests that the concept of a Mayor's Court is not unprecedented as a way to quickly resolve cases involving low damages without leaving the jurisdiction.

In England, the Court of Chancery did not have exclusive jurisdiction to grant equitable relief. Such relief was to be had also in Parliament, in the Star Chamber and the Provincial Councils, in the Palatinate Courts, in the Exchequer, in the Court of Equity

before the Lord Mayor in London, and in the Court of Requests. Sir Edward Coke in his Institutes of the Laws of England attacked the Court of Chancery's claim of jurisdiction and even its existence as a Court. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 18) This viewpoint carried over into the colonies and states where the Mayor's Courts were viewed as Courts where justices were not trained, but anointed. All of the decisions that were made were not trusted decisions and represented a major dilemma when cases were being appealed. The checks and balances in these Courts did not allow for any separation of power among branches of government. These reasons are mainly why we do not have Mayor's Courts in most states today.

Cases in which damages were below a certain threshold, often called small causes or small claims, have been dealt with in many different ways. American colonists set up small cause Courts, intending them to be readily accessible, speedy, non-technical, and inexpensive. Unfortunately, those Courts could not be trusted because they operated without the checks and balances found in the ordinary Court structure. After various attempts to make judgments below a certain amount un-appealable, legislation went to the other extreme and made all small cause judgments appealable, which resulted in new trials and double appeals, thus largely undermining the purpose of the small cause Courts. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 150)

Brooklyn, New York used to have a City Court, which was presided over by a Judge. However, its jurisdiction was wide ranging. In the absence of the Mayor and any two aldermen, the City Court had the same jurisdiction as the Supreme Court to hear appeals to the general term of that Court. In other cities, Mayor's Courts were held by the elected Mayor, a Recorder with or without Aldermen, or by three Aldermen and had

the same civil jurisdiction of the Courts of Common Pleas. The Recorders and Judges of the city Courts had the powers of a Justice of the Supreme Court at chambers. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 130) The main reason that the Courts have been abolished in other states appears to involve issues with separation of powers. In the instance above it seems that the Court had too much power. A system in which a Mayor may sit for a Judge, who has the same jurisdiction as a Supreme Court justice, is bound to result in a lack of public trust.

In 1686, the charter of Albany gave the Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder the same jurisdiction, but added that the Mayor shall have jurisdiction of all manner of actions “not exceeding the value of forty shillings, that the Mayor and Recorder may sit in the County Sessions, County Courts, and Courts of Oyer and Terminer within the county, and that the Mayor, Recorder or one of the Aldermen is to preside in County Courts or Courts of Sessions within the county.” (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 82) Here is another example where monetary jurisdiction was established, but the Mayor was given broad judicial authority in other Courts. The problem with the ability to sit on another Court again highlights the separation of powers concerns.

An argument can be made that even when Courts are easily accessible and render speedy results, the system cannot be trusted. This lack of trust in the Courts’ decisions led to their abolishment. However, many of the Ohio Mayor’s Courts have existed as long as the general Common Pleas Courts, which seems to support that the system has worked in Ohio.

## **OHIO'S MAYOR'S COURTS**

### **Background**

The first Ohio Mayor's Court was established in Cincinnati. When Cincinnati became a city in 1815, the authority of the Mayor allowed for him to be the conservator of peace. However, the Mayor's judicial authority was limited to the territorial jurisdiction of the city. (Revelson, p. 224)

Also in 1851, Ohio passed a new Constitution, which changed the violations heard by Mayor's Courts to include only city criminal and civil ordinances. (Revelson, p. 225) The Constitution also allowed for police Courts to operate in communities with populations over 20,000.

Cleveland was the first city to replace the police Courts with, Municipal Courts in 1910. By abolishing the police Court, Cleveland limited the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Courts. The Municipal Court in Cleveland, along with Common Pleas Courts in every county replaced every Court except the Mayor's Courts, which still exist today. (Revelson, p. 226)

### **Current Status**

Ohio currently has three levels of Court, including the Supreme Court, which is the Court of last resort, the intermediate appellate Courts, and the trial Courts, which consist of a Common Pleas Court in each county, Municipal Courts, and Mayor's Courts. Mayor's Courts exist in certain Municipalities in which the population is greater than 200 residents. (Ohio Laws and Rules, 1905.01 Ohio Revised Code) The code states that the Mayor's Courts can only hear certain types of cases including; traffic, parking, and

criminal cases. All other types of cases are excluded and must be referred to the Municipal Court of the jurisdiction where the Mayor's Court operates.

Revised Code Chapter 1905 allows either the Mayor or an appointed Magistrate the authority to hear cases, but most of the Mayor's Courts are now using appointed Magistrates. The only requirement placed on the Magistrate is that he/she has passed the bar in Ohio and has practiced for at least three years. (Revelson, p.228) Additionally, they must receive a certain number of continuing legal education hours in specific subject matter areas mandated by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The Mayor's Courts report their case statistics to the Ohio Supreme Court four times a year. However, they are not subject to the supervision of the Ohio Supreme Court. The Mayor's Courts cannot conduct jury trials. If a defendant wants a jury trial, the case must be transferred to the local Municipal Court. The Mayor's Court system allows for a defendant to challenge the decision of the Mayor's Court with an appeal that would be brought to the local Municipal Court. The map of Ohio below, shows the county by county distribution of Mayor's Courts in Ohio.



Some 65 counties have at least one Mayor's Court. Two (Cuyahoga- Cleveland and Hamilton- Cincinnati) have as many as 20 or more. Franklin County (Columbus) currently has 17. In all, there are 260 Mayor's Courts statewide.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Five important issues impact any decision to eliminate the Mayor's Courts and move their work to the Municipal Court: separation of powers, multiplicity of Courts, Court consolidation, access to justice, and public trust and confidence. Much has been written about each of these, and they all have practical implications for the future of Mayor's Courts.

### **SEPARATION OF POWERS**

The separation of power between each branch of government is something that needs to be considered when examining the ability of each branch to check the power of the other branches. As early as 1929 some reformers were questioning the existence of the Mayor's Courts. "The character of these Courts varies considerably in different cities. In some, they have only the criminal jurisdiction of justices of the peace, in others, their jurisdiction extends to more important cases, and use may be made of a jury, if demanded. In not a few cases, the Mayors of cities and towns have the powers of Magistrates to try offenses against local ordinances and even petty misdemeanors. This existence of this power is rather remarkable in view of the emphasis generally put by the American people upon the doctrine of the separation of powers." (Willoughby, p. 244-245)

Though they have been able to survive in Ohio, it seems that the separation of powers idea prevailed in other states. Now, Mayor's Courts exist in only two states in America – Ohio and Louisiana. Courts must not only do individual justice in individual cases, but appear to do so. Any co-mingling of the branches of government clouds this guarantee. The parties should believe in the fairness of the decision of the Court.

## **MULTIPLICITY OF COURTS**

Roscoe Pound states that the American Court system is archaic in part because of its multiplicity of Courts (Pound, *The causes of popular dissatisfaction with the administration of justice* p. 10). Although not as pronounced today as it was in 1906 when Pound made that claim, the system remains a source of confusion for modern Court users. There can be more than one venue for a case within the same community, and that can be problematic for litigants and attorneys alike. Independent Courts with concurrent, overlapping jurisdiction can bring about problems of both access and fairness. When there are abuses, dissatisfaction with the Courts and calls for reform will arise. A main reason for the modern Court reform movement was the idea that a simpler way of doing things was necessary and possible, where decisions are made and records kept in a unified system.

Pound relied on measures taken in Great Britain to unify the Courts to suggest that though the system was not carried out completely, much more access could be provided if the Courts were unified. While the structure and jurisdiction of the Mayor's Courts and the Municipal Courts in Ohio is not as confounding as that described in Pound's era, there is still some overlap in jurisdiction and difference in detail in the way that each Court works. The sheer number of these Courts suggests the potential for consolidation. Meeting the needs of one's community by creating a multiplicity of separate Courts may or may not protect the rights of all citizens by providing both access and uniformity of justice throughout Ohio.

Limited jurisdiction Courts are described as invisible, neglected by the bar, scholars and the citizenry, and at the same time, as the only judicial experience for most

people who enter the Court system. (Silbey, Making sense of the lower Courts p. 13) This statement shows us how large of a problem Court consolidation can be as a whole. Most of the misdemeanor trial Courts are not seen as important because most of the high-profile cases are heard in the Common Pleas Court. The disparity in media exposure and coverage can give the illusion that cases heard in trial Courts with limited jurisdiction are less important than those cases heard by the Common Pleas Courts. Courts of limited jurisdiction still hear a large variety of cases, which requires Judges and Court staff to stay current with the law and procedural changes so as not to deprive people of due process.

Courts of limited jurisdiction are recognized as being responsive to local community situations/needs, yet they are criticized for their variability. They are second class citizens in the eyes of the bar and the judiciary, but constitute the majority of our trial Courts and hear 90 percent of the nation's criminal cases. (Silbey, Making sense of the lower Courts p. 13) In providing the variability and also hearing the most criminal cases in the nation, one would think that the Courts struggle to remain flexible and responsive to people's needs. The goal is to provide fair and equal access to all parties. The multiplicity of conflicting roles and masses of cases in limited jurisdiction Courts reflect a paradox between universalist and particularist values; between enforcement and responsiveness. (Silbey, Making sense of the lower Courts p. 13) Staying in between both values and between enforcement and responsiveness is a task that remains a priority for current and future business practices for Judges, Magistrates, and all employees in the Court and Clerk offices.

One difficulty with the system of localized circuit or district Courts, which was the practice in 23 out of the 34 states in the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War, was the assumption that districts of substantially equal population and volume of business could be set up so that one Judge for each would suffice. The condition thus presupposed did not continue long in any state, so that additional Courts or additional Judges quickly became necessary. Multiplication of Courts has always been the first remedy resorted to in such cases, and, as they were foreseen, constitutions often provided for or allowed the legislature to set up local Courts of concurrent or partially concurrent jurisdiction, often defined by territorial boundaries of Municipalities, such as those which in some states had existed since before the Revolutionary War. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 130)

Using this model from past history would suggest that Ohio's Mayor's Courts reflect the model that America's founding fathers thought would best suit the states. Multiplying the number of Courts with concurrent or over-lapping jurisdiction and more or less arbitrary jurisdictional lines required much time and energy for appellate Courts to determine appropriate jurisdictional boundaries. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 158)

In Franklin County, Ohio, the Mayor's Courts cover territories that are clearly defined Municipalities within the county, and are within the statutorily defined jurisdiction of the Franklin County Municipal Court should cases be removed to the Municipal Court.

## **COURT CONSOLIDATION**

A main theme of Pound and Court reformers since has been the consolidation of Courts through statewide unification. The resultant reduction in the multiplicity of Courts would improve both efficiency and access to justice. The whole judicial power of each state should be vested in one great Court, of which all tribunals should be branches, departments, or divisions. The business, as well as the judicial administration, of this Court should be thoroughly organized so as to prevent not merely waste of judicial power, but all needless clerical work, duplication of papers and records, and the like, thus obviating expense to litigants and cost to the public. (Pound, Organization of Courts p. 274)

The portion of Pound's argument that in the past, Courts were duplicating efforts and wasting money has taken hold even absent complete unification over the past four decades. Some measure of Court coordination and/or consolidation has taken place in numerous jurisdictions over that time.

By measuring specific performance areas, Courts can identify areas requiring concentrated efforts for improvement. This is a priority step necessary for any form of Court reinvention. After identifying areas needing improvements, an action plan can be developed to strengthen these areas. (Mikeska, Court Consolidation Reinventing Missouri State Courts p. 20) Court consolidation can provide a concentrated effort to improve something that is viewed as broken. Using an action plan to develop improvements can ultimately fix any such problem, but it is the responsibility of the Court to fix what might be viewed as broken by educating people in their rights and responsibilities. Better office coverage, increased flexibility to handle shifts in workload,

opportunity for those with particular expertise to focus on a particular area, opposition for segregation of financial responsibility, less confusion for attorney's and public who are able to file and pay costs, retrieve information in one location and are subject to a consistent set of procedures and policies. (Mikeska Court Consolidation Reinventing Missouri State Courts p. 15)

Using the above list to make improvements does provide a good scale for better access to justice. Improved efficiencies in using Judges, duplications of staff functions are eliminated, facility use is improved, and technology use can be improved and coordinated. (Miller, Santa Clara County Courts Consolidation Study p. 7 & 8) All of the arguments used to consolidate Courts above seem to favor a restructuring. A focus on improved efficiencies in any organization provides a model to improve business practices. All of the above methods to improve performance involve everyone in the Court, thus creating a better and/or improved model for everyone involved in the Court system itself. The impact of unification in the state of California provided some of the same improvements that were researched such as improved judicial resources, Court staff, Court operations, and quality of service. (Lahey, Christenson, and Rossi Analysis of Trial Court Unification in California p. 4-6) In areas that have been researched, greater efficiency can be created along with a better focus on accountability. Through the continuous improvement of justice, the above goals can be achieved.

In most of the studies that have been completed, there appears to have been one common goal, which was economic gain. Consolidation has been looked at from many different angles in order to build an organized model that is appropriate for any different location. The consolidation of Courts is favored for the local larger Courts in order to

have a greater impact on the community that it is serving. The other main arguments have been made to improve efficiencies within the structure of the judicial system it is serving. Arguments have been made for the consolidation of facilities. With technology being such a big factor in the Courts, there seems to be much potential for significant savings. All the studies found were based on a model that keyed in on the monetary aspect of the Courts for consolidation.

The bottom line is that Franklin County needs to look at whatever model best serves its clientele, which is the public. In serving the public, there would be some justification for improved facilities and technology improvements, but to say that Mayor's Courts should be disbanded for the costs savings ignores individual justice in individual cases. A lot can be said for how each Court operates within its current structure. The goal of consolidation should be for improved access to justice for the common citizen.

Improving the Court using the consolidation method should provide benefits for the Court itself. Better office coverage; increased flexibility to handle shifts in workload, (e.g., increased traffic during the summer) opportunity for those with particular expertise (e.g., accounting, computers, public relations) to focus on a particular area; opportunity for segregation of financial responsibilities; less confusion for attorneys and public who are able to file, pay costs, and retrieve information in one location and are subject to a consistent set of procedures and policies; opportunity for Judges to focus on judicial responsibilities. (Mikeska, Court Consolidation Reinventing Missouri State Courts p. 15) These arguments are excellent for every Court looking to re-engineer specific areas within the Court. Increased flexibility offered to the users of the Court would give them

better access with a one-stop shop. All users would have a unique opportunity to have some area of the Court be redefined to result in better time efficiencies.

For every one that may not be up to snuff, there are a hundred that do an excellent job stated Charles “Kip” Kelsey. (Conley and McKinsey, Ohio’s Mayors Courts, big business, p. 4) There are many Mayor’s Courts that set high standards, and to abolish those Courts would do a disservice to the community they serve. Unlike Illinois and South Dakota, Minnesota has a one-level district Court that fully meets the ABA standards. County, Municipal, and District Courts in the state’s ten judicial district Courts were consolidated between 1983 and 1987, and county and Municipal Court Judges all became District Court Judges. Yet the process was complex, and critics among the original district Court Judges remain unconvinced about the results. (Barr Trial Court unification in practice p. 181) This complex system seemed to require a goal of improved delivery of justice for the future. Implementation of the principle of judicial equality in Minnesota has not been without cost. Critics of consolidation who argue that the trial Court has lost the respect of the legal community can still be found. These critics argue that the absence of specialization means Judges with less background (for example, in complex commercial litigation) will sit outside their areas of expertise. (Barr, Trial Court unification in practice p. 182) Putting Judges in new positions without proper training could be a slippery slope. Losing the respect of the legal community is another problem that could be costly. Some of the other problems could include the complexities of the volume of cases each day.

Additional arguments about why consolidation is not appropriate include the following. There are diseconomies of scale in too large a Court, the jurisdictional

differences between the Courts are valid and should be preserved, a Judge is not a Judge: the two Courts require skills not readily transferable to the other, consolidating the Courts breaks the implicit understanding of superior Court Judges regarding the cases they could be asked to hear, the quality of the candidates for Judgeships will decrease, consolidated Courts eliminate a needed rung in the judicial career ladder, consolidation may lead to closing facilities, which will deny access to citizens, needed training of Judges and staff is too difficult and costly, any projected dollar savings will not be realized immediately, which lessens the appeal of consolidation, and the magnitude of disruption of established judicial and staff working relationships is too great for the small fiscal savings consolidation will achieve. (Miller, Santa Clara County Courts Consolidation Study p. 12-16)

For every argument made to consolidate the Courts, it seems that the counter argument is equally strong. The cost of a change, the employee training needs, and the education of Judges are all important factors that seem to support the need for a non-unified judicial system.

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

If faced with abolition of the local Mayor's Courts, Franklin County will need to remain aware of access to justice issues. Currently, most Mayor's Courts hold Court once a week, although different Municipalities hold Court on different days of the week. The Courts are open to the public for normal day-to-day operations, such as paying a ticket or fines and costs. They also serve as a regular business setting for probation meetings with the Clerk of the Court in some Mayor's Courts. The largest access to justice problem is that Court hearings are not held every day. If a person does not like a decision that was made, they can file an appeal for any reason at all. (Conley and McKinsey, Ohio's Mayors Courts big business p. 7) When considering a transfer to the Municipal Court, the decision, if one has been made, becomes null. The Municipal Court will give no deference to the decision of a Mayor's Court when an appeal is filed, and the defendant has another opportunity to seek a resolution that is more satisfactory.

Even in instances where there are overlapping jurisdictions that can cause confusion, the access to justice is fair and impartial to the defendants in these instances. The Mayor's Courts all know their territorial boundaries and if there are instances where the occurrence happened in the wrong jurisdiction, then the case is transferred to the correct jurisdiction. In the paradigm that is the Ohio Courts, the access to justice provided by the local Mayor's Courts is fair and impartial. Given the chance to take a plea in the Mayor's Court and transfer it to Municipal Court for any reason is the main reason that the system is working in Ohio.

## **PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE**

Examining the Court system in any Court setting can be challenging. The public's trust and confidence is a major concept to consider when looking at the potential closure of the 17 Mayor's Courts. Decisions from the Mayor's Courts are rarely appealed, which is a positive factor when considering whether they should be absorbed into the larger Municipal Court. Considering the high volume of cases that each Court handles and disposes of without appeal indicates that the public has a high level of trust in the work of the Mayor's Courts. Most cases remain in the Mayor's Courts, as most transfers to the Municipal Court are made because the defendant is in jail on other charges from a different municipality. With the high percentage of cases being disposed of in the Mayor's Courts, it appears that the public maintains confidence in that system.

An overall concern for litigants is the complexity of Court procedures. People fear the system and process, which leads to uncertainty when dealing with any type of case. Educating the public about routine Court procedures could dispel some of the fears that are associated with the Courts. Other problems include Court system underfunding and costs. Another significant issue is the fair treatment of litigants who are not proficient in the English language. Franklin County has a large immigrant population, and the need for foreign language interpreters continues to increase. However, the Franklin County Municipal Court uses interpreters who are qualified under rules and guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Fair treatment can also be achieved through the use of fair sentencing practices in most cases that are made public. This change alone can make the fair treatment of all parties involved have a better understanding of what to expect.



## METHODS

As might be expected, most of the Mayor's Courts were reluctant to participate in this analysis. Therefore, the approach was necessarily limited to examining existing workload data coupled with the perceptions of Municipal Court staff. Two areas of the Trial Court Performance Standards were used in researching the project.

**Access to Justice.** This was measured by collecting data to determine whether the users of the Franklin County Municipal Court would be greatly impacted by the elimination of the Mayor's Courts. Access to justice covers all the users of the Court, but the main focus was on the internal staff and the access issues associated with (1) handling the transition, (2) the need to add more Magistrates or Judges, and (3) workload and workflow issues.

**Expedition and Timeliness.** Data collected by the Supreme Court of Ohio to examine the timeliness of dispositions was used. Time standards were analyzed for unnecessary delay and potential backlogs. The case counts published in the Franklin County Municipal Court's annual report were also used for comparison purposes.

The research was accomplished in part by using a questionnaire surveying the 15 Judges and 6 Magistrates of the Franklin County Municipal Court. Initially, the focus was on meeting with the Clerks of each Mayor's Court. However, after receiving limited response from the Mayor's Court Clerks, it was decided that the best responses could be attained through internal resources. There were a few Mayor's Court Clerks who responded to the requests, but it was not sufficient for the data collection.

A meeting was held with the Magistrates, and all 6 Magistrates responded to the surveys. In approaching the Judges, an email was sent to each judicial assistant

requesting a time to meet with the Judge. Having received only 5 responses, the survey was sent via interoffice mail, which resulted in an additional 4 responses for a total of 9 judicial responses. Appendix A includes the surveys distributed to the Magistrates and then to the Judges.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Judicial Perceptions**

The Magistrates and Judges who responded to the surveys had different opinions on the abolition of Mayor's Courts.

All 6 Magistrates thought the Clerk's office would handle the transition well. The Judges were more skeptical. Some seemed to think it would go well. Others were unsure of how the transition would work. Two were convinced that it would not work. Due to the large volume of cases coming into the traffic arraignment Court, the Magistrates thought another Magistrate might be necessary to handle additional cases. Only 2 of the Judges said they thought an additional Judge would be necessary.

Most of the Magistrates thought that adding potentially 30,000-40,000 more cases would affect individual justice in individual cases. The Judges thought that in some instances, the lack of time for individual cases would have a negative impact on their dockets. The biggest concern for the Magistrates was docket preparation. The Judges did not feel the addition of nine or more cases per week to their personal dockets would be concerning. The Magistrates seemed to be most concerned with the Clerk's office docket preparation for the traffic arraignment Court. The addition of 30,000-40,000 more cases per year would amount to one-fourth of the Court's current 106,000 cases that start in traffic arraignment. The Judges did not feel the addition of cases to their personal dockets would be concerning. The docket preparation for the 9 additional cases was less concerning than having the 9 cases added to their personal dockets.

## **Staff Perceptions**

Staff perceptions were sought in detail through the use of a focus group. The concept of the project was explained to the staff and each given an overview of the questions that were presented to the Judges and Magistrates. They were asked to respond to only one of the questions: “How do you think we would handle the transition into our Court?” Four of the 7 present stated “very well”, 2 stated “well”, and 1 was “unsure”. Each department leader had concerns over the potential increase in workload. Time seemed to be a big factor when considering adding more cases to the dockets. They stated that it could really affect other processes. Almost all of the focus group was concerned with the access to justice for the public. Everyone felt that the Clerk’s office would require at least 3 new employees to be added to the Traffic Violations Bureau.

They were concerned with the increase in the number of cases that could be resolved by paying fines and Court costs without a Court appearance, as those cases would increase the amount of mail received in the mail room and increase the number of cases that needed to be entered into the case management system. Some other concerns were being able to keep up with the coverage on the telephones due to the increase of payable citations. The customer service demand was also a concern for the staff who work the main counter areas. The counter area leader felt that 2 additional staff people would be needed through the work week to keep up with the increases in add-ons where defendants can go to Court after missing Court Monday through Friday. There was also a concern for an improved work space for customers utilizing computers. Another concern was whether the Clerk’s office could physically accommodate the increased storage space required and the room for additional staff. Both floors of the Clerk’s office are

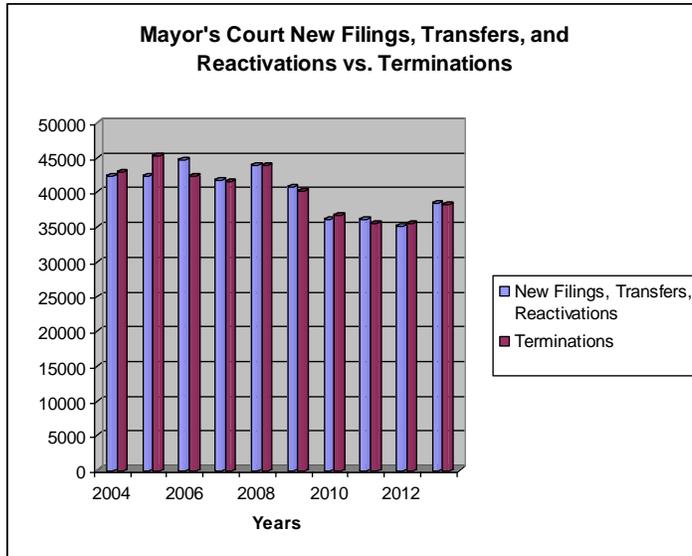
operating at maximum capacity, and adding both new and pending cases from 17 Mayor's Courts would make it impossible for storage on each floor.

The Clerk's staff felt that each Judge and Courtroom staff would handle the changes differently, but individual justice for each defendant could be impacted. One staff member stated that having attorneys and litigants file motions in the assigned Courtrooms instead of in the Clerk's office could help ease some of the overcrowding. However, the most popular solution to help with the transition was the potential for the Courtroom Clerks and Deputy Clerks to utilize the electronic filing of documents. In all, everyone felt that the Court and Clerk's office could be successful in managing the additional work if 17 Mayor's Courts within Franklin County, Ohio were to be abolished.

### **Workload and Staffing**

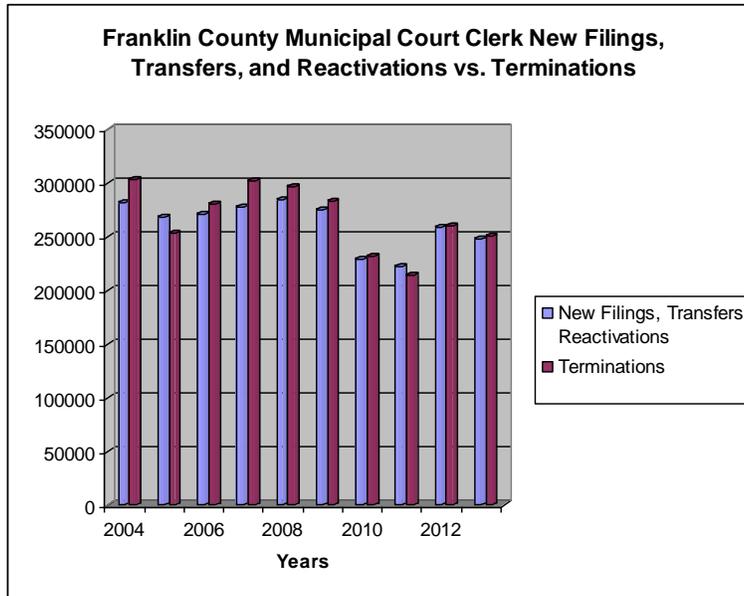
The Mayor's Courts in Franklin County provide the details of their annual workload to the Supreme Court of Ohio. The data shows how many new filings are received in each of the 17 jurisdictions. As a group, the Mayor's Courts averaged 40,123 new filings, transfers, and reactivations per year during the ten-year period from 2004-2013. (See Appendix B) The Mayor's Courts collectively averaged 40,138 terminations per year during that same time. (See Appendix C)

**Figure 2- Mayor's Courts New Filings, Transfers, and Reactivations vs. Terminations**



The Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk averaged 258,989 new filings, transfers, and reactivations per year from 2004-2013. (See appendix D) Likewise, the Franklin County Municipal Court averaged 268,190 terminations per year during that same period. (See appendix E)

**Figure 3- Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk New Filings, Transfers, and Reactivations vs. Terminations**



If the cases from 17 Mayor’s Courts were added to the Franklin County Municipal Court’s dockets, additional employees would be needed in the traffic division of the Clerk’s office. On average a Deputy Clerk working in the traffic division would be able to input 100 to 125 cases into the case management system per day or 500 to 650 per week. The 40,123 Mayor’s Court filings would mean about 771 new filings per week. If each deputy Clerk in the traffic division can handle 500, the office would need 1.5 additional Clerks to handle the additional filings. The Court would more than likely need to add another Magistrate and potentially add another Judge after carefully watching the docket size for both the Judges and Magistrates, by working closely with the general assembly.

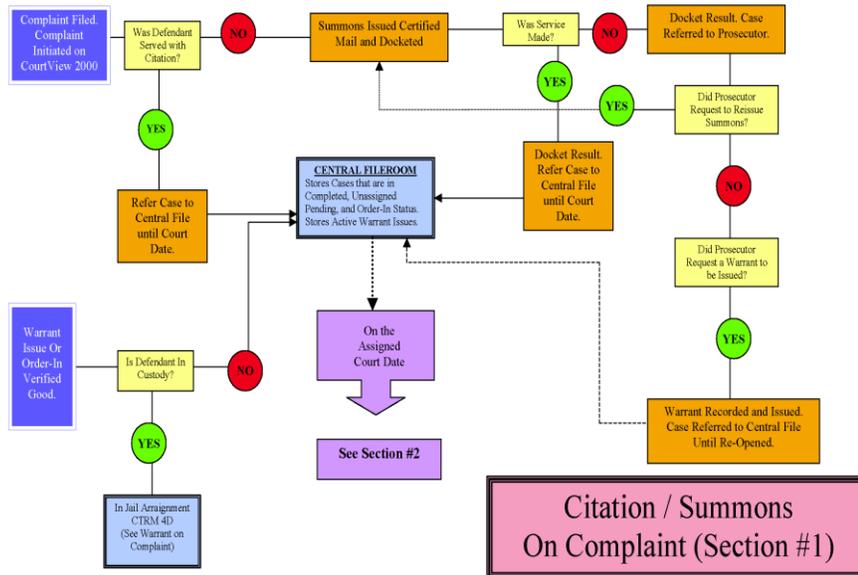
If the 30,000-40,000 cases were to be absorbed into the Franklin County Municipal Court, the Court would also be able to collect Court costs from those cases.

Assuming a 100% collection rate when Court costs are currently set at \$97 per case, additional annual collections of \$3,880,000 could be possible. Not all of the costs would go directly to the City of Columbus due to special funds for the Court, state, and city.

**Work Processes**

The charts below represent the current workflow process for criminal matters in the Municipal Court. Although the Mayor’s Courts vary to some extent due to staffing and scheduling differences, the process is essentially the same. From filing to disposition, this is a largely manual 13-step process involving at least 18 decision points.

**Figure 4- Franklin County Municipal Court work process for citation/summons**





## **Access to Justice**

The Magistrates' comments were concerned with how the closure of Mayor's Courts would affect citizen's experiences in Court. Other concerns were brought up as how the Court and Clerk would handle the infusion of cases in a timely manner without sacrificing quality.

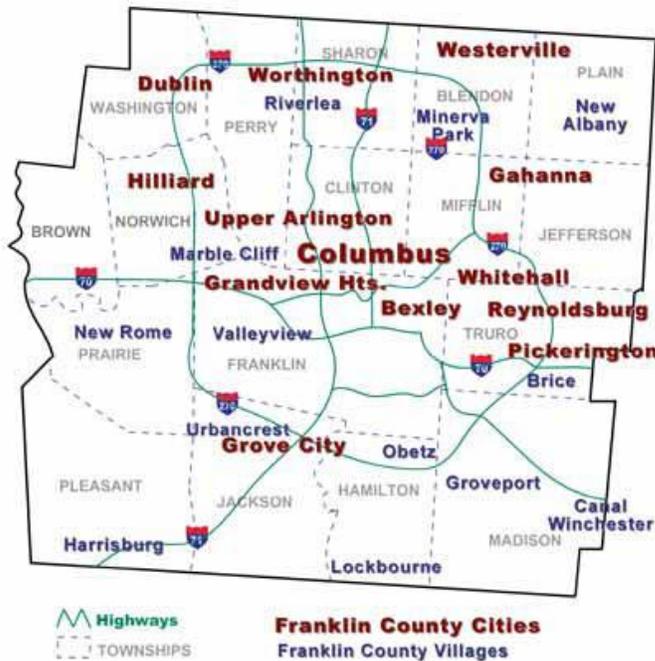
The Judges' comments were more in tune with how the traffic arraignment Court would be affected. Other concerns were for non-English speaking populations creating unnecessary delays in Court. Some Judges also stated they would fear lack of cooperation from law enforcement agencies. Last, one opinion was that there was no need to disband as long as the Mayor's Court was being run properly. Overall, the Court officers and Clerk employees surveyed did not think that the consolidation would be an onerous burden to handle.

Additionally, 2 more issues relative to access to justice would arise if a these Courts were to be consolidated. The first has to do with the hours of operation of the Courts. As described in the section on Court Organization below, the Mayor's Courts are available to hear matters on a very limited basis. They tend to hold Court only one day per week. The Municipal Court Judges hear cases during the traditional business week and operate a criminal arraignment Courtroom on Saturdays. The Clerk's office is open for business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, the 17 remaining Mayor's Courts are physically close to the people they serve. They are neighborhood Courts in the villages where they are located. The Municipal Court has only one location in downtown Columbus, which generally requires

people to pay for bus transportation, metered parking, or a parking garage. As the map below shows, it is centrally located in the county and at most a 30-minute drive from any of the Mayor’s Court locations.

**Figure 7- Map of Franklin County**



### **Expedition and Timeliness**

The data for the past 10 years indicates that there is no meaningful backlog of cases that the Municipal Court would inherit from the Mayor’s Courts. In fact, the clearance rate for total filings versus total dispositions over that period is 100 percent. The most recent three years show an average clearance rate of 98 percent for all 17 Mayor’s Courts combined with a small carryover of cases from year-to-year. During that same time period, the Franklin County Municipal Court produced a clearance rate of 103.5 percent. In the most recent three years, that number was 100.4 percent.

If the Mayor's Courts were to close, the Clerk would need to work with the Administrative Judge to determine what the plan would be to enter the cases into the case management system. This could take a rather large data entry effort. Without making any changes in response to receiving additional 30,000-40,000 cases per year, the Municipal Court would experience delays or problems for the citizens. This could very well cause confusion among citizens and users of the Court system. While this transition would presumably occur at one time, it still has the potential to have unusual delays.

### **Court Organization**

The consolidation would force the centralization of information and Court records. The Mayor's Courts all have varying hours of operations. The Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk's office is open 24 hours a day, giving complete access to anyone at any time. This would be an access advantage that the Mayor's Courts do not offer. Most Mayor's Courts only operate Court one day per week with hours beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending around 3:30 p.m. Some open only in the afternoon. Others are available only every other week for limited daytime hours.

One disadvantage would be that each Mayor's Court has a smaller docket in the arraignment Court. The positive of the Franklin County Municipal Court is that people may be added on to the Court's docket Monday through Friday.

The last problem results from budgetary constraints. The new Judge, Magistrate, and/or Deputy Clerks that the Municipal Court would need could cost significant money for the funding authority. The 2014 salary of a full-time Municipal Court Judge was \$114,100 plus benefits. Part-time Judges were paid \$65,650. Deputy Clerks are paid

between \$27,000 and \$30,000 per year for the functions represented here. The addition of two new judicial officers and two clerical staff would potentially add \$288,200 plus all the cost of all fringe benefits to Court and Clerk's office budgets.

One could argue that the additional revenue generated through the increase in cases transferred or filed with the Court would justify the hiring of each of the new employees listed, but of course, collection of Court costs can be difficult. Defendants may decide not to pay for their case. Exceeding the city finance director's budget would cause political problems, as well as monetary problems for the future.



## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Judicial Perceptions**

**Conclusion 1. Bench officers surveyed did not think it would be a problem to add the projected number of cases from the Mayor's Courts.**

**Recommendation 1. The Clerk's office should continue this dialogue with the Judges and Court administration to assess whether opinions will change if the increased workload becomes a reality.**

The Court and Clerk will need to study in more depth the impact of 30,000-40,000 additional cases on individual calendars and dockets. Both entities would also need to study how much additional time it would take to process that many additional cases and plan for additional staff to maintain timely operations and case terminations.

### **Staff Perceptions**

**Conclusion 2. The staff in the Clerk's office generally felt that if the Mayor's Courts were to close, that the challenge ahead would be something that could be handled.**

**Recommendation 2. The Court and Clerk's office should continue dialogue on the impact of the increased caseload.**

An impact study should be completed to determine where change would be needed. To alleviate some of the burden on the Clerk's office, the staff suggested that attorneys and litigants could start filing documents in the individual Courtrooms. The Clerk's office should start this process by doing a pilot to determine the feasibility of the process.

### **Workload and Staffing**

**Conclusion 3. There would be an increase in workload for both the Court and the Clerk if 30,000-40,000 cases were absorbed by the Franklin County Municipal Court.**

**Recommendation 3. The Clerk's office should add 2 deputy Clerks to the traffic violation bureau.**

The Court should consider the appointment of a new full-time Magistrate, and caseloads may increase so much that the General Assembly should create a new Judgeship.

#### **Work Processes**

**Conclusion 4. The current 13-step process with 18 decision points should be evaluated for ways to streamline workflows.**

**Recommendation 4. A workgroup consisting of both Court and Clerk staff should be put together to examine existing processes.**

This would provide an opportunity to re-examine current practices and eliminate inefficiencies. The re-engineering team could present a new delivery system that eliminates non-value-added activities and time.

#### **Access to Justice**

**Conclusion 5. There are trade-offs involved with access to justice to justify the existence of neighborhood Courts.**

The Mayor's Courts, although closer to the litigants, are constrained by holding Court only one day each week. The negative for the Municipal Court is that it has only one location, which is downtown. However, it is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

**Recommendation 5. Once all cases are consolidated at the Municipal Court, better technology would be required to allow users to have access to records through the use of e-filing and imaging.**

The Judges might also evaluate the possibility of having regional Court locations in the north, south, east, and west regions of the county. This would allow litigants to appear in Courtrooms closer to their homes.

### **Expedition and Timeliness**

**Conclusion 6. Both the Mayor's Courts and the Municipal Court get high marks for current clearance rates.**

**Recommendation 6. The Municipal Court and Clerk's office need to continue to monitor time to disposition, age of pending caseload, and clearance rates.** Expedition and timeliness should be maximized by using management reports to help monitor all three items.

### **Court Organization**

**Conclusion 7. The amount of new staff added would not alter the current structure of the Court or Clerk's office.**

**Recommendation 7. The Clerk's office would definitely need more staff members to enter cases and deal with the increase of cases in the arraignment Courtrooms.** There would need to be another Magistrate also, even though the current staff of Magistrates disagreed. The current Magistrates have a significant amount of experience on the bench, and there could be a greater delay in the Courtrooms if less experienced

Magistrates were appointed. The bulk of the work would be done in the traffic arraignment Courtrooms.

### **Transition Management**

**Conclusion 8. The Mayor’s Courts are understandably reluctant to enter into a “what-if” discussion about potential closure at this time.**

**Recommendation 8. If the closures were to occur anytime soon, administrators from the individual Mayor’s Courts, the Municipal Court, and the Clerk’s office would need to meet to define how the transfer of cases could be handled in an orderly fashion to ensure continued access to justice.**

Should the General Assembly decide to consolidate the Courts, the transition must occur smoothly with as little impact on citizen access to justice as possible.

Based on the experience resulting from the closure of the Brice Mayor’s Court, this would be the greatest challenge.

**Conclusion 9. The Court and Clerk would need a proactive approach to deal with the task of entering older cases as well as any new workload increase that would be coming.**

**Recommendation 9. As a final recommendation, the Court and Clerk should develop a transition plan for the consolidation of cases from the dissolution of the Mayor’s Courts.**

These changes would be something that the Court might not be able to plan for. With that in mind, the Court would have to provide the same level of service to any customer, even at a time when staffing may be insufficient. With the fiscal approach being that in

the next fiscal year the Court would need the support to deal with the changes in volume that would be occurring.

The plan should include:

- a public information plan aimed at informing the public early and often about changes in procedure and location;
- a data management plan for handling the movement of case files from the Mayor's Courts to the Municipal Court;
- a process reengineering plan for examining changes in workflow that can be achieved given this opportunity to streamline the work of the Court;  
and,
- a staffing plan for determining in more detail than is possible here the number, function and cost of adding judicial and non-judicial staff to the Court for handling the increased current and future caseload



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## APPENDICES

### **Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire**

**If the 17 local Mayor's Courts were to disband into the Franklin County Municipal Court how well do you think you could handle the transition?**

Very Well

Well

Not sure

Somewhat well

Not well

**There would be potentially 35,000 more cases that would be coming to the Franklin County Municipal Court do you think that you would need to add another Magistrate?**

Yes

Maybe

Not sure

No

**Would the potential for 30,000 more cases in your arraignment Courtrooms would affect your time for individual justice in individual cases?**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree/disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

**Would the Clerk's office handling of the new cases to your docket preparation be of any concern?**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree/disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments or concerns you would like to speak to?**

The Judges questions are listed below.

**If the 17 local Mayor's Courts were to disband into the Franklin County Municipal Court how well do you think the Clerk's office could handle the transition?**

Very Well

Well

Not sure

Somewhat well

Not well

**There would be potentially 35,000 more cases that would be coming to the Franklin County Municipal Court (total 2013 Mayor's Court numbers), assuming they would disband to our Court. Around 5,000 of the cases could potentially be assigned cases excluding the minor misdemeanors. Do you think that you would need to add another Judge? If yes, how many?**

Yes

No

Maybe

Not Sure

(If yes, how many 1 2 3 4)

**If an average of 9 more cases were to be added to your weekly docket do you feel that this would impact your workload?**

Yes

Maybe

Not sure

No

**Do you think the 9 new cases added to your docket preparation would be of any concern?**

Yes

Maybe

Not sure

No

**Do you have any comments or concerns you would like to speak to?**

## Appendix B: Ten Year Mayor's Court Filings

Cities/Cases each year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total Cases	Avg/year
<b>Bexley</b>	1501	1230	1211	1041	1344	1409	774	592	1225	802	<b>11129</b>	<b>1112</b>
<b>Brice</b>	530	324	493	229	204	N/A	N/A	578	1300	0	<b>3658</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>Canal Winchester</b>	1495	1494	1781	1128	864	846	1002	902	561	1087	<b>11160</b>	<b>1116</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	9369	6029	6616	6146	5316	3351	2639	2062	2261	2331	<b>46120</b>	<b>4612</b>
<b>Gahanna</b>	4520	4751	5320	4264	4403	4609	4325	4579	4415	5601	<b>46787</b>	<b>4678</b>
<b>Grandview Heights</b>	655	1184	1005	1357	1924	2155	1241	1032	987	816	<b>12356</b>	<b>1235</b>
<b>Grove City</b>	1997	2924	2268	2834	2775	3992	4354	4998	5129	4434	<b>35705</b>	<b>3570</b>
<b>Groveport</b>	1201	627	1077	689	780	654	514	573	452	599	<b>7166</b>	<b>716</b>
<b>Hilliard</b>	3482	3109	3781	3023	3757	2675	2457	3107	2809	3727	<b>31927</b>	<b>3192</b>
<b>Marble Cliff</b>	269	369	340	398	751	646	405	336	309	263	<b>4086</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>Minerva Park</b>	1288	982	688	681	623	519	372	367	528	613	<b>6661</b>	<b>666</b>
<b>New Albany</b>	1162	1550	1096	1391	1382	1121	1237	1223	960	848	<b>11970</b>	<b>1197</b>
<b>Obetz</b>	597	1029	1040	1153	1314	1532	934	745	765	828	<b>9937</b>	<b>993</b>
<b>Reynoldsburg</b>	2895	4812	4978	5852	6768	6136	5062	5239	4185	6265	<b>52192</b>	<b>5219</b>
<b>Upper Arlington</b>	3867	3525	3905	3216	3452	3698	3728	3153	3012	2856	<b>34412</b>	<b>3441</b>
<b>Valleyview</b>	209	518	512	355	764	663	888	706	467	370	<b>5452</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>Westerville</b>	3766	4077	3939	3981	4169	4025	3845	3486	3377	3175	<b>37840</b>	<b>3784</b>
<b>Worthington</b>	3572	3794	4530	3954	3188	2798	2366	2320	2370	3854	<b>32746</b>	<b>3274</b>
<b>Totals per year</b>	<b>42375</b>	<b>42328</b>	<b>44580</b>	<b>41692</b>	<b>43778</b>	<b>40829</b>	<b>36143</b>	<b>35998</b>	<b>35112</b>	<b>38469</b>	<b>401304</b>	<b>40130</b>



### Appendix C: Ten Year Mayor's Court Terminations

<b>Total Terminations/Years</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Bexley</b>	1141	1546	1263	954	1314	1122	1131	639	1132	873	<b>11115</b>	<b>1111</b>
<b>Brice</b>	551	483	332	213	188	N/A	N/A	506	0	0	<b>2273</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Canal Winchester</b>	1503	1850	1515	1167	868	846	999	910	558	1063	<b>11279</b>	<b>1127</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	9690	6503	6041	6253	5417	3363	2566	2130	2244	2324	<b>46531</b>	<b>4653</b>
<b>Gahanna</b>	4422	5230	4732	4375	4348	4372	4577	4560	4518	5535	<b>46669</b>	<b>4666</b>
<b>Grandview Heights</b>	661	992	1184	1328	1879	2187	1283	1040	972	825	<b>12351</b>	<b>1235</b>
<b>Grove City</b>	1991	2243	2893	2831	2819	3925	4250	4877	5164	4556	<b>35549</b>	<b>3554</b>
<b>Groveport</b>	1233	1049	666	678	755	657	539	574	469	592	<b>7212</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Hilliard</b>	3473	3735	3151	2938	3701	2853	2421	2990	2864	3610	<b>31736</b>	<b>3173</b>
<b>Marble Cliff</b>	271	334	365	411	721	749	400	323	320	267	<b>4161</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Minerva Park</b>	527	677	993	681	615	482	365	385	538	614	<b>5877</b>	<b>587</b>
<b>New Albany</b>	1140	1040	1492	1362	1519	1146	1271	1227	939	880	<b>12016</b>	<b>1201</b>
<b>Obetz</b>	598	1011	970	1186	1314	1415	1033	757	772	784	<b>9840</b>	<b>984</b>
<b>Reynoldsburg</b>	2929	4918	4796	5710	6844	5954	5112	5067	4281	6039	<b>51650</b>	<b>5165</b>
<b>Upper Arlington</b>	3908	3865	3551	3211	3480	3656	3783	3159	2988	2836	<b>34437</b>	<b>3443</b>
<b>Valleyview</b>	1422	1324	482	412	707	632	709	545	503	336	<b>7072</b>	<b>707</b>
<b>Westerville</b>	3875	3879	4083	3883	4192	3966	3859	3503	3407	3324	<b>37971</b>	<b>3791</b>
<b>Worthington</b>	3593	4472	3791	3947	3209	2786	2367	2296	2398	3808	<b>32667</b>	<b>3226</b>
<b>Totals per year</b>	<b>42928</b>	<b>45151</b>	<b>42300</b>	<b>41540</b>	<b>43890</b>	<b>40111</b>	<b>36665</b>	<b>35488</b>	<b>34067</b>	<b>38266</b>	<b>400406</b>	<b>40138</b>



## Appendix D: Ten Year Franklin County Municipal Court Filings

<b>New Filings each year Franklin County Municipal Court</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>New Filings</b>
	2004	281903
	2005	267824
	2006	271168
	2007	278165
	2008	258122
	2009	275124
	2010	228748
	2011	222748
	2012	258440
	2013	247648
<b>Total Filings</b>		<b>2589890</b>
<b>Filings Per Year Average</b>		<b>258989</b>



## Appendix E: Ten Year Franklin County Municipal Court Terminations

<b>Years/Total Court</b>	<b>Terminations Franklin County Municipal</b>	<b>Total Terminations</b>
2004		303993
2005		253104
2006		279851
2007		301382
2008		296143
2009		282867
2010		231909
2011		222074
2012		260116
2013		250470
<b>Total terminations</b>		<b>2681909</b>
<b>Terminations Per Year Average</b>		<b>268190</b>