

CallTheRightAttorney.com

One Corporate Plaza
25825 Science Park Drive, Suite 200
Beachwood, Ohio 44122



THE EMPLOYEE'S LAW FIRM™

Phone: (216) 291-4744 x 130
Fax: (216) 291-5744
chris.wido@spitzlawfirm.com

November 3, 2021

By Mail:

City of South Euclid
1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio, 44121
c/o Michael Lograsso, Law Director

Joseph Frank

Ruth Gray

Sara Continenza

Jane Goodman

Justin Tisdale

Susan Hardy

Chanell Eston

By Email:

MLograsso@seuclid.com

Joseph.Frank@sbcglobal.net

RuthIGray50@gmail.com

Friendsofsarac@gmail.com

JG@JaneGoodman.com

JTisdale@seuclid.com

SHardy@seuclid.com

Elston@seuclid.com

Re: Notice of Claims by Judge Gayle Williams-Byers

Mr. Lograsso:

Please let this letter serve as a notice of our representation of Judge Gayle Williams-Byers regarding her claims against the city of South Euclid and its council members for defamation and retaliation. As Judge Williams-Byers is represented by counsel regarding these claims, which are discussed in greater detail below, all future correspondence and communications regarding these matters should be directed to my office.

As you know, on October 27, 2021, South Euclid utilized taxpayer dollars to disseminate a four-page letter full of blatantly false and defamatory statements intended to malign Judge William-Byers and her management of the South Euclid Municipal Court (“October 27 Letter”).¹ Moreover, the malicious October 27 Letter, which was signed by each of the city council

¹ Exhibit A.

member listed above, is not shy about the fact that it was motivated, at least in part, by Judge Williams-Byers' public opposition to ongoing racial hostility by South Euclid's leaders towards her as the first African American Judge to sit on the Court.² As explained below, South Euclid's fact-free and retaliatory letter is shameful and has exposed South Euclid to significant legal liability.

To be sure, numerous statements contained in the October 27 Letter are objectively false:

LIE # 1: "To date, the Municipal Court has not complied with the Ohio State Auditor reporting requirements – for 2019 – despite numerous attempts by the Auditor for over a year to get the Court to comply. Because of this, the state auditor has not been able to reconcile the Court's 2019 financial records...[b]ecause of the Court – and only the Court – the City cannot comply with state law and complete the 2019 audit... As a direct result of the judge's [sic] noncompliance, the City, which otherwise has been given a clean audit, faces a "non-auditable" finding."

THE TRUTH: South Euclid's statements about the 2019 audit are completely false. **As verified by the State Auditor, Court has fully complied with the state's annual audit, and did so prior to the October 27 Letter.**³ Moreover, **South Euclid was aware of the truth about the 2019 audit when it published the defamatory October 27 Letter** because Mayor Georgine Welo had received the following information from the Ohio Supreme Court on October 12, 2021 in response to her questions about the 2019 audit: "It is my understanding that the State Auditor's Office plans to close the court's portion, as well as the overall city, 2019 audit, within the next few weeks."⁴

LIE # 2: "The City has thus far spent more than \$10,000 in taxpayer money to try to reconcile the Court's records.

THE TRUTH: There are several falsehoods contained in this single sentence. First, it falsely suggests that there is something unusual about the need to reconcile the Court's ledgers, when the Ohio Supreme Court has already explained to Mayor Welo that "the request for a contract for an outside auditor to conduct the 2020 audit was made in the regular course of business and is a standard practice."⁵ Second, **South Euclid paid exactly zero dollars to reconcile the records.** Indeed, South Euclid and the Court had agreed to split the cost, with the Court paying the initial retainer of \$5,000.00 to the case management vendor. The following payment installment in the amount of \$5,000 was to be paid by South Euclid. All subsequent payments were to alternate between South Euclid and the Court. However, in an

² See <https://woub.org/2020/06/16/a-black-judge-is-subjected-to-continual-acts-of-racism-despite-her-position> for just one example of Judge William-Byers' more public complaints about racism from the nearly all-Caucasian government of South Euclid.

³ Exhibit B.

⁴ Exhibit C.

⁵ *Id.*



apparent bid to sabotage the Court and engineer a “failure” by the Court to successfully complete the 2019 audit, South Euclid intentionally failed to pay its share of the reconciliation costs. When the Court realized that South Euclid had failed to honor its side of the agreement, the Court completed the reconciliation in-house using a Court employee with a degree in accounting, which then allowed the State Auditor to complete the audit.

LIE # 4: “We’ll soon face the same problems with the 2020 audit.”

THE TRUTH: There is no basis for South Euclid’s assertion that that there are problems with the 2020 audit or that it will be delayed. Just as with 2019, the Court has fully complied with the State Auditor’s office and has provided all needed documents and information to complete the audit as required by law.⁶ As the Ohio Supreme Court stated in its October 12, 2021 letter to Mayor Welo, “According to the State Auditor’s Office, the request for a contract for an outside auditor to conduct the 2020 audit was made in the regular course of business...”⁷ Despite South Euclid’s knowledge of these facts, it published the above defamatory statement anyways.

LIE # 5: “Judge Williams-Byers for a lengthy period of time refused to open her court [sic] to the public and not otherwise providing basic court services remotely.”

THE TRUTH: Just like nearly every court in Ohio, the South Euclid Municipal Court was required to alter how it provided services in the face of the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a falsehood to suggest, however, that Judge Williams-Byers “refused to open her court[sic]” and failed to “provid[e]...basic court services remotely.” Indeed, in a Memoranda issued on March 19, 2020, the Court stated that as a result of the pandemic, “daily court operations will need to be modified and therefore conducted remotely.”⁸ This memo was provided to South Euclid, its law director (you), and each member of City Council.⁹ At the same time, the Court issued a series of administrative orders intended to inform the public about Court operations and available remote and/or virtual services, which it continued to update as the pandemic unfolded.¹⁰ **These orders were provided and posted on the Ohio Supreme Court website, on all entry doors to the Municipal Complex; the base stairwell leading to the court level of the Municipal Complex ; on the South Euclid digital billboard; the Court’s website; the Court’s Facebook.com page; the Court’s Twitter Account and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar**

⁶ Exhibit B.

⁷ Exhibit C.

⁸ Exhibit D.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Exhibit E.



Association's website.¹¹ While certain services were temporarily delayed due the Court's transition to a new third-party payment processing vendor, it is an outright lie to say that the Court "refused" to provide basic court services remotely.¹² In fact, assistant prosecutors appointed by your office have and continue to regularly attend Court proceedings virtually to participate in hearings, process their cases, speak with opposing counsel and prepare for virtual bench trials.

LIE # 6: "The Court's refusal to provide any in-person court services or remotely answer repeated phones calls to the Court (especially when the Court's website was down for weeks) is not in line with other municipal courts across our region that were providing these services...this led to a huge backlog in cases..."

THE TRUTH: Again, the statement that the Court "refused" or failed to provide remote services or deviated in any material way from how other municipal courts in our region have operated during the pandemic **is completely and utterly false.** The Court's website was never "down" for any prolonged period of time; certainly not for "weeks."¹³ While every Court in the region has experienced a backlog as a result of Covid -19, it is a lie to suggest that the Court has a backlog that differs materially from the backlog any other court has not also experienced.

LIE # 7: "The Court has not submitted a 2021 Budget to the City – and it is now October.

THE TRUTH: This is another lie. **The 2021 budget was submitted to South Euclid on March 2, 2021.** Further, Judge Williams-Byers asked Councilman Joseph Frank whether it was necessary for her to attend a City Council meeting to discuss her proposed budget. The emails and text messages proving that the budget was submitted are attached hereto.¹⁴

LIE # 9: "[t]he Court has not released its 2020 Annual Report as required by the Legislative Authority and Cuyahoga County."

¹¹ Exhibit F.

¹² South Euclid complains at length that Judge Williams-Byers was unreasonable when she found the Chief of Police Joe Mays to be in contempt of court because he failed to comply with a lawful Court order directing him to confirm that misleading "yellow cards" that were intended to manufactured complaints about the Court to the Ohio Supreme Court were no-longer being handed out and that citizens were being directed to the Court's administrative orders regarding pandemic operations. While South Euclid's characterization of this incident is highly misleading and omits the Ohio Supreme Court's dismissal of South Euclid's claim that the Court lacked jurisdiction to find Mays in contempt, we acknowledge that it likely qualifies as protected opinion.

¹³ At most, the payment portal was down for a short period of time, as the Court transitioned to a vendor who would timely remit payments. This is hardly the Court's entire website and this omission by South Euclid further demonstrates the defamatory and retaliatory objective of the October 27 Letter.

¹⁴ Exhibit G.



THE TRUTH: This is false. The 2020 Annual Report was timely released. And although not provided in “paper” form to each City Councilmember, the document is and has been readily available on the Court’s website for immediate access since 2020.

LIE # 10: “Judge Williams-Byers continues to make unreasonable demands on the City’s taxpayers while not fulfilling the Court’s basic duties.”

THE TRUTH: While we disagree that it was “unreasonable” for Judge Williams-Byers’ to request that South Euclid return money it misappropriated from the Court, = we recognize that this issue is the subject of ongoing litigation and further, that South Euclid’s characterization likely constitutes constitutionally protected speech. However, South Euclid treads into defamatory waters when it then goes on to state that the Judge is “not fulfilling the Court’s basic duties.” The Court is in fact performing all duties it is legally required to perform. We challenge you to name a single duty that is not currently being performed, or that was not being performed at the time the October 27 Letter was issued.

Given the blatant falsity of the above quoted statements; how readily available the truth is to anyone who bothered to look; and substantial evidence that South Euclid was aware of the falsity of these statements when they were published, it is apparent that they were made “with a ‘high degree of awareness of their probable falsity.’”¹⁵ More than just the product of mere error or negligence, or hyperbolic political speech,¹⁶ these false statements were made with actual malice as part of a larger campaign to destroy the reputation and standing of Judge Williams-Byers. Accordingly, these statements do not qualify as protected speech of a public figure. As the United States Supreme Court held nearly 60 years ago in *Garrison v. State of La.*,

Although honest utterance, even if inaccurate, may further the fruitful exercise of the right of free speech, **it does not follow that the lie, knowingly and deliberately published about a public official, should enjoy a like immunity.** At the time the First Amendment was adopted, as today, there were those unscrupulous enough and skillful enough to use the deliberate or reckless falsehood as an effective political tool to unseat the public servant or even topple an administration. **That speech is used as a tool for political ends does not automatically bring it under the protective mantle of the Constitution. For the use of the known lie as a tool is at once at odds with the premises of democratic government and with the orderly manner in which economic, social, or political change is to be effected.** Calculated falsehood falls into that class of utterances which ‘are no essential part of any exposition of ideas, and are of such slight social value as a step to truth that any benefit that may be derived from them is clearly outweighed by the social interest in order and morality. * * *

¹⁵ *Garrison v. State of La.*, 379 U.S. 64, 85 S.Ct. 209, 13 L.Ed.2d 125 (1964).

¹⁶ Indeed, there are several other misleading and disparaging statements in the October 27 Letter that we have not addressed out of recognition that they likely constitute protected opinion and/or political speech.



Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 572, 62 S.Ct. 766, 769, 86 L.Ed. 1031. Hence the knowingly false statement and the false statement made with reckless disregard of the truth, do not enjoy constitutional protection.¹⁷

Indeed, if not for the explicit and intentional purpose of eroding the public trust in Judge Williams-Byers, why else did South Euclid feel the need to publish the October 27 Letter?

Moreover, to the extent the October 27 Letter contains actionable, defamatory statements regarding Judge Williams-Byers, it also exposes South Euclid and the City Council members who signed off on the October 27 Letter to liability for unlawful retaliation. Specifically, Under R.C. § 4112.02(I), it is an unlawful discriminatory practice “for any person to discriminate in any manner against any other person because that person has opposed any unlawful discriminatory practice defined in this section or because that person has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in any investigation, proceeding, or hearing under sections 4112.01 to 4112.07 of the Revised Code.” Because Ohio R.C. § 4112.02(I) prohibits retaliatory discrimination by any person “against any other person,” the fact that Judge Williams-Byers is not an “employee” does not prevent her from bringing such a claim against South Euclid and each of the City Council members¹⁸

Here, the October 27 Letter specifically references Judge Williams-Byers’ protected complaints of racial discrimination, calling them “incendiary generalizations.” South Euclid downplayed these complaints as “generalized” even as Judge Williams-Byers has provided specific examples of such racism, such as the former Caucasian Chief of Police stating to the Judge that he was “not there to lynch” her while explaining his attendance at a Council committee meeting. While there is no dispute that this “incendiary” comment was in fact made, it is only the tip of a years-long campaign to paint Judge William-Byers as wasteful, lazy, indulgent, and not knowing her place – all racist troupes – in an effort to eventually eliminate the South Euclid Municipal Court altogether. **Notably, South Euclid’s well documented desire to get rid of the Court only materialized after it obtained its first black judge, Judge Williams-Byers.** Accordingly, for these reasons, Judge Williams-Byers’ publicly stated concerns about racism are well grounded.

If South Euclid had merely responded to Judge Williams-Byers’ complaints about race discrimination without also defaming her, there would have been no claim. After all, while Judge Williams-Byers doubts the veracity of South Euclid’s claim that her accusations are “hurtful” and questions whether South Euclid truly “denounce(s) racism,” she respects South Euclid’s right to free speech. However, the inclusion of nearly two and a half pages of patently defamatory attacks on Judge Williams-Byers in the same letter crosses the line and evidences a retaliatory motive. Indeed, that South Euclid felt the need to reference Judge William-Byers’ complaints of racism in a letter that was clearly designed primarily to attack her as incompetent,

¹⁷ *Id.* 379 U.S. at 74, 209, 216 (**Emphasis** added).

¹⁸ Compare to 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-3, which more narrowly makes it unlawful for an employer to “discriminate against any of his employees or applicants for employment.” Indeed, Ohio R.C. § 4112.02 refers to “unlawful discriminatory practices” and not just unlawful employment practices.



RE: Judge Williams-Byers
November 3, 2021
Page 7 of 8

shiftless and unworthy of public office demonstrates that South Euclid sought to retaliate against Judge Williams-Byers in violation of Ohio § 4112.02(I).

You will note that this letter is also addressed to each member of City Council who signed off on the October 27 Letter, ostensibly because they approved of its content. As a result, each now faces personal liability under Ohio R.C. § 4112.02(I), as well as liability for aiding and abetting the retaliation pursuant to Ohio R.C. § 4112.02 (J).

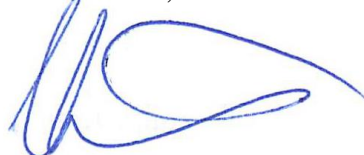
While we will pursue all proper claims to the conclusion if necessary, we are open to discussing potential early resolution. **Please note that Judge Williams-Byers has not engaged us to seek monetary damages; nor does the Judge want to get bogged down in expensive and protracted litigation.** Instead, Judge Williams-Byers wants South Euclid to own up to its misconduct and to issue a new letter correcting the various false statements outlined above; publicly apologize to Judge Williams-Byers for publishing these false statements; and apologizing to the citizens of South Euclid for misleading them. To that end, we invite South Euclid to engage us in a dialogue about correcting the record. If we are forced to sue and seek damages, it will be because South Euclid refused to have this discussion, and not because Judge Williams-Byers only “speaks through threats, orders, and lawsuits.”¹⁹ If we do not hear from you by November 19, 2021, we will draft and file the Complaint.

In addition to notifying you of the claims, this letter should also serve as an express request that you maintain all potential evidence that may relate to the claims. This includes, but is not limited to, all photographs, video, statement, audio recording, reports, records that would identify any potential witnesses, electronic/computer files, notes and diagrams. If you intend to conduct any expert inspections, we are requesting advance notice so that our experts can concurrently participate. Your failure to preserve such information and/or your alteration, concealment, or transfer of any evidence pertaining to this matter will be considered a spoliation of evidence and could subject you to further civil and criminal liability.

Lastly, this letter is not intended to contain a complete statement of fact with respect to the issues raised, and Judge Williams-Byers does not waive any legal or equitable rights or remedies that otherwise may be available, all of which are expressly reserved.

I look forward to discussing this matter further with you.

All the best,



Chris P. Wido

¹⁹ Exhibit A.





South Euclid

COME TOGETHER & THRIVE

October 2021

Dear South Euclid Resident:

We are writing to provide you with an update regarding ongoing issues with the South Euclid Municipal Court.

As you're aware from our 2019 letter and news media reports, Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers has been on a years-long campaign against the city her court serves. The Judge's reckless actions have included two baseless lawsuits against the city, false accusations aimed at city officials and now, a contempt citation for our new Police Chief Joe Mays, on his second day on the job. We have appealed Judge Williams-Byers' contempt ruling to the 8th District Court of Appeals.

For several years, we have made good-faith efforts to meet the Judge's unreasonable budget demands, settle the lawsuits and get back to the business of running our city and court – we even tried mediation through the Ohio Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the bottom line is Judge Williams-Byers doesn't want to work together or get things done. She'd rather speak through threats, orders and lawsuits.

We are out of ideas and patience, so we want you to know the facts behind these disputes and how the Judge's unreasonable demands and refusal to cooperate is threatening the very financial standing of our city.

The South Euclid Court's finances have been un-auditable by the State Auditor

While Judge Williams-Byers has spent time and effort fighting with the City, her court has not met the basic obligations required of all municipal courts.

To date, the Municipal Court has not complied with Ohio State Auditor reporting requirements – for 2019 – despite numerous attempts by the Auditor for over a year to get the Court to comply. Because of this, the state auditor has not been able to reconcile the Court's 2019 financial records.

Under state law, municipal governments must be audited every year. Because of the Court – and only because of the Court – the City cannot comply with state law and complete the 2019 audit. The City has thus far spent more than \$10,000 in taxpayer money to try to reconcile the Court's records.

As a direct result of the Judge's noncompliance, the City, which otherwise has been given a clean audit, faces a "non-auditable" finding, which puts the City's credit and bond ratings at risk.

If this audit issue is not cleared up, the City faces a couple of painful results: Needed projects will not get done or will be done at a higher cost. Why? Because the money the City must borrow for those projects will carry higher interest rates caused by the lack of a clean audit. That could cost city residents hundreds of thousands of dollars.

And this is all for 2019. We'll soon face the same problems with the 2020 audit.

Judge Williams-Byers wasted taxpayers' money by demanding an excessive budget and then suing the City when she didn't get it. The Ohio Supreme Court agreed with the City and ruled against her.

Judge Williams-Byers asked City Council to approve her exorbitant demand for a 2019 budget of \$920,385 - an approximate \$260,000 increase over her Court expenses in the previous year. The Judge sued the City in the Ohio Supreme Court and in December 2020 the Supreme Court issued its opinion, agreed with us and ruled in the City's favor.

In their decision, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that City Council's budget allocation to the Court was reasonable, that Judge Williams-Byers accusations lack merit and the City's actions did not impede the "Court's ability to carry out its essential duties". In addition, the Supreme Court denied the Municipal Court's request that the City pay for the Court's legal expenses associated with the lawsuit filed by Judge Gayle Williams-Byers.

City resources were used to defend the City in this unnecessary lawsuit, as the City had already offered Judge Williams-Byers a substantial increase to her budget, which she rejected to pursue the lawsuit. To date, the City has spent over \$213,406 in legal and attorney's fees - and this does not include tax dollars being spent by the Judge for her own legal counsel. These are all taxpayer dollars.

Judge Williams-Byers held our new Police Chief in contempt of court on his second day on the job.

The legal action the Judge lodged against our new police chief stems from her mismanagement of, and refusal to provide basic accessibility to, her court. *Truth and facts matter.* Here they are:

The contempt citation stems directly from the Police Department's attempt to help our residents - actions that we fully supported. While we all have been dealing with the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, Judge Williams-Byers for a lengthy period refused to open her court to the public and not otherwise providing basic court services remotely.

The Court's refusal to provide any in-person court services or remotely answer repeated phone calls to the court (especially while the Court's website was down for weeks) is not in line with other municipal courts across our region that were providing these services. This led to a huge backlog in cases and frustration for the people who needed to pay their tickets, clear their outstanding warrants, and address other matters that are not otherwise being handled remotely by the Court.

Over a thousand frustrated citizens have flooded our police department, which is in the same building as the Court, to ask for our help and a contact to express their concerns about the Court. That prompted the City to create small informational cards providing basic contact information directing citizens to contact the Ohio Supreme Court, which governs municipal courts, with their concerns.

In response, Judge Williams-Byers ordered Chief Mays to stop handing out the cards. In another effort of good faith, Chief Mays stopped handing out the cards, even as citizens to this day continue to go to the police department to ask for help.

Even though the cards were no longer being handed out, the Judge's response was to still hold our Police Chief in contempt of court, order him to spend time in jail and pay a fine. And now more taxpayer money and time will be spent defending Chief Mays against the Judge's rash and reckless action in the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals. This is not acceptable to us and should not be acceptable to you.

The Court has not submitted a 2021 Budget to the City - and it is now October.

City Council approved the fiscal year budget back in March, however Judge Williams-Byers, to this day, has never submitted a line-item budget or appeared before City Council to explain her budget request. In good faith, City Council allocated nearly \$800,000 for the Municipal Court in 2021 to make sure the Judge could operate her court, pay her employees and purchase whatever protective equipment she needs to reopen the Court safely during the pandemic. The Court's failure to submit a line-item budget is not a sound financial practice and could negatively impact our audit.

In addition, the Court has not released its 2020 Annual Report as required by the Legislative Authority and Cuyahoga County.

Racism is not tolerated in any form in South Euclid.

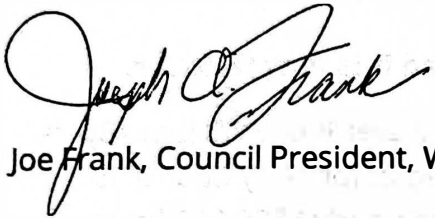
It is hurtful that Judge Williams-Byers has made, and continues to make, sweeping and incendiary generalizations regarding racism, especially when we have worked so hard to implement diversity and inclusion programs at City Hall and throughout the community. Over the last decade we have passed some of the most comprehensive fair housing and non-discrimination laws in Northeast Ohio and we are proud to promote South Euclid as a progressive and diverse place to live, work and play.

Racism is never acceptable and as your elected officials we denounce racism in all forms. We need to speak out against systemic racism, and when we see or hear of racism, we need to act. Like all communities and institutions, we have more work to do to address systemic and structural racism and discrimination, and we are committed to continuing that important work in constructive, meaningful and impactful ways.

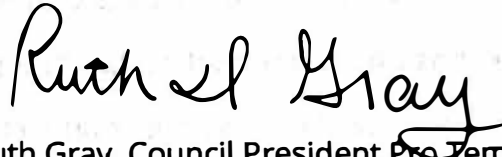
We expect media coverage of these issues to continue and, in an effort to be fully transparent, we wanted you to know, from us, what really is going on. If you have any questions regarding this matter, we encourage you to reach out to us at citycouncil@seuclid.com. As we strive to maintain transparency and openness about this issue, additional information will be posted as it becomes available on the City's homepage at www.cityofsoutheuclid.com.

The actions of the court have cost the community hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we cannot continue to justify wasting your taxpayer dollars on a municipal court that is not being managed responsibly. The bottom line is that Judge Williams-Byers continues to make unreasonable demands on the City's taxpayers while not fulfilling the Court's basic duties. We all need to demand better.

Respectfully your public servants,



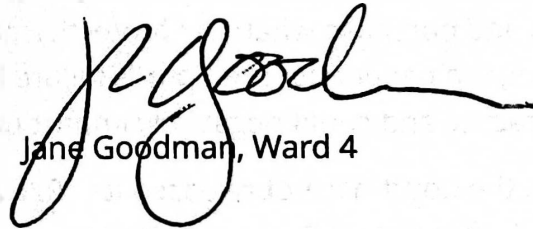
Joe Frank, Council President, Ward 2



Ruth Gray, Council President Pro Tem, Ward 1



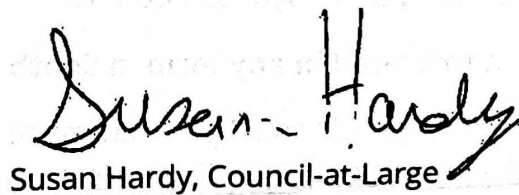
Sara Continenza, Ward 3



Jane Goodman, Ward 4



Chanell Elston, Council-at-Large



Susan Hardy, Council-at-Large



Justin Tisdale, Council-at-Large

EXHIBIT B

From: [Gayle Byers](#)
To: [Gayle Williams-Byers](#)
Subject: Fwd: State Auditor's Court Requests - SEMC#1
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:48:12 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:29 PM
To: judgegb@secourt.org
Subject: FW: [External]FW: =External]RE: Court Requests

FYI

From: Joshua T. Ziegler <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00 PM
To: eszirony@secourt.org
Subject: RE: [External]FW: =External]RE: Court Requests

Eric,

Josh

From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Joshua T. Ziegler <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: [External]FW: [External]RE: =ourt Requests

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail =s from an external source. Think before you click links or open =ttachments.

Mr. Ziegler,
I have not heard back from =ou since I last emailed you. I just want to make sure that you have =everything that you need from us. Please let me know if you require =nything else.

Regards,

Evan =zirony
Chief Deputy =lerk
South Euclid =unicipal Court
Phone: =16-381-2880 x229
Fax: =16-381-1195



From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 =:02 AM
To: 'Joshua T. Ziegler' <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>
Subject: RE: [External]RE: Court =equests

Josh,

Attached is the completed =equest spreadsheet. It, along with the answer to your additional =uestions, supporting documents, and court narrative have been uploaded =o the shared folder on google drive. Please let me know if you need =nything else.

Regards,

Evan =zirony
Chief Deputy =lerk
South Euclid =unicipal Court
Phone: =16-381-2880 x229
Fax: =16-381-1195



From: Joshua T. Ziegler <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 =1:16 AM
To: eszirony@secourt.org
Subject: RE: [External]RE: Court =equests

Evan,

I reviewed the civil check, bond disbursement, and bond =eceipt information you provided. The documentation looked good, =except, for two things:

1. For case CVF1800220, =here were three separate entries in the civil check register (for check =3243), you only provided 1 screenshot for the \$27.25 amount. =ould you please provide the same documentation for the \$38.25 and =177.59?
2. For the Civil Checks, I was wondering who =atricia J. (can't read her last name) was that signed the =checks as an authorized signatory.

Josh

From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 =:42 PM
To: Joshua T. Ziegler <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>

Subject: [External]RE: Court requests

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Josh,

I should be able to provide what you need in the requests document. I have uploaded more files to the google drive 2019 Audit folder. They can be found in the Bond Disbursements, Bond Receipts, and Civil Checks folders. The second bond disbursement request for Desirae Robinson is actually a traffic case, not criminal (TRD1701388).

Your additional court questions are above my pay grade, so they have been forwarded to the Clerk of Court.

I will continue to work to provide the additional document requested and get it uploaded. Please let me know if the documents provided will be sufficient, or if you are looking for something else.

Regards,

Evan Szirony

Chief Deputy Clerk

South Euclid Municipal Court

Phone: 216-381-2880 x229

Fax: 216-381-1195



From: Joshua T. Ziegler <JTZiegler@ohioauditor.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 3:03 PM

To: eszirony@secourt.org

Subject: FW: Court Requests

Evan,

I just wanted to check in with you to see if you had a chance to look at what I sent and if you had any questions and if you thought everything could be provided electronically or I would have to come on site for anything.

Josh

From: Joshua T. Ziegler

Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:00 PM

To: eszirony@secourt.org

Subject: Court Requests

Evan,

Attached are the following:

Request Excel File- The cases we need documentation for. There are several tabs and on each one, it has what we are looking for.

1. Example Municipal Court Narrative- This is an example from another City of how their Court operates. Feel free to use it as a base to start with and modify it as necessary for how your court operates.
2. Additional Court Questions- These are miscellaneous questions and few miscellaneous items we need. You can type the answers to the questions right into this document if you want.

I would like to get this information as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Josh



[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [OhioAuditor.gov](#)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [OhioAuditor.gov](#)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [OhioAuditor.gov](#)

=

From: [Gayle Byers](#)
To: [Gayle Williams-Byers](#)
Subject: Fwd: State Audit's Court Requests - SEMC #2
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:49:10 AM

From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Tyessa Howard <thoward@secourt.org>
Subject: FW: FW: Updated Audit Request List

FYI

From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:20 PM
To: eszirony@secourt.org
Subject: RE: FW: Updated Audit Request List

Hello =van,

Thanks again for getting this info =ploded for us. We'll follow up if anything else is needed.

Thank =ou,

Kyle =ougherty, CPA
Audit Manager
James G. =upka, CPA, Inc.
216-475-6136

----- Original message -----

From: eszirony@secourt.org
Date: 9/23/21 11:35 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Subject: FW: Updated Audit Request List

Mr. Dougherty,
Per my previous email, all =ocuments requested have been uploaded to our google drive. Please let =e know if you need anything else.

Regards,
Evan Szirony
Chief Deputy Clerk
South Euclid Municipal Court
Phone: 216-381-2880 =229
Fax: =16-381-1195



From: eszirony@secourt.org <eszirony@secourt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:27 PM
To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request =ist

Mr. Dougherty,
I have uploaded what I believe is the last of the documents that you had requested (12/9 and 2/16 deposit slips for Tr/Cr and Tr/Cr check #2345 for a bond refund or TRD2000640). Please let me know if you require anything else.

Regards,
Evan Szirony
Chief Deputy Clerk
South Euclid Municipal Court
Phone: 216-381-2880 x229
Fax: 216-381-1195



From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:39 PM
To: eszirony@secourt.org
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request =ist

I can access the folders now, thank you.

Kyle Dougherty, CPA
Audit Manager
James G. Dupka, CPA, Inc.
216-475-6136
kdougherty@jgzcpa.com

From: eszirony@secourt.org
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:37 PM
To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request =ist

Mr. Dougherty,
I added your email to the share list for google drive. Please let me know if you have any more difficulties accessing the files.
Regards,
Evan Szirony

Chief Deputy Clerk
South Euclid Municipal Court
Phone: 216-381-2880 =229
Fax: =16-381-1195



From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 =:56 PM
To: eszirony@secourt.org
Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request =ist

Hello Evan,

Thank you for the quick =urnaround on this. Would you be able to grant me access to the =oogle Drive folder? I have tried the link from your August 20th email, and am receiving a =essage that I need access to view. I did hit the button to =equest access, so hopefully that has sent you some kind of =otification.

Kyle Dougherty, CPA
Audit Manager
James G. =upka, CPA, Inc.
216-475-6136
kdougherty@jgzcpa.com

From: eszirony@secourt.org
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 =:48 PM
To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request =ist

Mr. Dougherty,

I am in the process of =ploading additional documents to google drive. You will find the new =ploads in the "Requests" folder in the 2020 Audit =older.

Please note that there is =o cancelled check #2020-12 in the amount of \$1648.05. That transaction =as processed electronically, and you can find the payment verification =ith confirmation number on page 53 of the December 2020 End of Month =isbursements.pdf.

Additionally, there is no cancelled check for civil check =3367. The check was damaged

in the mail and returned to court to reissue. I included the correspondence and voided damaged check in the 020 Civil Checks.pdf. The funds from check #3367 were reissued with check #3451. Please let me know if you need to substitute another cancelled check.

Lastly, the bank failed to provide a copy of the cancelled traffic/criminal check (#2345) for TRD2000640 (they missed it on my request list). I will try to get a copy of that check when I return to the bank next week.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,

Evan Zirony

Chief Deputy Clerk

South Euclid Municipal Court

Phone: 16-381-2880 x229

Fax: 16-381-1195



From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:36 PM

To: eszirony@secourt.org

Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>

Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request List

Hello Evan,

Please see the attached worksheet with the transactions we selected for testing. The supporting documentation we would like to review will essentially be the same as what the state auditors requested for their 2019 testing. Please get back to me with any questions.

Thank you,

Kyle Dougherty, CPA

Audit Manager

James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc.

216-475-6136

kdougherty@jgzcpa.com

From: eszirony@secourt.org

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:38 AM

To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>

Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request List

Mr. Dougherty,

I ended up running the bond disbursement report for all of 2020 and uploaded that to google drive (and attempting to upload to sharefile as well). No disbursements for April and May. I pulled and uploaded the June 2020 bond disbursement report as well.

Just let me know what else you need.

Regards,

Evan Szirony

Chief Deputy Clerk

South Euclid Municipal Court

Phone: 216-381-2880 ext 229

Fax: 216-381-1195



From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:03 AM

To: eszirony@secourt.org

Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>

Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request list

Hello Evan,

Thank you, using Google Drive is no problem if Sharefile isn't working for you. We'll take a look and get back to you with the transactions we'd like to review.

For April 2020 bond disbursements, were there just no disbursements in that month? Could we get the report for May 2020 instead (or the next month that does have a bond disbursement report).

Thank you,

Kyle Dougherty, CPA

Audit Manager

James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc.

216-475-6136

----- Original message -----

From: eszirony@secourt.org
Date: 8/20/21 9:49 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: 'Kyle Dougherty' <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>
Cc: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>
Subject: RE: Updated Audit Request List

Mr. Dougherty,

I am attempting to upload the requested documents to the sharefile account, however, it appears that it is not working (or taking a very long time to upload). In the meantime, I have also uploaded the same to the court's [google drive](#) for you to access. Please note that our system has no bond disbursement report for April 2020.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Regards,

Evan Szirony

Chief Deputy Clerk

South Euclid Municipal Court

Phone: 216-381-2880 x229

Fax: 216-381-1195



From: Kyle Dougherty <kdougherty@jgzcpa.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:27 PM

To: 'Tyessa Howard' <thoward@secourt.org>

Cc: eszirony@secourt.org

Subject: Updated Audit Request List

Hello Tyessa,

After reviewing the information from 2019, I would like to narrow down our requests for the 2020 audit. We will not need to review the same volume of documentation as the state auditors requested for 2019, so hopefully this will help expedite the process.

I selected two months that we would like to review the below reports for, and we will make ample selections from transactions within those two months. We've also removed other items from the request list based on what I saw in the 2019 files. Please use the updated audit request list below.

April 2020 and December 2020 bank statements, bank reconciliations and any additional documentation/end-of-month reports used

1. The following reports for April 2020 and December 2020:
 - a. Civil/Small Claims Monthly Cashbook Report
 - b. Criminal/Traffic Monthly Cashbook Report
 - c. Criminal/Traffic Check Register
 - d. Bond Disbursement Report

e. End-of-Month Disbursement report

3. Kyle Dougherty, CPA
Audit Manager
James G. Upka, CPA, Inc.
216-475-6136
kdougherty@jgzcpa.com

=

The Supreme Court of Ohio

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

CHIEF JUSTICE

MAUREEN O'CONNOR

JUSTICES

SHARON L. KENNEDY

PATRICK F. FISCHER

R. PATRICK DEWINE

MICHAEL P. DONNELLY

MELODY J. STEWART

JENNIFER BRUNNER

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

(INTERIM)

STEPHANIE E. HESS

TELEPHONE 614.387.9407

FACSIMILE 614.387.9519

supremecourt.ohio.gov

October 12, 2021

**SENT VIA E-MAIL AND
REGULAR MAIL**

Mayor Georgine Welo
City of South Euclid
1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Dear Mayor Welo,

Please accept this letter in response to your request for information regarding the South Euclid Municipal Court. I will first address the items contained in your request for public records and other information.

- (1) The 2020 South Euclid Municipal Court Annual Report.

The Supreme Court of Ohio does not have a copy of the South Euclid Municipal Court's 2020 Annual Report and therefore cannot fulfill this request. According to Ohio Revised Code §1904.14, municipal courts are not required to submit a copy of the annual report to the Supreme Court of Ohio, but instead are required to submit a copy to "the legislative authority and to the board of county commissioners of each county within its territory."

- (2) What date was the 2020 South Euclid Municipal Court's Annual Report delivered to the Supreme Court of Ohio?

As noted above, the Supreme Court of Ohio does not have a copy of the South Euclid Municipal Court's 2020 Annual Report and therefore cannot answer this question.

- (3) All complaints regarding the South Euclid Municipal Court and South Euclid Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers from January 1, 2019 through August 20, 2021.

Although, during the time period stated above, the staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio did not receive any written complaints regarding South Euclid Municipal Court Judge Gayle

Williams-Byers, staff did receive a number of telephone calls in response to the card that was distributed by the South Euclid Police Department. A call log is enclosed as it is deemed responsive to the public records request.

- (4) The effective dates of Judge Gayle Williams-Byers' leave.

Judge Williams-Byers did make a request for a visiting judge, to be assigned to her court for the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The request for a visiting judge is enclosed as it is deemed responsive to the public records request.

- (5) The name of the judge that will be covering the South Euclid Municipal Court, their contact information, and the length of their stay.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor assigned Judge Harry E. Field to the South Euclid Municipal Court in response to the request. Judge Williams-Byers will continue to preside over the specialized docket and will continue to perform all administrative functions throughout the above-mentioned time period. Judge Field will perform other judicial functions as needed. The certificate of assignment is enclosed as it is deemed responsive to the public records request.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court of Ohio's decision in *State ex rel. Dispatch Printing Co. v. Johnson*, 106 Ohio St.3d 160, 2005-Ohio-4384, 833 N.E.2d 274, Judge Field's personal contact information is not a public record.

Throughout the remainder of your letter, you make a number of assertions regarding the South Euclid Municipal Court's financial records and audits. Following discussions with staff in Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office, I have found the following to be true in regards to the South Euclid Municipal Court:

- (1) **2019 Audit** - It is my understanding that the State Auditor's Office plans to close the court's portion, as well as the overall city, 2019 audit, within the next few weeks.
- (2) **2020 Audit** - According to the State Auditor's Office, the request for a contract for an outside auditor to conduct the 2020 audit was made in the regular course of business and is a standard practice.

The issue of mediation between the city and Judge Williams-Byers was also addressed in your letter as well. It is my understanding that former Manager of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Dispute Resolution Section, Cathy Geyer, last mediated with the parties on her last day of employment with the Supreme Court. At that time, I understand that she worked diligently to develop a communication plan that could be used by the parties going forward. Your letter seems to indicate that the timing of Ms. Geyer's departure from the Supreme Court made an impact on the progress of your negotiations. Should the parties wish to continue mediation with another mediator, please contact the Dispute Resolution Section via email at DisputeResolution@sc.ohio.gov and another mediator will be assigned as soon as possible.

You also expressed concern regarding the processing of the court's caseload and its impact on the condition of the evidence room. I will assume that the office that holds statutory authority over the evidence room maintains a current inventory log of the evidence and destroys and/or returns evidence as appropriate.

I understand that local budgets are stretched thin, but please know that there are resources available to the municipal court. The Supreme Court of Ohio offers free security assessments through which our professional security staff will perform a site survey and provide feedback regarding court security needs. Furthermore, the Office of Criminal Justice Services is still accepting grant applications for federal funds to pay for the installation of Plexiglas barriers or other items needed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Judge Williams-Byers is an independently elected official in the state of Ohio and as such, she has the authority to operate her court as she deems necessary, within the confines of her oath of office, the Ohio Revised Code, and the Code of Judicial Conduct. With that being said, the staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio is available to provide resources and support to Judge Williams-Byers, as she requests.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie E. Hess in cursive script.

Stephanie E. Hess
Interim Administrative Director

cc: Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
file

Enclosures

- (1) Call log
- (2) Request for a visiting judge
- (3) Certificate of assignment

South Euclid Municipal Court Call Log

Date	Time	Name	Phone Number	Reason for the call
5/21/2020	4:25 PM	Marty Gelfand	216-659-7089	South Euclid MC - closed where can they take cases
7/9/2020	9:56 AM	Sandra Henderson	216-926-4071	South Euclid MC - unable to pay online or in person
7/17/2020		John Marino	216-956-7071	South Euclid MC - he has been trying to pay a ticket at South Euclid but the online payments is still down and they returned his checks
7/27/2020	9:31 AM	Shira	574-303-9906	Ticket at South Euclid MC
7/27/2020	4:12 PM	Deanette	216-205-9119	License block South Euclid - given a card with our contact info
8/6/2020	8:53 AM	Lavell Taylor	216-501-3703	South Euclid MC - His ticket had today's date but not a time. He arrived at 8:00 and waited 45 minutes. No one was there so a janitor gave him a card with our main line number
8/6/2020	10:32 AM	Shuantane Melton	216-710-7704	South Euclid MC - She tried to call South Euclid for three days but no one answered. She went to court this morning at 8:30 a.m. and the only person there was a clerk. It was an OVI so they took her license that evening.
8/6/2020	3:46 PM	Seyvon Parks	216-848-8975	South Euclid MC - He had court at 8:30 a.m. but no one was there, except other people scheduled for court
8/10/2020	2:32 PM	Kendal for Romayle Perry	440-840-1497	South Euclid MC: They went to court 7/31/20 but the couldn't tell them what to pay to get his license back. They are supposed to go back 8/14/20
8/20/2020	9:50 AM	Jasmine Houston	216-688-5945	South Euclid MC: She hasn't been able to make her payment so I gave her the payment address and information. She also said she has a warrant and can't get another court date to get it removed and get her license back so she can work.
8/20/2020	12:23 PM	Davondre Burkes	216-971-1235	He went to court today but no one was there. He was looking for poverty affidavit for a court appointed attorney.
8/25/2020	11:04 AM	Abdel Ellison	216-414-6584	e paid his ticket a month ago but he's waiting for the court to issue a release to the BMV so he can retake the test for his license.
8/26/2020	2:59 PM	Angela	216-346-8242	South Euclid MC- She has a ticket to pay. I gave her the payment information
9/3/2020	8:40 AM	Sir Michael Dyess	440-278-0992	South Euclid MC: He received a ticket requiring him to appear for court on 9/3 but when he arrived the gates were down. I offered the payment information but he no longer has the ticket. He is concerned about getting a warrant and was given a card with our contact information from the police department.
9/9/2020	9:56 AM	Brett Combs	216-744-0908	South Euclid MC- He called concerning a ticket for disturbing the peace. His court date is 10/1 @ 8:30 a.m. His was given our information by a police officer when he went to the building and found out it is closed until further notice for everything in City Hall
9/9/2020	12:00 PM	Brett Combs	216-744-0908	I left a voicemail with the info to request a hearing at South Euclid MC
9/14/2020	4:20 PM	Shawn D. Mims	216-205-1967	South Euclid MC - (case CRB1400790). He paid his ticket and reinstatement fee (BMV case WB19040122) but he needs the official court release to remove the warrant block from his license. He called four phone numbers but no one answers or returns his calls. He sent an email and month ago and hasn't received a reply so he sent another email while he was on the phone with me.
10/22/2020	8:11 AM	Kamari Wilson	216-757-9763	South Euclid MC - She has court at 8:30 a.m. this morning but the instructions she was given didn't work. She's in the National Guard and just got back last night so she emailed the court at info@secourt.org and didn't get a response. She said she also called before she left for drill. She was driving to the court when she called this morning.
11/13/2020	3:07 PM		216-410-3698	South Euclid MC - I gave him the address to send the payment for his ticket
11/30/2020	8:39 AM	Patrick Caroscio	216-396-4577	South Euclid MC -
12/2/2020	11:46 AM			South Euclid MC -
12/2/2020	1:53 PM		216-712-1113	South Euclid MC: She called to find out how to pay her ticket. I gave her the info and told it can also be found on their website
12/4/2020	2:20 PM		216-468-4984	South Euclid MC: Her ticket didn't have the amount to pay. She's going to look it up on their website and call back if she doesn't find the amount.
12/10/2020	12:06 PM		216-308-5347	South Euclid MC - She needed payment info
12/15/2020	2:19 PM	Sue Chaken ?	814-218-4834	Voicemail: South Euclid MC - about a DV case. She said she's having issues with the Police Department, Law Director and the court and that the case is not moving. She also said that it feels like the court has been on standstill since February.
12/16/2020	2:00 PM	Sue Chaken ?	814-218-4834	South Euclid MC - She called back about her daughters DV case. I gave her the info to request a hearing and sent an email to SGN

South Euclid Municipal Court Call Log

12/18/2020	3:48 PM	Maraio Hall	330-554-2037	South Euclid MC - They called to get certified copies of court summaries, tickets, fines and receipts for their employer. The caller hasn't been able to reach anyone at the court. I gave them the email and phone # I have.
12/23/2020	12:24 PM		216-314-9132	South Euclid MC: He has a ticket that he needs to pay to remove license block. I gave him the payment information but he doesn't want to mail the payment. He also didn't want to give me his name or information.
12/29/2020	9:34 AM	Sue Chaken ?	814-218-4834	Voicemail: South Euclid MC complaint that she called about a month ago but she didn't hear from anyone. She also wants to discuss something about an attorney and magistrate
12/29/2020	12:21 PM	Sue Chaken ?	814-218-4834	I returned her call to give her the ODC info. She also wants to file a complaint against South Euclid MC because she said the bailiff called and threatened her for contacting the SCO 12/15/2020
1/6/2021	10:56 AM		216-324-3628	South Euclid MC: He was trying to pay a ticket so I gave him payment information. He will mail the payment for his son's ticket. The police department gave him our #
1/12/2021	1:54 PM	Derrick Patterson ?	216-727-6474	Voicemail: South Euclid MC he has been trying to get a virtual hearing since December. He wants to get this resolved before they issue a warrant.
1/13/2021	2:11 PM	Derrick Patterson ?	216-727-6474	South Euclid MC he has been trying to get a virtual hearing since December 22nd. This is follow up to a car accident in Lyndhurst. No one is responding to his call or email.
2/23/2021	8:27 AM	Raymonique Stamp	216-262-6509	South Euclid MC - She has a warrant block in South Euclid Municipal Court. She emailed them two weeks ago and didn't get a response so she went to the court yesterday to try to get a walk in court date. They would let her turn herself in to resolve the warrant. She said an officer gave her a card with our contact information. She has a court date for a traffic ticket in another court next week and needs to have the South Euclid matter resolved before she goes to court.
3/1/2021	2:44 PM	Heather	216-246-7378	Voicemail: She called about a ticket in South Euclid Ohio and would like a return call
3/1/2021	2:53 PM	Heather Torbert	216-246-7378	I returned her call about the ticket in South Euclid MC.
3/2/2021	11:07 AM	Heather Torbert	216-246-7378	South Euclid MC - I returned her call and asked her to request a hearing by email to info@secourt.org. She's upset that she call SCO for help and were sending her back to the court. She doesn't feel she should have to pay the additional fees from the warrant and the ones she'll have for the hearing. I told her if she doesn't get a reply to let us know.
4/8/2021		Reginald White	216-825-0431	South Euclid MC - He received a notice for court today at 8:30 a.m. but when he showed up he was told it was virtual and was given a list of numbers to call. He said no one answers the calls or responds to email. I gave him the phone number, email and payment information but he wasn't happy about not being able to pay it in cash at the court.
4/8/2021	8:32 AM	Reginald White	216-825-0431	South Euclid MC -
6/4/2021	1:34 PM			He wanted the information to pay a ticket at South Euclid MC. I gave him the payment information
6/28/2021	9:37 AM		216-659-4813	South Euclid - parking ticket. I gave him the payment info and phone #
6/30/2021	4:47 PM	Traszi Gottschalk	216-417-6238	South Euclid MC: She received a ticket for running a red light. She emailed the court for a hearing and received an email on 5/24. She hasn't received any further information or contact from the court. She called the Police Dept. today and was given 6 phone #'s. Please call her at 440-753-1642.
8/19/2021	1:54 PM	Regina Silver	440-650-9437	Voicemail: South Euclid MC case TRD -000095 She has a block on her license, forfeiture and warrant block for failure to appear but her attorney was in contact with them. She was in contact with collections but they said her case wasn't with them even though there's been pending for over a year with no activity for months. She doesn't know how to get this resolved and the warrant block removed.

Assignment Request Details

Assignment No.	21JA2042	Request Date	07/28/2021
Requesting Court	South Euclid MC	Administrative Judge	Williams-Byers Gayle
Judge to be Assigned	Field Harry E.	Request Type	General
Period	10/01/2021	12/31/2021	Effective Date 08/19/2021
Notes	Medical		
Reasons	Other		
Case Details	Case Number	Case Caption	

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CERTIFICATE OF ASSIGNMENT

The Honorable Harry E. Field, a retired judge of the Willoughby Municipal Court, is assigned effective August 19, 2021 to preside in the South Euclid Municipal Court for the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 and to conclude any proceedings in which he participated that are pending at the end of that period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen O'Connor".

Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice

21JA2042

EXHIBIT D

From: [Judge](#)
To: [Kevin Nietert; "gwelo"](#)
Cc: [Keith Benjamin; joseph.frank@sbcglobal.net; mgelfand@seuclid.com; ruthigray50@gmail.com; friendsofsara@gmail.com; ig@janegoodman.com; tisdaleforsoutheuclid@gmail.com; shardy@seuclid.com; csumpter@secourt.org; jsimmons@secourt.org](#)
Subject: South Euclid Municipal Court COVID-19 Protocol
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:57:37 PM
Attachments: [COVID19_SEMC_Modify.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good afternoon all,

Please see the attached memoranda which will serve as the protocol for the South Euclid Municipal Court employees for the coming weeks. Please note that the South Euclid Municipal Court Clerk's office will remain open remotely with clerks on site intermittently to perform certain tasks required tasks such as mail and payment collections and deposits along with checking for any faxed requests or other information that may have been delivered to the court. Feel free to contact the Clerk of Court, Chardale Sumpter at CSumpter@secourt.org or Chief Administrative Bailiff, Isaiah Simmons at Isimmons@secourt.org should you have any questions.

Thank you for your understanding

Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
</html

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE P. SUMPTER

IN THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

In the matter of
Temporary Order In Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health

Administrative Order 2020-07

On March 17, 2020 this Court issued an Administrative Order making certain findings of fact, and, based upon those findings, this Court has the responsibility to respond and take measures, protecting the public based upon the public health emergency created by COVID-19.

Therefore it is hereby ordered effective as of March 17, 2020; the following temporary mandates will take effect:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claims cases will be continued until the week of April 20, 2020.
2. **Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** Hearings scheduled on the following dates will be continued: March 19, 2020, March 26, 2020, April 2, 2020, April 9, 2020 and April 16, 2020 new dates will be issued.
3. **Traffic/Criminal Pre-Trials and Hearings:** In cases in which the defendant previously waived his/her rights to a speedy trial, all proceedings (pre-trials, status hearings, show cause hearings motion hearings, suppression hearings, probation violation hearings, etc.) will be continued until the week of April 20, 2020. All other hearings must be schedule by calling the Clerk's office at 216.381.2880.
4. **Speedy Trials:** All Bench and Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to the week of April 20, 2020 and beyond and new dates will be issued.
5. **Mental Health Docket:** Will report by telephone at 216.381.2880 or email at probation@secourt.org until further notification.
6. **Housing Docket:** All hearings shall be suspended and rescheduled and resume after April 20, 2020.

7. **Night Court:** All docket shall be suspended and resume on April 23, 2020.
8. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers will report by telephone at 216.381.2880 or email at probation@secourt.org until further notification.
9. **Payments:** The Court will accept payments in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money orders **ONLY**. Please make your check or money order payable to "South Euclid Municipal Court". Please mail your payments to the following address: South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 S. Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121.
10. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings may be accepted fax or email. The Court's fax number is 216.381.1195 and the email address is info@secourt.org. All filings must include the case number as well as complete contact information for the litigant and or requestor.
11. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills must be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information.

Be advised that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal notices of new court dates will be sent as follows: Self-represented Pro Se litigants will receive notice via mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided to the Court. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided notice shall be sent via mail to the last known office address available to the Court. In all events all parties are encouraged to frequently review the Court's online docket at secourt.org for updated information regarding new Court dates.

The Court will continue to monitor and review this situation to determine if additional measures are necessary.

This Order shall remain in effective until further notice from the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Gayle F. Williams-Byers", written in a cursive style.

Judge Gayle F. Williams-Byers

EXHIBIT E

From: csumpter@secourt.org
To: diana.burroughs@sc.ohio
Subject: Emailing: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER COVID-19 JULY 27, 2020, COVID-19 Admin Order_July2020_Update CPS Order 09, COVID-19 Administrative Order 2020 7 CPS 03172020
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 11:42:52 AM
Attachments: [ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER COVID-19 JULY 27, 2020.docx](#)
[COVID-19 Admin Order July2020 Update CPS Order 09.doc](#)
[COVID-19 Administrative Order 2020 7 CPS 03172020.doc](#)

Good Morning Diana Burroughs,

Thank you for taking the time to speak to me this morning by telephone.

I have attached to this email the a copy of the Court's COVID-19 Administrative Orders commencing March 20, 2020

You may reach out to me at 216.318.2880, ext. 230 or by email at csumpter@secourt.org if you should have any questions or concerns.

Best regards and be safe,

Chardale P. Sumpter
Clerk of Court
216.3821.2880 ext. 230
216.381.1195 FAX
csumpter@secourt.org

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER COVID-19 JULY 27, 2020
COVID-19 Admin Order_July2020_Update CPS Order 09
COVID-19 Administrative Order 2020 7 CPS 03172020

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

SEMC COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-11

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE P. SUMPTER

In the matter of
Temporary Order in Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health Pandemic

Administrative Order 2020-11



On September 21, 2020, this court hereby issues the following Administrative Order and makes the following findings of fact: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Euclid Municipal Court has worked to continue court operations while protecting the health of court employees, justice system partners and stakeholders as well as the general public. The Ohio Supreme Court's Guidance to Courts throughout Ohio regarding COVID-19 issued on May 18, 2020 remains largely valid with the noted modifications as adopted in this Order. Consistent with said guidance, this court finds it necessary to exercise caution as it relates to those who are required to participate in in-person court appearances. The Ohio Supreme Court has instructed Ohio courts to only require personal court appearances in cases of immediate need. To facilitate this goal, ensure litigant accountability, provide a safe courthouse environment and decrease incidences where litigants have failed to appear as required, this court shall utilize technology and conduct virtual hearings for all proceedings except otherwise specified and until such time where this Order is terminated. Further, this court finds the following temporary mandates shall be and remain in effect until further order by this court:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claim pretrial cases where there is no immediate need for an in-person hearing, shall be held virtually or by telephone upon notice by the court. Parties shall receive confirmed court dates via U.S. mail or email, *based upon information previously provided to the Court. Litigants are responsible for contacting the Court to update all contact information.* The South Euclid Municipal Court can be contacted at (216) 381-2880 ext. 298, by fax at (216) 381-1195 or at info@secourt.org.
2. **Evictions:** All eviction matters where there is no immediate need for an in in-person hearing, both first and second cause hearings shall be held virtually or by telephone upon notice by the court. Parties shall receive confirmed court dates via U.S. mail or email, *based upon information previously provided to the Court. Litigants are responsible for contacting the Court to update all contact information.* The South Euclid Municipal Court can be contacted at (216) 381-2880 ext. 298, by fax at (216) 381-1195 or at info@secourt.org.

- 3. Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** All Arraignment hearings where there is no immediate need for an in-person hearing, shall be conducted virtually. Defendants are required to contact the Court and schedule a hearing to advance their case. Defendants and parties may also visit the Court's online docket at: www.secourt.org. **ALL DEFENDANTS WILL RECEIVE NOTICE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR HEARING CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY (BY TELEPHONE OR TELECONFERENCE) ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REQUEST A "VIRTUAL" HEARING ONCE CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT.** For additional information or instructions on how to arrange a virtual hearing, please email your information including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the South Euclid Municipal Court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 298, or by fax at (216) 381-1195. **IF YOUR CITATION INDICATES AN "ON SITE" HEARING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL. THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THIS "ON SITE" HEARING DATE IS INCORRECT. ALL COURT HEARINGS ARE HELD VIRTUALLY AS INDICATED THROUGHOUT THIS ORDER.**
- 4. Traffic/Criminal Pretrials and Hearings:** All traffic/criminal pretrial hearings where there is no immediate need for an in-person hearing, shall be held virtually or by telephone by ORDER of the Court. Parties shall receive new court dates via U.S. mail or by email, *if previously provided to the court*. Litigants are responsible for contacting the Court to update all contact information. To request a hearing, please email your information including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 298, or by fax at (216) 381-1195. **IF YOUR CITATION INDICATES AN "ON SITE" HEARING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL. THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THIS "ON SITE" HEARING DATE IS INCORRECT. ALL COURT HEARINGS ARE HELD VIRTUALLY AS INDICATED THROUGHOUT THIS ORDER.**
- 5. Bench Trials and Evidentiary Hearings:** All Bench Trials and Evidentiary Hearings where there is no immediate need for an in-person hearing, shall be conducted virtually. The Court shall schedule a final logistical meeting with all attorneys and pro-se litigants in advance of the hearing date to ensure proper understanding of the process for said hearings.
- 6. Jury Trials:** Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to further notice by the Court. Until such time that the South Euclid Municipal Court is assured that the South Euclid Municipal Complex has become a suitable environment to protect the health and safety of the public, jurors, litigants,

attorneys and court staff during this pandemic. Whereas, currently, the South Euclid Municipal Complex fails to provide any six feet markings to promote proper social distancing, hand sanitizing stations at all entrances into the building, temperature checks for entrants or in the alternative a thermometer for entering parties to conduct said checks personally, emergency disposable face masks for the public and a consistently enforced mask policy for City employees while in the Municipal building. For these reasons, this Court finds the Municipal Complex to be at increased risk of COVID-19 virus transmission and ill-suited for public visitation.

7. **F.R.E.E. Specialized Mental Health Docket:** Participating clients shall continue to regularly report virtually, by telephone at 216.381.2880 ext. 223 or by email at probation@secourt.org as directed by the South Euclid Municipal Court and Probation Department. Clients shall also maintain communication with all service providers, mentors and support system participants while complying with all treatment plan requirements.
8. **Night Court Docket:** The Night Court Docket shall remain suspended until further notice.
9. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers and first offender participants shall report by telephone at (216) 381-2880 ext. 223, email at probation@secourt.org or virtually until further notice.
10. **Payments:** The South Euclid Municipal Court will **ONLY** accept payment in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money order. Please make your check or money order payable to "South Euclid Municipal Court" and mail to the following address:

**South Euclid Municipal Court
1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121**

NOTE THAT PAYMENT OF ANY FINE, FEE (WHETHER FILING FEE OR OTHERWISE) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE SOUTH EUCLID POLICE DEPARTMENT. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE ANY PAYMENTS, SCHEDULE ANY HEARINGS OR ASK ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT AT THE SOUTH EUCLID POLICE DEPARTMENT. FURTHER, IF YOUR CITATION INDICATES AN "ON SITE" HEARING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT AT (216) 281-2880 EXT. 298 OR AT INFO@SECOURT.ORG PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL. THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THIS "ON SITE" HEARING DATE IS INCORRECT, AS ALL COURT HEARINGS ARE HELD VIRTUALLY AS INDICATED IN THIS ORDER.

11. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings may be accepted by fax at (216) 381-1195, email at info@secourt.org or mail at South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 South Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121, Attn. Clerk of Courts. All filings must include the case number as well as complete information for the litigator and/or requestor.
12. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills shall be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information for all parties.

It is further ORDERED by this court that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal, notices of new court dates shall be sent as follows: Self-represented/Pro Se litigants will receive notice via U.S. mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided, notice shall be sent via U.S. mail to the last known office address provided. In all events, parties are encouraged to frequently review the South Euclid Municipal Court online docket at www.secourt.org for current information regarding rescheduled hearing dates.

Further, be advised that the South Euclid Municipal Court continues to reassess and monitor the changing conditions during this global pandemic and hereby issues this Order with the intent to be consistent with the guidance that is issued and outlined by the Ohio Supreme Court. As such and given the current circumstances, all litigants and parties are ORDERED to appear unless excused by the Court. **To schedule a hearing, contact South Euclid Municipal Court using any of the following methods:**

Fax: (216) 381-1195

Email: Info@secourt.org

Phone: (216) 381-2880 ext. 298

Your case can only be scheduled if you have **AND** provide the court with your current email address. This email address will be used to provide you with the virtual hearing “court date” information. **YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE HEARING BY TELEPHONE USING THE “DIAL IN OPTION” EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER ON THE DATE OF YOUR SCHEDULED HEARING.**

When you contact the court to request your hearing, be prepared to provide the following information:

Full name as listed on the complaint or citation

Current telephone number

Current email address

Date of the complaint/citation

Name of the charge (so that the case can be properly researched and matched to the proper litigant)

Shortly following your request, you will receive an emailed “invitation” notifying you of your

1349 South Green Road • South Euclid, Ohio 44121 (216) 381-2880 • Fax
(216) 381-1195

hearing date and time. It will be necessary for you to follow the instructions provided to access the FREE videoconferencing tool for your hearing – whether you attend by video or by phone.

You are welcome to email any questions or concerns about this process to info@secourt.org or contact the Clerk of Courts office at (216) 381-2880 ext. 298 no less than 48 hours before your hearing date. This will allow the court enough time to address your concern without delaying your hearing.

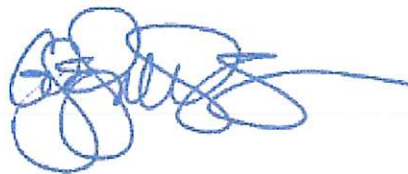
Because the hearings are held virtually, it is important that you “arrive”/log in on time. Please be respectful and remain silent by placing your mobile phone or computer on “mute” while others are speaking. If appearing by video, please dress appropriately as if you are appearing in the “actual” or native courtroom environment. Finally, please hold any questions you have until your case is called.

As these are difficult times for everyone involved, I, along with the staff of the South Euclid Municipal Court, appreciate your cooperation with the court’s technological approach to ensuring continued access to justice.

Consistent with the guidance provided from the Ohio Supreme Court, the South Euclid Municipal Court will continue to monitor and review this ORDER to determine if additional measures are necessary to appropriately address case flow management and resolution.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
Administrative and Presiding Judge
South Euclid Municipal Court

Journalized on 09/18/2020
By J McCown

SEMC COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-10

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE P. SUMPTER

In the matter of
Temporary Order in Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health Pandemic

Administrative Order 2020-10



On July 27, 2020, this court hereby issues the following Administrative Order and makes the following findings of fact: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Euclid Municipal Court has worked to continue court operations while protecting the health of court employees, justice system partners and stakeholders as well as the general public. The Ohio Supreme Court's Guidance to Local Courts regarding COVID-19 issued on May 18, 2020 remains largely valid with the noted modifications as adopted in this Order. Consistent with said guidance, this court finds it necessary to exercise caution as it relates to those who are required to participate in in-person court appearances. The Ohio Supreme Court has instructed Ohio courts to only require personal court appearances in cases of immediate need. To facilitate this goal, ensure litigant accountability, provide a safe courthouse environment, decrease incidences where litigants have failed to appear as required, this court shall utilize technology and conduct virtual hearings for all proceedings except otherwise specified and until such time where this Order is terminated. Further, this court finds the following temporary mandates shall be and remain in effect until further order by this court:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claim pretrial cases shall be held virtually or by telephone upon agreement by the parties or upon notice by the court. Hearings for all matters shall be rescheduled to begin the week of July 27, 2020. Parties shall receive a new court date via U.S. mail or by email, *if previously provided to the court.*
2. **Evictions:** All eviction matters, both first and second cause hearings shall be held virtually or by telephone upon agreement by the parties or upon notice by the court. Hearings for all matters shall be rescheduled to the week of July 27, 2020. Parties shall receive a new court date via U.S. mail or via email, in the event that one has been provided to the court.
3. **Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** All Arraignment hearings shall be conducted virtually. Defendants are required to contact the court and schedule a hearing to advance the case. Defendants and parties may also visit the court's online docket at: www.secourt.org. **ALL DEFENDANTS WILL RECEIVE NOTICE OF AN**

OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR HEARING CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY (BY TELEPHONE OR TELECONFERENCE) ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REQUEST A “VIRTUAL” HEARING ONCE CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT. For additional information or instructions on how to arrange a virtual hearing, please email your information including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the South Euclid Municipal Court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 563, or by fax at (216) 381-1195.

4. **Traffic/Criminal Pretrials and Hearings:** All traffic/criminal pretrial hearings shall be held virtually or by telephone upon agreement by the parties or by ORDER of the court. Parties shall receive new court dates via U.S. mail or by email, *if previously provided to the court.* To request a hearing, please email your information including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 563, or by fax at (216) 381-1195. **Note, if you want to have your case heard “virtually,” you may do so by requesting the case be scheduled for hearing.**
5. **Speedy Trial:** All Bench and Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to the week of September 20, 2020 or beyond. New trial dates shall be issued to the parties via U.S. mail or by email, if previously provided to the Court. **The Court began tracking the changes and increases in COVID-19 throughout Cuyahoga County and specially the generalized South Euclid area and concluded ALL jury trials shall hereby be continued until the week of October 5, 2020.**
6. **F.R.E.E. Specialized Mental Health Docket:** Client participants shall regularly report virtually, by telephone at 216.381.2880 ext. 223 or by email at probation@secourt.org as directed by the South Euclid Municipal Court and Probation Department. Clients shall also maintain communication with all service providers, mentors and support system participants during this time.
7. **Housing Docket:** All hearings shall resume during the week of August 3, 2020.
8. **Night Court Docket:** The Night Court Docket may resume on Thursday October 29, 2020.
9. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers and first offender participants shall report by telephone at (216) 381-2880 ext. 223 or by email at probation@secourt.org until further notice.
10. **Payments:** The South Euclid Municipal Court will **ONLY** accept payment in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money order. Please make your check or money order payable to “South Euclid Municipal Court” and mail to the following address:
South Euclid Municipal Court

1349 South Green Road • South Euclid, Ohio 44121 (216) 381-2880 • Fax
(216) 381-1195

**1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121**

11. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings may be accepted by fax at (216) 381-1195, email at info@secourt.org or mail at South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 South Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121, Attn. Clerk of Courts. All filings must include the case number as well as complete information for the litigator and/or requestor.
12. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills must be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information for all parties.

It is further ORDERED by this court that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal, notices of new court dates shall be sent as follows: Self-represented/Pro Se litigants will receive notice via U.S. mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided, notice shall be sent via U.S. mail to the last known office address provided. In all events, parties are encouraged to frequently review the South Euclid Municipal Court online docket at www.secourt.org for current information regarding rescheduled hearing dates.

Further, be advised that the South Euclid Municipal Court continues to reassess and monitor the changing conditions during this global pandemic. This ORDER takes into consideration that some cases are appropriate for “virtual” hearing and therefore the court may schedule these matters set sua sponte (on the court’s own motion). Under these circumstances, all litigants are ORDERED to appear unless excused by the court. For litigants who desire a “virtual” hearing, whether self-represented or represented by counsel, a request can be made by contacting the South Euclid Municipal Court via one of the following methods:

Fax: (216) 381-1195

Email: Info@secourt.org

Phone: (216) 381-2880 ext. 563

Your case can only be scheduled if you have **AND** provide the court with your current email address. This email address will be used to provide you with the virtual hearing “court date” information. **YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE HEARING BY TELEPHONE USING THE “DIAL IN OPTION” EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER ON THE DATE OF YOUR SCHEDULED HEARING.**

When you contact the court to request your hearing, be prepared to provide the following information:

Full name as listed on the complaint or citation

Current telephone number

Current email address

Date of the complaint/citation

**1349 South Green Road • South Euclid, Ohio 44121 (216) 381-2880 • Fax
(216) 381-1195**

Name of the charge (so that the case can be properly researched and matched to the proper litigant)

Shortly following your request, you will receive an emailed “invitation” notifying you of your hearing date and time. It will be necessary for you to follow the instructions provided to access the FREE videoconferencing tool for your hearing – whether you attend by video or by phone.

You are welcome to email any questions or concerns about this process to info@secourt.org or contact the Clerk of Courts office at (216) 381-2880 ext. 563 no less than 48 hours before your hearing date. This will allow the court enough time to address your concern without delaying your hearing.

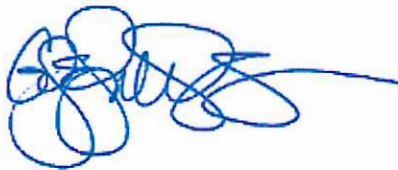
Because the hearings are held virtually, it is important that you “arrive”/log in on time. Please be respectful and remain silent by placing your mobile phone or device on “mute” while others are speaking. If appearing by video, please dress appropriately as if you are appearing in the “actual” courtroom. Finally, please hold any questions you have until your case is called.

As these are difficult times for everyone involved, I, along with the staff of the South Euclid Municipal Court, appreciate your cooperation with the court’s technological approach to ensuring continued access to justice.

Consistent with the guidance provided from the Ohio Supreme Court, the South Euclid Municipal Court will continue to monitor and review this ORDER to determine if additional measures are necessary to appropriately address case management and resolution.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
Administrative and Presiding Judge
South Euclid Municipal Court

JOURNALIZED ON: July 27, 2020
BY: C.F. Sumpter

SEMC COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-09

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE P. SUMPTER

In the matter of
Temporary Order in Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health Pandemic

Administrative Order 2020-09



On May 18, 2020, this court hereby issues the following Administrative Order and makes the following findings of fact: The Ohio Supreme Court's Guidance to Local Courts regarding COVID-19 issued on March 30, 2020 remains valid. This court further finds that it is in the public's interest that where possible, and consistent with the Ohio Supreme Court's guidance, that conducting virtual hearings helps to ensure public safety through the consistent practice of proper social distancing which preserves the health and wellbeing of court staff, litigants and the public at large. Further, this court finds that consistent with its responsibility to maintain adequate access to justice while balancing these important safety requirements, the following temporary mandates shall be and remain in effect until further order by this court:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claim pretrial cases shall be held virtually or by telephone upon agreement by the parties or upon notice by the court. All civil/small claim trials shall be rescheduled to begin the week of July 27, 2020. Parties shall receive a new court date via U.S. mail or by email, if previously provided to the court.
2. **Evictions:** All eviction matters, both first and second cause hearings shall be stayed until further Order of the court.
3. **Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** All Arraignment hearings scheduled through July 27, 2020 shall be issued new hearing dates via U. S. mail. This information will also be available for review on the court's online docket at www.secourt.org. **ALL DEFENDANTS WILL RECEIVE NOTICE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR HEARING CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY (BY TELEPHONE OR TELECONFERENCE) ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REQUEST A "VIRTUAL" HEARING.** For additional information, please email your request including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the South Euclid Municipal Court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213, or by fax at (216) 381-1195.
4. **Traffic/Criminal Pretrials and Hearings:** In cases where the defendant previously waived his/her rights to a speedy trial, proceedings (pre-trials, status hearings, show

cause hearings, motion hearings, suppression hearings, sentencings, probation violation hearings, etc.) may be continued until the week of July 27, 2020. Hearings on these and other matters may be conducted virtually upon ORDER by the court or request of the parties. **Note, if you want to have your case heard “virtually,” you may do so by requesting the case be scheduled for hearing.** To request a hearing, please email your send an email including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213, or by fax at (216) 381-1195.

5. **Speedy Trial:** All Bench and Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to the week of July 27, 2020 or beyond. New trial dates shall be issued to the parties via U.S. mail or by email if previously provided to the Court.
6. **F.R.E.E. Specialized Mental Health Docket:** Client participants shall regularly report virtually, by telephone at 216.381.2880 ext.223 or by email at probation@secourt.org as directed by the South Euclid Municipal Court and Probation Department. Clients shall also maintain communication with all service providers, mentors and support system participants during this time.
7. **Housing Docket:** All hearings shall be rescheduled until the week of July 27, 2020.
8. **Night Court Docket:** The Night Court Docket may resume on Thursday August 28, 2020.
9. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers and first offender participants shall report by telephone at (216) 381-2880 ext. 223 or by email at probation@secourt.org until further notice.
10. **Payments:** The South Euclid Municipal Court will **ONLY** accept payment in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money order. Please make your check or money order payable to “South Euclid Municipal Court” and mail to the following address:
**South Euclid Municipal Court
1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121**
11. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings may be accepted by fax at (216) 381-1195, email at info@secourt.org or mail at South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 South Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121, Attn. Clerk of Courts. All filings must include the case number as well as complete information for the litigator and/or requestor.

12. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills must be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information for all parties.

It is further ORDERED by this court that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal, notices of new court dates shall be sent as follows: Self-represented/Pro Se litigants will receive notice via U.S. mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided, notice shall be sent via U.S. mail to the last known office address provided. In all events, parties are encouraged to frequently review the South Euclid Municipal Court online docket at www.secourt.org for current information regarding rescheduled hearing dates.

Further, be advised that the South Euclid Municipal Court continues to reassess and monitor the changing conditions during this global pandemic. This ORDER takes into consideration that some cases are appropriate for “virtual” hearing and therefore shall be set sua sponte (on the court’s own motion). Under these circumstances, all litigants are ORDERED to appear unless excused by the court. For litigants who desire a “virtual” hearing, whether self-represented or represented by counsel, a request can be made by contacting the South Euclid Municipal Court via one of the following methods:

Fax: (216) 381-1195

Email: Info@secourt.org

Phone: (216) 381-2880 ext. 213

Your case can only be scheduled if you have **AND** provide the court with your current email address. This email address will be used to provide you with the virtual hearing “court date” information. **YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE HEARING BY TELEPHONE USING THE “DIAL IN OPTION” EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER ON THE DATE OF YOUR SCHEDULED HEARING.**

When you contact the court to request your hearing, be prepared to provide the following information:

Full name as listed on the complaint or citation

Current telephone number

Current email address

Date of the complaint/citation

Name of the charge (so that the case can be properly researched and matched to the proper litigant)

Shortly following your request, you will receive an emailed “invitation” notifying you of your hearing date and time. It will be necessary for you to follow the instructions provided to access the FREE videoconferencing tool for your hearing – whether you attend by video or by phone.

You are welcome to email any questions or concerns about this process to info@secourt.org or contact the Clerk of Courts office at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213 no less than 48 hours before your

1349 South Green Road • South Euclid, Ohio 44121 (216) 381-2880 • Fax
(216) 381-1195

hearing date. This will allow the court enough time to address your concern without delaying your hearing.

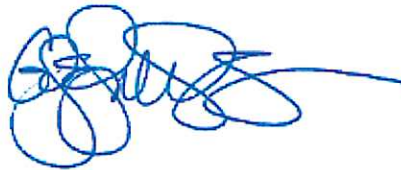
Because the hearings are held virtually, it is important that you “arrive”/log in on time. Please be respectful and remain silent by placing your phone or device on “mute” while others are speaking. If appearing by video, please dress appropriately as if you are appearing in the “actual” courtroom. Finally, please hold any questions you have until your case is called.

As these are difficult times for everyone involved, I, along with the staff of the South Euclid Municipal Court, appreciate your willingness to engage innovation as we work to utilize technology in new ways and ensure your continued access to justice.

Consistent with the guidance provided from the Ohio Supreme Court, the South Euclid Municipal Court will continue to monitor and review this ORDER to determine if additional measures are necessary and available in addressing case management and resolution.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
Administrative and Presiding Judge
South Euclid Municipal Court

JOURNALIZED ON: May 18, 2020
BY: [Signature]

SEMC COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-08

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE P. SUMPTER

In the matter of
Temporary Order in Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health Pandemic

Administrative Order 2020-08



On April 2, 2020, this Court hereby issues the following Administrative Order and makes the following findings of fact and, based upon those findings, this Court consistent with its responsibility to respond to and take measures to protect the public based upon the public health emergency created by COVID-19 hereby ORDERS the following temporary mandates which shall be and remain in effect:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claim pretrial cases shall be held virtually or by telephone upon request by the parties. All civil/small claim trials shall be rescheduled to begin the week of May 24, 2020. Parties shall receive a new court date via U.S. mail or by email, if previously provided to the Court.
2. **Evictions:** All eviction matters, both first and second cause hearings shall be stayed until further Order of the Court.
3. **Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** All Arraignment hearings scheduled from the month of March through the end of May shall be issued new and updated hearing dates via U. S. mail. This information will also be available for review on the court's online docket at www.secourt.org. **Note, if you want to have your case heard BEFORE the rescheduled hearing date, you may request a "virtual" hearing.** To do so, please email your request including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213, or by fax at (216) 381-1195.
4. **Traffic/Criminal Pretrials and Hearings:** In cases where the defendant previously waived his/her rights to a speedy trial, all proceedings (pre-trials, status hearings, show cause hearings, motion hearings, suppression hearings, sentencings, probation violation hearings, etc.) may be continued until the week of May 24, 2020. **Note, if you want to have your case heard BEFORE the rescheduled hearing date, you may request a "virtual" hearing.** To do so, please email your request including your name, case type and contact information to: info@secourt.org, or contact the court at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213, or by fax at (216) 381-1195.

5. **Speedy Trial:** All Bench and Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to the week of May 24, 2020 or beyond. New trial dates shall be issued to the parties via U.S. mail or by email if previously provided to the Court.
6. **F.R.E.E. Specialized Mental Health Docket:** Client participants shall regularly report virtually, by telephone at 216.381.2880 ext.223 or by email at probation@secourt.org as directed by the South Euclid Municipal Court and Probation Department. Clients shall also maintain communication with all service providers, mentors and support system participants during this time.
7. **Housing Docket:** All hearings shall be rescheduled until the week of May 31, 2020.
8. **Night Court Docket:** The Night Court Docket may resume on Thursday May 28, 2020.
9. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers and first offender participants shall report by telephone at (216) 381-2880 ext. 223 or by email at probation@secourt.org until further notice.
10. **Payments:** The South Euclid Municipal Court will **ONLY** accept payment in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money order. Please make your check or money order payable to "South Euclid Municipal Court" and mail to the following address:
**South Euclid Municipal Court
1349 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121**
11. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings may be accepted by fax at (216) 381-1195, email at info@secourt.org or mail at South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 South Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121, Attn. Clerk of Courts. All filings must include the case number as well as complete information for the litigator and/or requestor.
12. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills must be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information for all parties.

Note that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal, notices of new court dates will be sent as follows: Self-represented/Pro Se litigants will receive notice via U.S. mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided to the Court. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided, notice shall be sent via U.S. mail to the last known office address available to the Court. In all events, parties are encouraged to frequently review the

Court's online docket at www.secourt.org for up to date information regarding reissued Court dates.

Further, be advised that the South Euclid Municipal Court continues to reassess its ability to provide continued access to justice during this time of global pandemic. As noted throughout this Order, it has been determined that some cases can be heard using "virtual" technology. Any party who wants to have a "virtual" hearing, whether self-represented or represented by counsel may make their request to the Court. A determination of whether the hearing can reasonably and practicably be honored will be determined on a case-by-case basis. To make a request, contact the court using one of the following methods:

Fax: (216) 381-1195

Email: Info@secourt.org

Phone: (216) 381-2880 ext. 213

Your case can only be scheduled if you have **AND** provide the court with your current email address. This email address will be used to provide you with the virtual hearing "court date" information. **YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE HEARING BY TELEPHONE USING THE "DIAL IN OPTION" EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER ON THE DATE OF YOUR SCHEDULED HEARING.**

When you contact the court to request your hearing, be prepared to provide the following information:

Full name as listed on the complaint or citation

Current telephone number

Current email address

Date of the complaint/citation

Name of the charge (so that the case can be properly researched and matched to the proper litigant)

Shortly following your request, you will receive an emailed "invitation" notifying you of your hearing date and time. It will be necessary for you to follow the instructions provided to access the FREE videoconferencing tool for your hearing – whether you attend by video or by phone.

You are welcome to email any questions or concerns about this process to info@secourt.org or contact the Clerk of Courts office at (216) 381-2880 ext. 213 no less than 48 hours before your hearing date. This will allow the court enough time to address your concern without delaying your hearing any further.

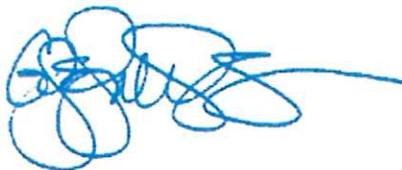
Because the hearings are held virtually, it is important that you "arrive"/log in on time. Please be respectful and remain silent by placing your phone or device on "mute" while others are speaking. Finally, please hold any questions you have until your case is called.

As these are difficult times for everyone involved, I, along with the staff of the South Euclid Municipal Court, appreciate your willingness to engage innovation as we work to employ technology in new ways and ensure your continued access to justice.

The Court will continue to monitor and review this situation to determine if additional measures are necessary.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice from the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers
Administrative and Presiding Judge
South Euclid Municipal Court

JOURNALIZED ON
(DATE) 4.2.2020 BY: JWC

SEMC COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-07

SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT



JUDGE
Gayle Williams-Byers

CLERK OF COURT
CHARDALE R. SUMNER

IN THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO



In the matter of
Temporary Order In Response To The
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Public Health

Administrative Order 2020-07

On March 17, 2020 this Court issued an Administrative Order making certain findings of fact, and, based upon those findings, this Court has the responsibility to respond and take measures, protecting the public based upon the public health emergency created by COVID-19.

Therefore it is hereby ordered effective as of March 17, 2020; the following temporary mandates will take effect:

1. **Civil/Small Claims Cases:** All civil/small claims cases will be continued until the week of April 20, 2020.
2. **Traffic/Criminal Arraignments:** Hearings scheduled on the following dates will be continued: March 19, 2020, March 26, 2020, April 2, 2020, April 9, 2020 and April 16, 2020 new dates will be issued.
3. **Traffic/Criminal Pre-Trials and Hearings:** In cases in which the defendant previously waived his/her rights to a speedy trial, all proceedings (pre-trials, status hearings, show cause hearings motion hearings, suppression hearings, probation violation hearings, etc.) will be continued until the week of April 20, 2020. All other hearings must be schedule by calling the Clerk's office at 216.381.2880.
4. **Speedy Trials:** All Bench and Jury Trials not subject to Speedy Trial violations shall be rescheduled to the week of April 20, 2020 and beyond and new dates will be issued.
5. **Mental Health Docket:** Will report by telephone at 216.381.2880 or email at probation@secourt.org until further notification.
6. **Housing Docket:** All hearings shall be suspended and rescheduled and resume after April 20, 2020.

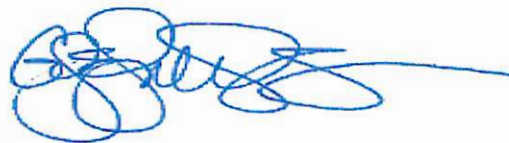
7. **Night Court:** All docket shall be suspended and resume on April 23, 2020.
8. **Probation Reporting:** All probationers will report by telephone at 216.381.2880 or email at probation@secourt.org until further notification.
9. **Payments:** The Court will accept payments in the form of a personal, cashier or certified check or money orders **ONLY**. Please make your check or money order payable to "South Euclid Municipal Court". Please mail your payments to the following address: South Euclid Municipal Court, 1349 S. Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121.
10. **Traffic/Criminal and Civil/Small Claims Filings:** All filings maybe accepted fax or email. The Court's fax number is 216.381.1195 and the email address is info@secourt.org. All filings must include the case number as well as complete contact information for the litigant and or requestor.
11. **Attorney Fee Bills:** All fee bills must be submitted to the Court via fax and must include complete case numbers on all documents and complete contact information.

Be advised that for all continued court dates whether Civil/Small Claims or Traffic/Criminal notices of new court dates will be sent as follows: Self-represented Pro Se litigants will receive notice via mail of the new hearing date at the last known address provided to the Court. Attorneys including appointed counsel on criminal cases will receive notice via email or in the event that no email address is noted or provided notice shall be sent via mail to the last know office address available to the Court. In all events all parties are encourage to frequently to review the Court's online docket at secourt.org for updated information regarding new Court dates.

The Court will continue to monitor and review this situation to determine if additional measures are necessary.

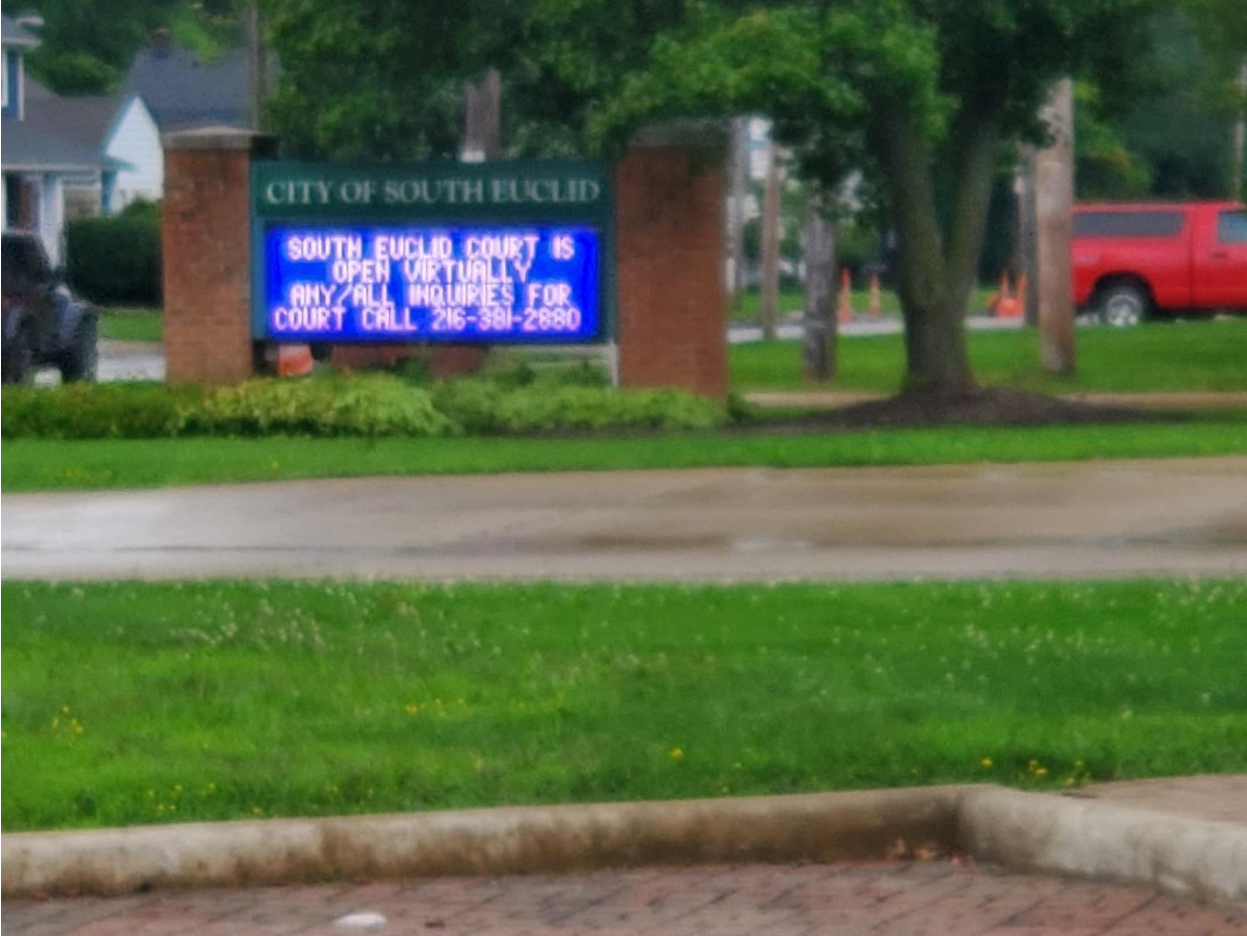
This Order shall remain in effective until further notice from the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Gayle F. Williams-Byers

JOURNALIZED ON: March 17, 2020
BY: C. J. Sumpter



THERE ARE NO IN-
PERSON COURT
HEARINGS BEING HELD
AT THIS TIME. ALL
HEARING ARE
VIRTUAL.

IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT
YOUR CASE, DO NOT
CONTACT THE S.E.
POLICE DEPARTMENT.

CONTACT THE SOUTH
EUCLID MUNICIPAL
COURT AT 216-381-
2880 EXT 298 OR VIA
EMAIL
AT
INFO@SECOURT.ORG

EXHIBIT G

From: [George D. Jonson](#)
To: [Michael Lograsso](#)
Subject: RE: JUST FYI RE THE COURT [MOJO-MOJO.FID15098]
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:02:36 PM
Attachments: [2021 Proposed Budget\(231177.4\).pdf](#)

Mike,

Here is the budget. Is there time to circulate this for tonight? Do you want the judge to come to the meeting? Give a call. g

George D. Jonson | Partner
MONTGOMERY JONSON LLP
600 Vine Street, Suite 2650 | Cincinnati, OH | 45202
Tel: 513.768.5220 | Fax: 513.768.9220
gjonson@mojolaw.com
www.mojolaw.com



The electronic message from Montgomery Jonson LLP may contain attorney-client information that is privileged at law and/or health information that is protected by federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify us by telephone at 513.241.4722 or reply to the sender.

From: [George D. Jonson](#)
To: [Kimberly V. Riley](#)
Subject: Judge Gayle [MOJO-MOJO.FID15098]
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:37:35 PM

- 1) I told Mike the judge said to take 5K off of her=misc line item. He is good with that
- 2) He fell asleep on the Henshen funding – he=will get back on that now
- 3) He wants to put you and Brenda together again to=figure out why your numbers don't match. (??)
- 4) He is waiting for our draft press release. =I told him we weren't quite done with it yet – you needed to r=view and then I need the judge's input.

George D. Jonson | Partner

MONTGOMERY JONSON LLP

600 Vine Street, Suite 2650 | Cincinnati, OH | 45202 Tel: 513.768.5220 | Fax:
513.768.9220

gjonson@mojolaw.com

www.mojolaw.com

Logo JPEG copy



From: [Tyessa Howard](#)
To: [gayleb326](#)
Subject: Additional Text
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:13:28 PM

Good morning. I am following up to confirm receipt of the report and photos I sent to both you and Jim Anderson last week of the retrofitted courtrooms and Clerk area at Cuyahoga County. I saw Jim this morning and he confirmed receipt of the report and photos. He remains concerned that the project lacks appropriate funding. I indicated to him that you committed to me that the funding for these important barriers and supplies would be released and made available to the Court. By the way, have you determined how much CARES Act money remains? As part of our recent discussion, we were to follow up on that point as well. In my brief conversation with Jim, I indicated your commitment to pay for the Court's needs, wherein he stated that he had spoken to you this morning with no indication of such commitment. Can we schedule a time to reconnect? It may also be helpful to include Jim since he will be responsible for coordinating much of this project. I would like to avoid as much confusion as possible. Thank you.

Good evening. I have left you a voice mail following up on the earlier text message from today. In addition to discussing the matters mentioned in that message, I would also like to discuss the recent salary ordinance being considered for passage.
Looking forward to connecting.

I am in a meeting until 8 or so.

I can be available after your meeting.

Councilman, I am following up on our conversation a week or so ago. During that time, you committed to forwarding to me the final version of the newly passed salary ordinance. I indicated that in our prior discussions, there was a commitment by both you and Councilwoman Gray to include Court employees when the salaries were reviewed. However, the recently passed ordinance seems to have excluded these employees from consideration. In fact, it seems that Court employees are the ONLY class of employees that were excluded in the final and passed version. In our conversation, you seemed to believe otherwise and committed to sending me the version that reflected the inclusion of Court employees. I wanted to remind you to please send it along for my record and corrected understanding. My email address is: GayleB326@gmail.com
Thank you.

Sorry, I was unavailable last 2 days. I will call you after 7pm tonight

Hello Councilman. We did not connect yesterday. I was waiting for your call after 7pm and did not receive it. When are you available today?

When I did not hear back from you thought you were unavailable. Are you available after 7pm tonight?

Yes.

Ok

Councilman, I delayed attending a 7pm meeting, awaiting your call. Once again, we were not able to connect. Given that this is the second consecutive day of our attempt, please advise of a time you are actually available to discuss this important matter as I am eager to work toward a resolution. Thank you.

I was calling you as this text was coming in. Left vm. Let me know when you are available

Since many offices are closed tomorrow in honor of Juneteenth...not certain if yours is among them, I can be available tomorrow between 9am and 3pm? If your schedule permits, please advise. From there, we can narrow

down to a more specific time. Thank you.

Unfortunately we are not closed and i will be here until 7pm

Let's try on Monday at 7pm? My husband and I have plans to honor Juneteenth through volunteerism and this weekend is Father's Day...which leads me to this.....Have a blessed Father's Day, Councilman.

Monday 6/22 at 7pm

Confirmed. I will look for your call.

Have a wonderful Holiday weekend

Thank you. To you as well.

2% raises will be in the 7/2 pay. Retroactive will be in 7/16 pay.

Thank you very much.

Please give me a call at your convenience. We have not completed our discussion regarding the salary ordinance that specifically EXCLUDED all Court employees. It would be helpful to revisit this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

EXHIBIT G

From: [George D. Jonson](#)
To: [Michael Lograsso](#)
Subject: RE: JUST FYI RE THE COURT [MOJO-MOJO.FID15098]
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:02:36 PM
Attachments: [2021 Proposed Budget\(231177.4\).pdf](#)

Mike,

Here is the budget. Is there time to circulate this for tonight? Do you want the judge to come to the meeting? Give a call. g

George D. Jonson | Partner
MONTGOMERY JONSON LLP
600 Vine Street, Suite 2650 | Cincinnati, OH | 45202
Tel: 513.768.5220 | Fax: 513.768.9220
gjonson@mojolaw.com
www.mojolaw.com



The electronic message from Montgomery Jonson LLP may contain attorney-client information that is privileged at law and/or health information that is protected by federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify us by telephone at 513.241.4722 or reply to the sender.

From: [George D. Jonson](#)
To: [Kimberly V. Riley](#)
Subject: Judge Gayle [MOJO-MOJO.FID15098]
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:37:35 PM

- 1) I told Mike the judge said to take 5K off of her=misc line item. He is good with that
- 2) He fell asleep on the Henshen funding – he=will get back on that now
- 3) He wants to put you and Brenda together again to=figure out why your numbers don't match. (??)
- 4) He is waiting for our draft press release. =I told him we weren't quite done with it yet – you needed to r=view and then I need the judge's input.

George D. Jonson | Partner

MONTGOMERY JONSON LLP

600 Vine Street, Suite 2650 | Cincinnati, OH | 45202 Tel: 513.768.5220 | Fax:
513.768.9220

gjonson@mojolaw.com

www.mojolaw.com

Logo JPEG copy



From: [Tyessa Howard](#)
To: [gayleb326](#)
Subject: Additional Text
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:13:28 PM

Good morning. I am following up to confirm receipt of the report and photos I sent to both you and Jim Anderson last week of the retrofitted courtrooms and Clerk area at Cuyahoga County. I saw Jim this morning and he confirmed receipt of the report and photos. He remains concerned that the project lacks appropriate funding. I indicated to him that you committed to me that the funding for these important barriers and supplies would be released and made available to the Court. By the way, have you determined how much CARES Act money remains? As part of our recent discussion, we were to follow up on that point as well. In my brief conversation with Jim, I indicated your commitment to pay for the Court's needs, wherein he stated that he had spoken to you this morning with no indication of such commitment. Can we schedule a time to reconnect? It may also be helpful to include Jim since he will be responsible for coordinating much of this project. I would like to avoid as much confusion as possible. Thank you.

Good evening. I have left you a voice mail following up on the earlier text message from today. In addition to discussing the matters mentioned in that message, I would also like to discuss the recent salary ordinance being considered for passage.
Looking forward to connecting.

I am in a meeting until 8 or so.

I can be available after your meeting.

Councilman, I am following up on our conversation a week or so ago. During that time, you committed to forwarding to me the final version of the newly passed salary ordinance. I indicated that in our prior discussions, there was a commitment by both you and Councilwoman Gray to include Court employees when the salaries were reviewed. However, the recently passed ordinance seems to have excluded these employees from consideration. In fact, it seems that Court employees are the ONLY class of employees that were excluded in the final and passed version. In our conversation, you seemed to believe otherwise and committed to sending me the version that reflected the inclusion of Court employees. I wanted to remind you to please send it along for my record and corrected understanding. My email address is: GayleB326@gmail.com
Thank you.

Sorry, I was unavailable last 2 days. I will call you after 7pm tonight

Hello Councilman. We did not connect yesterday. I was waiting for your call after 7pm and did not receive it. When are you available today?

When I did not hear back from you thought you were unavailable. Are you available after 7pm tonight?

Yes.

Ok

Councilman, I delayed attending a 7pm meeting, awaiting your call. Once again, we were not able to connect. Given that this is the second consecutive day of our attempt, please advise of a time you are actually available to discuss this important matter as I am eager to work toward a resolution. Thank you.

I was calling you as this text was coming in. Left vm. Let me know when you are available

Since many offices are closed tomorrow in honor of Juneteenth...not certain if yours is among them, I can be available tomorrow between 9am and 3pm? If your schedule permits, please advise. From there, we can narrow

down to a more specific time. Thank you.

Unfortunately we are not closed and i will be here until 7pm

Let's try on Monday at 7pm? My husband and I have plans to honor Juneteenth through volunteerism and this weekend is Father's Day...which leads me to this.....Have a blessed Father's Day, Councilman.

Monday 6/22 at 7pm

Confirmed. I will look for your call.

Have a wonderful Holiday weekend

Thank you. To you as well.

2% raises will be in the 7/2 pay. Retroactive will be in 7/16 pay.

Thank you very much.

Please give me a call at your convenience. We have not completed our discussion regarding the salary ordinance that specifically EXCLUDED all Court employees. It would be helpful to revisit this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
101-7750
MUNICIPAL COURT

MUNICIPAL COURT

101-7750

PERSONAL SERVICES

		2019	2020	2020	2021
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
52101	WAGES-FULL TIME	400,001	408,002	392,324	454,963
52103	WAGES-PART TIME PERMANENT	97,478	88,998	36,809	56,271
52106	OVERTIME	-	-	-	-
52109	SICK LEAVE INCENTIVE	-	-	-	-
52116	SICK LEAVE PAYOFF	-	-	-	-
52150	P.E.R.S.	77,318	78,864	65,329	70,950
52153	MEDICARE	7,404	7,552	6,762	7,413
52160	MEDICAL INSURANCE	117,986	120,346	108,825	140,366
52162	LIFE INSURANCE	904	922	809	1,000
52163	WORKERS COMPENSATION	7,878	22,465	10,426	8,691
52164	UNEMPLOYMENT	5,000	1,100	1,100	3,000
	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	713,969	728,249	622,384	742,654

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

52304	TELEPHONE	-	-	-	-
52310	COPIER EXPENSE	-	-	-	-
52314	CELL PHONES/ PAGERS	-	605	604	-
52320	SERVICE CONTRACTS	-	-	-	-
52333	DRUG SCREENING	-	-	-	100
52342	LEADS	600	612	600	600
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	600	1,217	1,204	700

MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES

52401	OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,954	6,488	3,913	5,000
52404	POSTAGE	20,800	30,016	30,000	15,000

52407	FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	-	-	-
52408	LIBRARY	-	-	-	-
52435	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIP	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL MATERIAL & SUPPLIES	27,754	36,504	33,913	20,000

OTHER CHARGES

52703	CONFERENCES/MEETINGS	2,622	2,675	385	-
52704	TRAINING	2,955	3,014	100	1,000
52705	MEMBERSHIP/DUES	2,500	2,550	545	1,000
52707	MILEAGE	2,038	2,079	170	1,000
52718	INDIGENT LEGAL EXPENSE	13,203	4,667	2,557	10,000
52719	REFUNDED PARKING TICKETS		-		
52743	EQUIPMENT		-		
52799	MISCELLANEOUS		-		15,000
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	23,318	14,985	3,757	28,000
	TOTAL BUDGET	765,641	780,955	661,257	791,354