

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



SIDNEY MUNICIPAL COURT

**Gary J. Carter
Judge**

**Tony D. Kremer
Clerk/Court Administrator**

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Sidney Municipal Court

Court Location

110 W Court Street
Sidney, OH 45365
Tele. 937-498-0011

Mailing Address

201 W. Poplar Street
Sidney, OH 45365
Fax 937-498-8179

Gary J. Carter
Judge

February 2021

Mayor and Members of Sidney City Council
201 West Poplar Street
Sidney, OH 45365

Shelby County Commissioners
129 East Court Street
Suite 100
Sidney, OH 45365

Dear Public Officials:

I am pleased to submit the 2020 Annual Report for the Sidney Municipal Court.

The year 2020 was another busy year for the Sidney Municipal Court. The Court continued work on new technology projects to improve services to the public and maintained essential functions during the pandemic by utilizing a new video system to reduce the number of people appearing in person for Court. The Court processed 5,850 cases and continued referring probationers to community providers for treatment and counseling.

The Court implemented a new text message notification system developed by the Court's software provider, CourtView. The system sends text reminders to individuals scheduled to appear for events in the courtroom and probation department. Courts around the state face a common issue of people failing to attend their court hearings and trials which causes delays as cases need to be rescheduled, sometimes multiple times. We hope this new feature will improve Court appearance rates, give us a more reliable calendaring schedule, and decrease the collateral consequences of bench warrants for defendants.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety awarded the Court a grant to develop an eCitation feature which allows us to receive traffic tickets from the State Highway Patrol electronically rather than using paper copies that need to be dropped off to the Court in person. This system also transfers data such as name, address, license number, etc. from the traffic ticket directly into the Court's case management system, eliminating the need for manual input.

While the pandemic caused the need for numerous changes in procedure beginning in March 2020, the Court maintained essential functions and services by utilizing video connection with the Shelby County jail and using an online video conferencing system called Spontania to connect by video to attorneys and defendants. Hearings that needed to take place in person were spaced out for social distancing purposes. The Court received a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services to help pay for COVID related expenses such as masks, the installation of barriers throughout the building, and cleaning supplies so the Court could stay open and operating during the pandemic.

The Court processed 3,712 traffic cases, 846 criminal cases, and 1,292 civil cases for a total of 5,850 cases in 2020. The Probation Department performed 443 drug tests, conducted 152 pre-sentence investigations, and initiated 415 new probation cases. The Bailiffs served 671 papers, transported 88 prisoners, and the Court held video arraignment for 539 prisoners.

During 2020, 99 individuals entered the Court's License Intervention Program. The Program had a 71% successful completion rate which resulted in 70 valid and properly insured drivers on the roads.

In 2020, the Court collected \$1,835,628 in receipts. In addition \$8,956 was provided by offenders to the City and County through the Court's Alternative Service Program. This program allows those who qualify to account for their fines and costs even when they do not earn sufficient income to pay what they owe by performing community service to local organizations and non-profit agencies.

The Court distributed \$24,880 in restitution to victims of crime and distributed garnishment monies in the amount of \$826,956 to various creditors.

It has been our goal to file fewer community control violations by offering more referrals to community partners for programming and also by offering programming in-house. With our new programs we were able to decrease community control violations from nearly 250 in prior years to 135 in 2020. In place of a community control violation, 255 people were placed in counseling and treatment programs such as alcohol and drug, mental health, anger management, and parenting classes. To assist in the community's fight against the opioid epidemic, we referred 22 offenders to the Medically Assisted Treatment Program (MAT Program).

The Court's Pretrial Release Program continues to help identify defendants who are appropriate for pretrial release from jail on bond. In 2020, the Court's Pretrial Services Officer conducted 332 interviews and 64 of them were given an own-recognition bond.

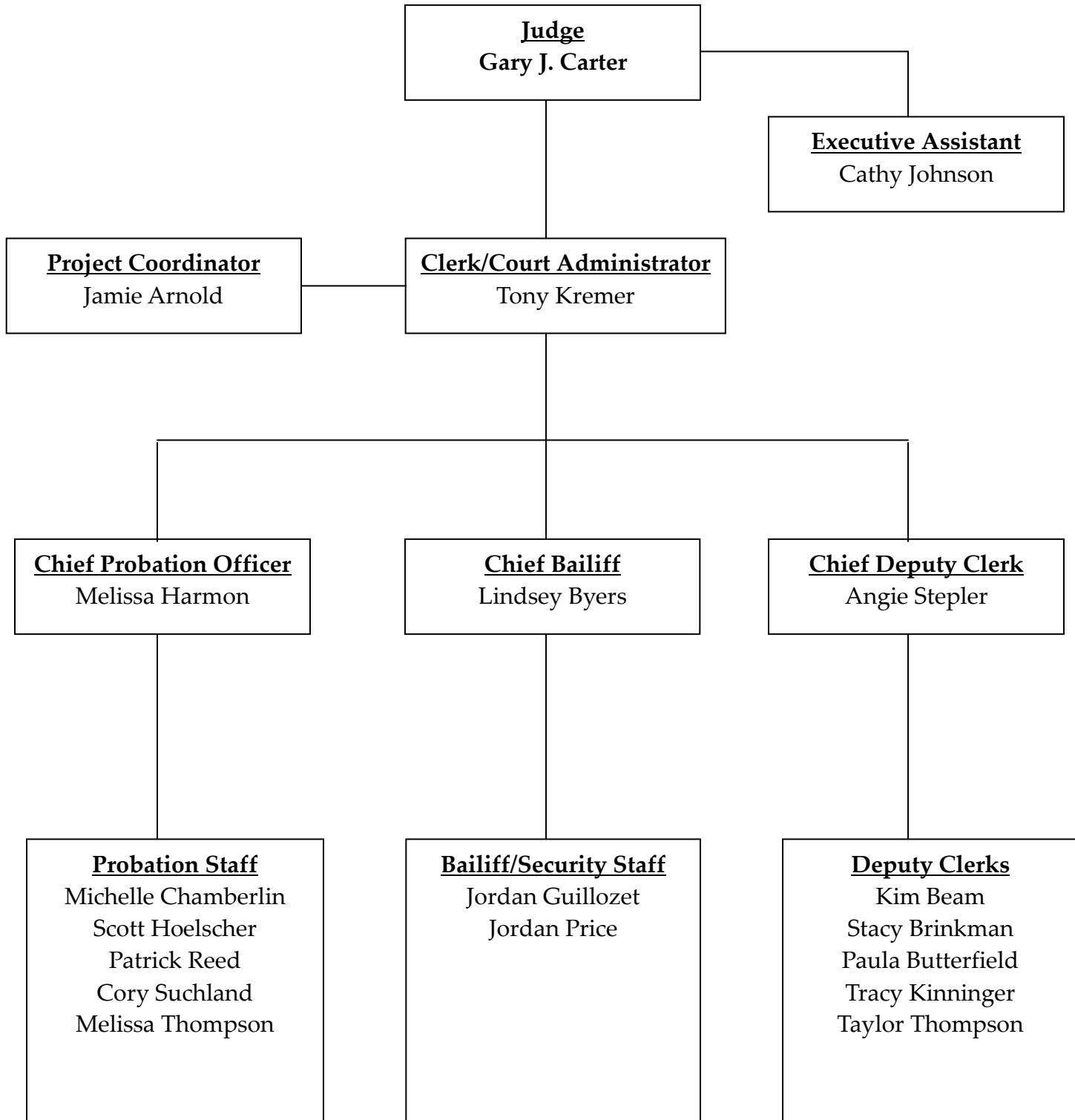
I have completed my first year with the Court and I am grateful to the people of Shelby County for the opportunity to serve as Judge of the Municipal Court. We have an efficient staff that works well together and the public has been well served in spite of the many challenges we faced in 2020. We hope for a more normal year in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary J. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Gary" on the first line and "J. Carter" on the second line.

Gary J. Carter
Judge
Sidney Municipal Court

Organizational Chart



Changes in Assets and Liabilities for year ending December 31, 2020

	TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL	CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER	TOTAL
ASSETS				
Cash 1-1-20	\$ 145,992.56	\$ 92,385.32	\$0.00	\$ 238,377.88
Additions	\$ 742,382.55	\$ 1,093,245.07	0.00	\$ 1,835,627.62
Reductions	\$ 736,954.41	\$ 1,062,858.67	0.00	\$ 1,799,813.08
Cash 12-31-20	\$ 151,420.70	\$ 122,771.72	\$0.00	\$ 274,192.42
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 151,420.70	\$ 122,771.72	\$0.00	\$ 274,192.42
LIABILITIES				
Escrow bonds & deposits 1-1-20	\$79,436.23	\$53,866.35	\$0.00	\$133,302.58
Additions	67,208.11	856,357.32	0.00	923,565.43
Reductions	74,932.03	831,860.92	0.00	906,792.95
Escrow bonds & deposits 12-31-20	\$71,712.31	\$78,362.75	\$0.00	\$150,075.06
Payable to other govt's 1-1-20	66,556.33	38,518.97	0.00	105,075.30
Additions	675,174.44	236,887.75	0.00	912,062.19
Reductions	662,022.38	230,997.75	0.00	893,020.13
Payable to other govt's 12-31-20	\$79,708.39	\$44,408.97	\$0.00	\$124,117.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$151,420.70	\$122,771.72	\$0.00	\$274,192.42

Trial Balance for year ending

December 31, 2020

	FINAL 2019	DR/(CR)	FINAL 2020
Assets Cash	\$ 238,377.88	\$35,814.54	\$274,192.42
LIABILITIES			
Civil/Small Claims Open Items	53,866.35	24,496.40	78,362.75
Bonds Open Items	79,436.23	(7,723.92)	71,712.31
Trusteeship Open Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payable to Government Agencies	105,075.30	19,042.06	124,117.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$238,377.88	\$35,814.54	\$274,192.42
RECEIPTS			
Criminal/Bonds	\$1,060,708.41	(318,325.86)	\$ 742,382.55
Civil/Small Claims	1,541,372.11	(448,127.04)	1,093,245.07
Trusteeship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlord/Tenant	0.00	1,455.00	1,455.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$2,602,080.52	(764,997.90)	\$ 1,837,082.62
DISBURSEMENTS			
Criminal/Bonds	\$1,057,688.51	(320,734.10)	\$ 736,954.41
Civil/Small Claims	1,536,589.10	(473,730.43)	1,062,858.67
Trusteeship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landlord/Tenant	0.00	1,455.00	1,455.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$2,594,277.61	(793,009.53)	\$ 1,801,268.08
Receipts Over/Under Disbursements	\$7,802.91	28,011.63	\$35,814.54
Beginning Cash/Change	230,574.97	7,802.91	238,377.88
Cash/Change	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Cash	\$238,377.88	\$35,814.54	\$274,192.42

Accounts Receivable Comparison

	2020	2019
PAID TO CITY OF SIDNEY		
Computer Research Fund	28,433.00	42,680.57
City Fines/Forfeitures	27,600.00	32,580.00
Court Costs	164,310.66	241,477.15
45% Ohio State Highway Patrol	0.00	0.00
40% Ohio State Highway Patrol	28,790.40	38,770.17
Witness and Jury Fees	22.00	14.00
Indigent Alcohol Treatment Fund	6,923.50	9,302.00
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	1,607.50	1,635.00
Civil Costs	152,301.00	242,826.02
Small Claims Costs	2,450.00	4,579.00
Trusteeship Fees	0.00	0.00
Interest Earned	(1,039.75)	(1,554.04)
Special Projects	96,058.38	145,408.67
Non Moving Violation	258.00	338.00
Special Pro. Ind Alcohol Treatment	4,814.52	6,503.00
Sidney Police Fee	11,829.85	16,259.84
Unclaimed funds	4,667.19	4,238.24
Drug Test	1,963.00	3,386.00
Total Paid To City of Sidney	530,989.25	788,443.62

PAID TO SHELBY COUNTY		
Victims Services	1,174.25	1,448.00
Canine Control	472.00	835.00
Regular Fines	76,489.98	91,856.79
Uniform Traffic	37,844.60	53,933.00
10% Ohio State Highway Patrol	7,197.60	9,691.80
Witness and Jury Fees	58.60	78.00
Crime Stoppers	419.00	521.00
Public Defender Fee	8,259.43	11,770.11
Shelby County Sheriff's Fees	1,746.90	2,786.00
DUI Incarceration	7,880.50	9,344.00
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	674.00	953.00
Shelby County Sheriff Drug Enforcement Fund	150.00	325.00
Shelby County Humane Society	0.00	0.00
Overload Fines	706.00	1,802.00
Total Paid To Shelby County	143,072.86	\$185,343.70

PAID TO STATE OF OHIO		
Reparations Rotary (Victims of Crime)	29,681.02	44,889.38
45% Ohio State Highway Patrol	0.00	0.00
50% Ohio State Highway Patrol	35,988.01	48,480.98
Department of Liquor Control	25.00	875.00
Division of Wildlife	1,070.00	2,000.00
Division of Watercraft	50.00	125.00
Board of Pharmacy	725.00	820.00
Seatbelt Education Fund	6,982.00	15,749.00
Child Highway Safety Fund	35.00	0.00
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	771.00	3,582.95
Legal Aid Funding	31,803.00	49,924.00
Highway Patrol Drug Enforcement Fund	2,125.00	1,692.00
Expungement fees	870.00	1,140.00
Indigent Defense Support Fund	82,703.52	121,386.00
35% Moving Violation	9,772.45	15,350.10
Total Paid To State of Ohio	202,601.00	\$306,014.41

MISCELLANEOUS	35,176.08	47,816.61
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(Includes Marriage Fees, Restitution Paid, Foreign County Sheriff Fees, etc.)

TOTAL PAID OUT TO GOV'T AGENCIES	\$876,663.11	\$1,279,801.73
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MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL RECEIPTS	\$866,319.78	\$1,162,094.79
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(Includes Garnishments, Judgments, Trusteeship, and all other Miscellaneous Civil Accounts)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT FOR FINES	\$8,956.00	\$7,519.65
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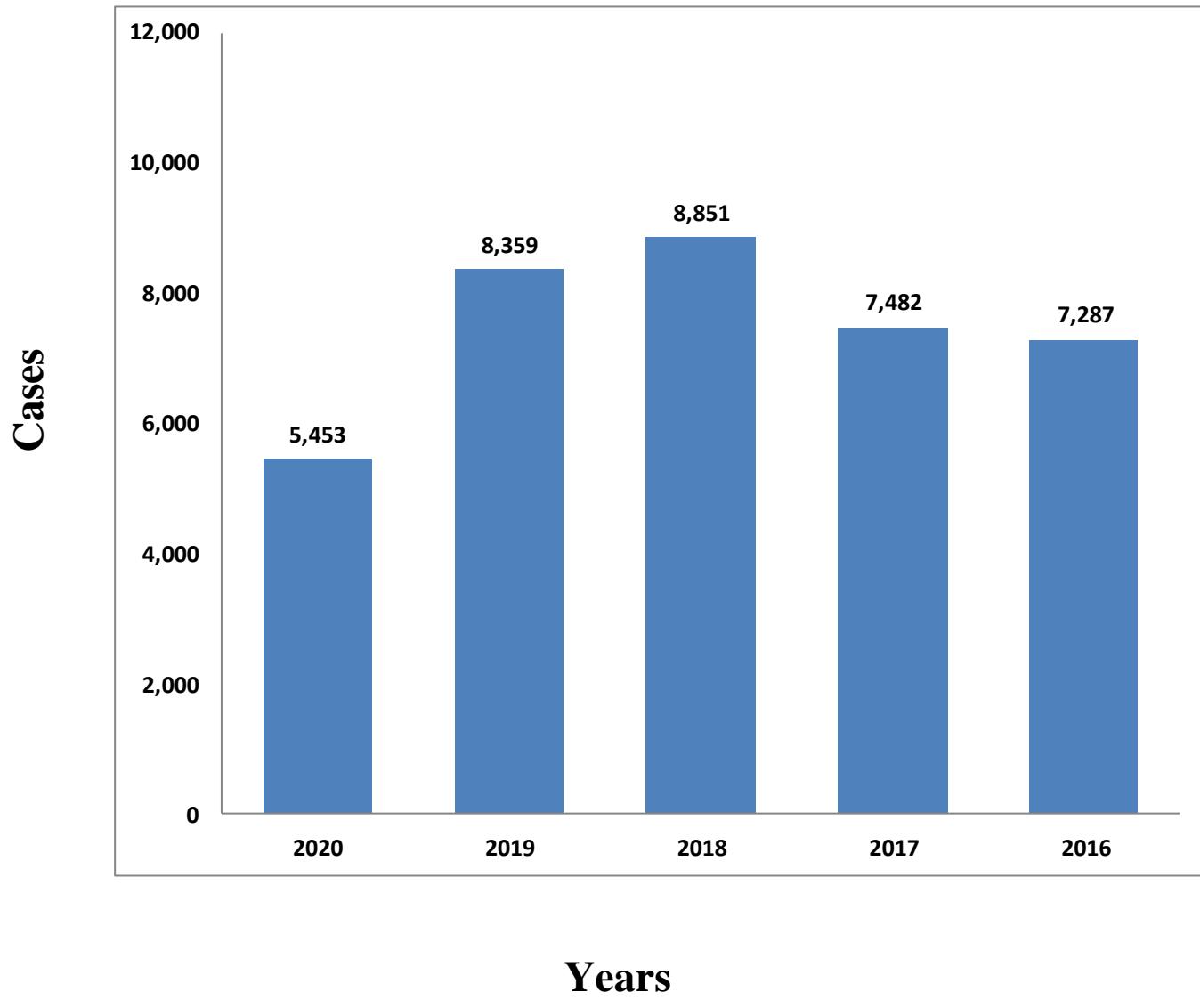
Five Year Comparison of Cases Filed

TYPE OF CASE FILED	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Felonies	122	162	187	168	135
Criminal Misdemeanors	562	951	945	827	783
Driving Under Influence	140	191	244	206	241
Other Traffic	3,303	4,920	5,679	4,608	4,379
Civil (Including Evictions)	1,266	2,009	1,677	1,607	1,655
Small Claims	60	126	119	66	94
TOTAL	5,453	8,359	8,851	7,482	7,287
Cases Reactivated	458	223	424	493	515

GARNISHMENTS	575	1,002	875	823	929
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WEDDING CEREMONIES	27	33	35	31	25
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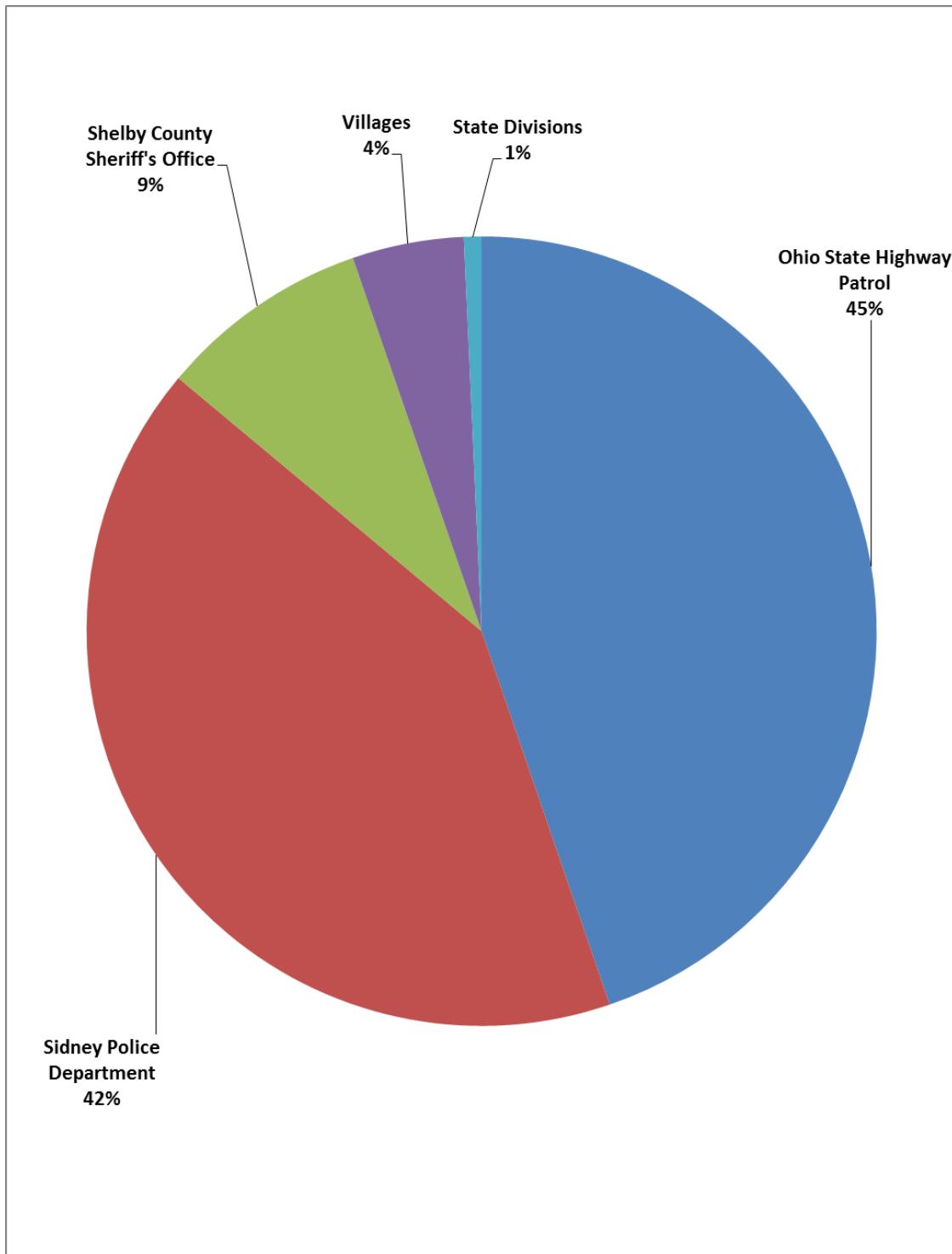
Five Year Comparison of Cases Filed



Breakdown of Traffic/Criminal/OVI Case Filings by Agency

AGENCY	FELONIES	CRIMINAL MISD.	DUIs	OTHER TRAFFIC	TOTAL
Ohio State Highway Patrol	21	92	50	1,693	1,856
Sidney Police Department & SFD	85	296	54	1,272	1,707
Shelby County Sheriff's Office	11	98	29	203	341
Village of Botkins	2	14	6	73	95
Village of Fort Loramie	2	10	1	37	50
Village of Jackson Center	0	10	0	7	17
Village of Anna	1	6	0	10	17
Village of Port Jefferson	0	4	0	2	6
Village of Russia	0	0	0	0	0
Dog Warden	0	8	0	0	8
State of Ohio Board of Liquor Control	0	0	0	0	0
State of Ohio - Parks & Rec & EPA	0	2	0	5	7
State of Ohio Division of Watercraft	0	2	0	0	2
State of Ohio Division of Wildlife	0	20	0	0	20
Bureau of Motor Vehicles	0	0	0	1	1
TOTALS	122	562	140	3,303	4,127

Breakdown of Traffic/Criminal/OVI Case Filings by Agency



Case Dispositions 2019 and 2020

FELONIES	2019	2020
Preliminary Hearing Held	15	8
Waiver of Preliminary Hearing	75	42
Dismissals (including at Prelim. Hearing)	86	64
Unavailability of Defendant	4	9
Plea to Reduce Charge	0	0
Total	180	123
CRIMINAL MISDEMEANORS	2019	2020
Jury Trials	8	1
Court Trials	109	32
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	259	180
Pleas (to reduced charge)	214	119
Payment through Violations Bureau	25	7
Dismissals	265	241
Unavailability of Defendant	161	203
Appeals	0	0
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	0	0
Total	1,041	783
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	2019	2020
Jury Trials	0	0
Court Trials	14	5
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	47	55
Pleas (to reduced charge)	109	83
Dismissals	15	13
Unavailability of Defendant	13	12
Appeals	0	0
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	0	0
Total	198	168

Case Dispositions 2019 and 2020 Continued

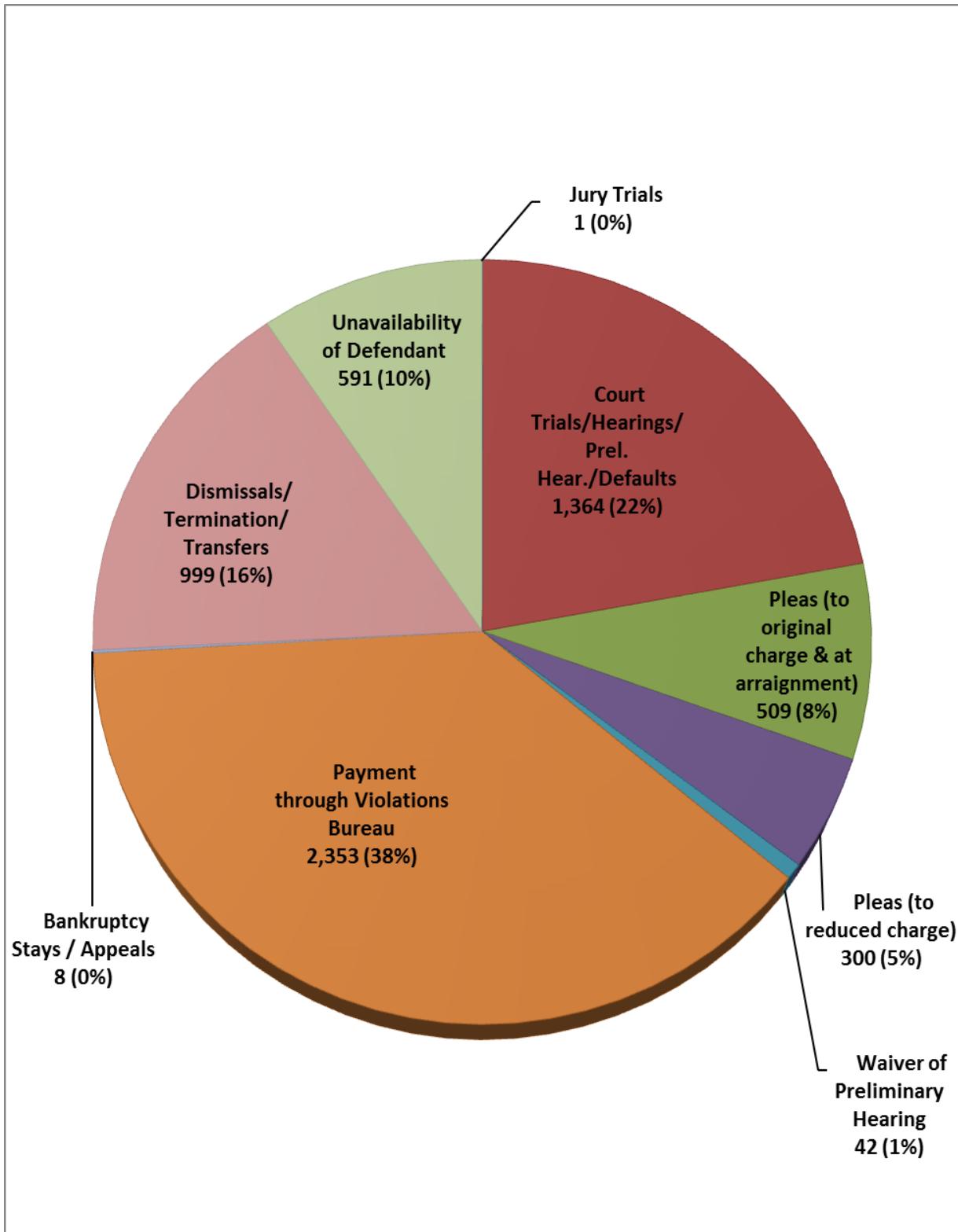
OTHER TRAFFIC	2019	2020
Jury Trials	1	0
Court Trials	434	300
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	220	274
Pleas (to reduced charge)	141	98
Payment through Violations Bureau	3,764	2,346
Dismissals	190	172
Unavailability of Defendant	380	367
Appeals	0	0
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	0	0
Total	5,130	3,557

CIVIL	2019	2020
Jury Trials	0	0
Trials to Court (Including Defaults)	1,491	980
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	22	8
Dismissals/Other Terminations	579	476
Transfers to Another Judge or Court	0	0
Total	2,092	1,464
SMALL CLAIMS	2019	2020
Hearings (Including Defaults)	85	39
Transfers to Civil Docket	0	1
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	1	0
Dismissals/Other Terminations	39	32
Transfer to Another Court	0	0
Total	125	72

Case Dispositions 2019 and 2020 Continued

TOTALS FOR ALL CASES	2019	2020
Jury Trials	9	1
Court Trials/Hearings/Prel. Hear./Defaults	2,148	1,364
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	526	509
Pleas (to reduced charge)	464	300
Waiver of Preliminary Hearing	75	42
Payment through Violations Bureau	3,789	2,353
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	23	8
Dismissals/Terminations/Transfers	1,174	999
Unavailability of Defendant	558	591
TOTAL	8,766	6,167

2020 Case Dispositions



2020 Juror Statistics

FIRST TERM (01-01-2020 THROUGH 04-30-2020)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	250	
Removed by Jury Commission:	37	14%
Returned by Post Office:	38	15%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	12	5%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	7	
Medical Reasons	3	
Occupation	2	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE FIRST TERM:	163	65%

SECOND TERM (05-01-2020 THROUGH 08-31-2020)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	250	
Removed by Jury Commission:	28	11%
Returned by Post Office:	22	9%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	24	10%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	8	
Medical Reasons	13	
Occupation	3	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE SECOND TERM:	176	70%

THIRD TERM (09-01-2020 THROUGH 12-31-2020)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	250	
Removed by Jury Commission:	29	12%
Returned by Post Office:	6	2%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	22	9%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	12	
Medical Reasons	5	
Occupation	5	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE THIRD TERM:	193	77%

TOTAL NUMBER OF JURORS DRAWN FOR 2020 **750**

TOTAL NUMBER OF JURORS AVAILABLE FOR 2020 **532** **71%**

Probation Department Statistics 2020

NEW PROBATION CASES IN 2020	425	
PROBATION COMPLETIONS IN 2020	SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS	UNSUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS
	355	146

ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS

PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS	152
PRETRIAL SERVICES INTERVIEWS	332
ORAS ASSESSMENT	337
CST	91

REFERRALS TO PROGRAMMING

72 HOUR INTERENTION PROGRAM	94
GPS/HOUSE ARREST	2
SCRAM	22
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING	73
ANGER/RAGE COUNSELING	38
HALFWAY HOUSE	2
IN PATIENT PROGRAMS	3
PARENTING CLASSES	6
VIVITROL-MAT PROGRAM REFERRALS	22
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS	525
DRUG/ALCOHOL EVALUATIONS	127
MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS	28
IN HOUSE ALCOHOL DRUG SCREENS ADMINISTERED	443
GED	5

Bailiff Department Statistics 2020

PAPERS SERVED

SUBPOENAS	368
SUMMONS	279
WRITS OF RESTITUTION FROM EVICTIONS	24
GARNISHMENTS	0
TOTAL	671

PRISONERS TRANSPORTED TO / FROM JAIL

FEMALES	16
MALES	62
PROBATION/CONTEMPT WARRANTS (OUT OF COUNTY PRISONER PICKUPS)	10
TOTAL	88

LICENSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION	70
UNSUCCESSFUL COMPLETION	29
PENDING	18
TOTAL	117

VIDEO ARRAIGNMENT

FEMALES	116
MALES	423
TOTAL	539