

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SIDNEY MUNICIPAL COURT

**Gary J. Carter
Judge**

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

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Sidney Municipal Court

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Gary J. Carter
Judge

February 2025

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Dear Public Officials:

I am pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report for the Sidney Municipal Court.

The year 2024 was a busy year for the Sidney Municipal Court. A total of 6,122 cases were processed and many probationers were referred to community providers for treatment and counseling. The Court made several technology improvements to the courtroom and started transitioning to paperless processes on some case types to improve efficiency. The Court tries to create a user friendly experience for litigants by optimizing the use of technology and by adding new functionality to the Court's website.

In April of 2024, the Court completed a major upgrade of the audio/video technology in the courtroom. The upgrades include a new video conferencing system for remote hearings, wireless and wired connections throughout the courtroom to give litigants access to present their own exhibits, and several new TV's to display the information. In addition, we added a display and computers to the jury room to allow jurors to view evidence during deliberation. The cost of the project was paid by the Court's Special Projects Fund.

We revamped our website throughout the year to provide the public with a variety of easy, fillable forms so that self-represented litigants have the information necessary to navigate judicial processes. We also have updated the site with information about Court programs, and helpful information for jurors.

The Clerk's office has made progress in transitioning to paperless processes in some areas. We have implemented a paperless minor misdemeanor procedure, which has cut down on costs for supplies and allows for faster processing.

The Court processed 3,560 traffic cases, 934 criminal cases, and 1,628 civil cases for a total of 6,122 cases in 2024. The Probation Department monitored 217 new Probation cases and completed 259 cases, with 75% of those probationers completing their plan successfully. The Bailiffs served 757 papers, transported 110 prisoners, and the Court held video arraignments for 805 prisoners.

During 2024, 73 individuals entered the Court's License Intervention Program. The Program had an 83% successful completion rate which resulted in 68 valid and properly insured drivers on the roads.

The Court collected \$2,195,001 in receipts during the year. In addition, qualifying offenders provided service to the City and County through the Court's Alternative Service Program in lieu of paying fines. This program allows those who do not earn sufficient income to pay their fines, the alternative of working off their fines and costs by performing community service to local organizations and non-profit agencies.

The Court distributed \$20,771 in restitution to victims of crime and distributed garnishment monies in the amount of \$1,097,037 to various creditors.

The Court's Pretrial Services Program continues to help identify defendants who are appropriate for pretrial release from jail. The goal of the Program is to reduce or eliminate the time offenders spend in jail by changing their behaviors. In 2024, The Court's Pretrial Services Officer collected background information on 582 defendants to determine whether they were eligible for pretrial release and supervision. There was a victim in 279 of these cases. Program eligibility requirements allowed for 289 inmates to be eligible for an interview for the Pretrial Release Program, and of the 289 defendants interviewed, the court granted an own-recognition bond on 93 cases.

Our goal is to file fewer community control, or "Probation," violations by offering more referrals to community agencies that have additional programs, and also by offering programs in-house. With our new programs we were able to decrease community control violations from nearly 250 in prior years to 71 in 2024. In place of a community control violation, 240 probationers were placed in counseling and treatment programs such as alcohol and drug, anger management, mental health, and parenting classes. In addition, 76 offenders were sanctioned within the Probation Department rather than getting a Probation Violation, and Probation Officers gave 237 incentives to Probationers for demonstrating growth and implementation of social skills.

The Probation Department also offers Thinking for a Change and Domestic Batterers classes for certain types of offenders. In 2024, 10 offenders participated in the Thinking for a Change class and 8 (80%) successfully completed the program. The Domestic Batterers program had 26 participants throughout the year, with 74% of those who completed the program doing so successfully.

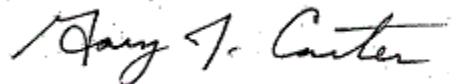
The Probation Department also completed 114 pre-sentence investigations on cases to help the Court in determining an appropriate sentence.

Project/Program Coordinator Tracy Kinninger has been accepted into the Supreme Court of Ohio's Court Management Program. Upon completion of this 3-year program, Tracy will join Court Administrator/Clerk of Court Tony Kremer as a Certified Court Manager. Adding another staff member with this certification enhances the prestige

of the Court. The Court also hired Deputy Clerk Jessica Stein in December to fill a vacancy in the Clerk's office.

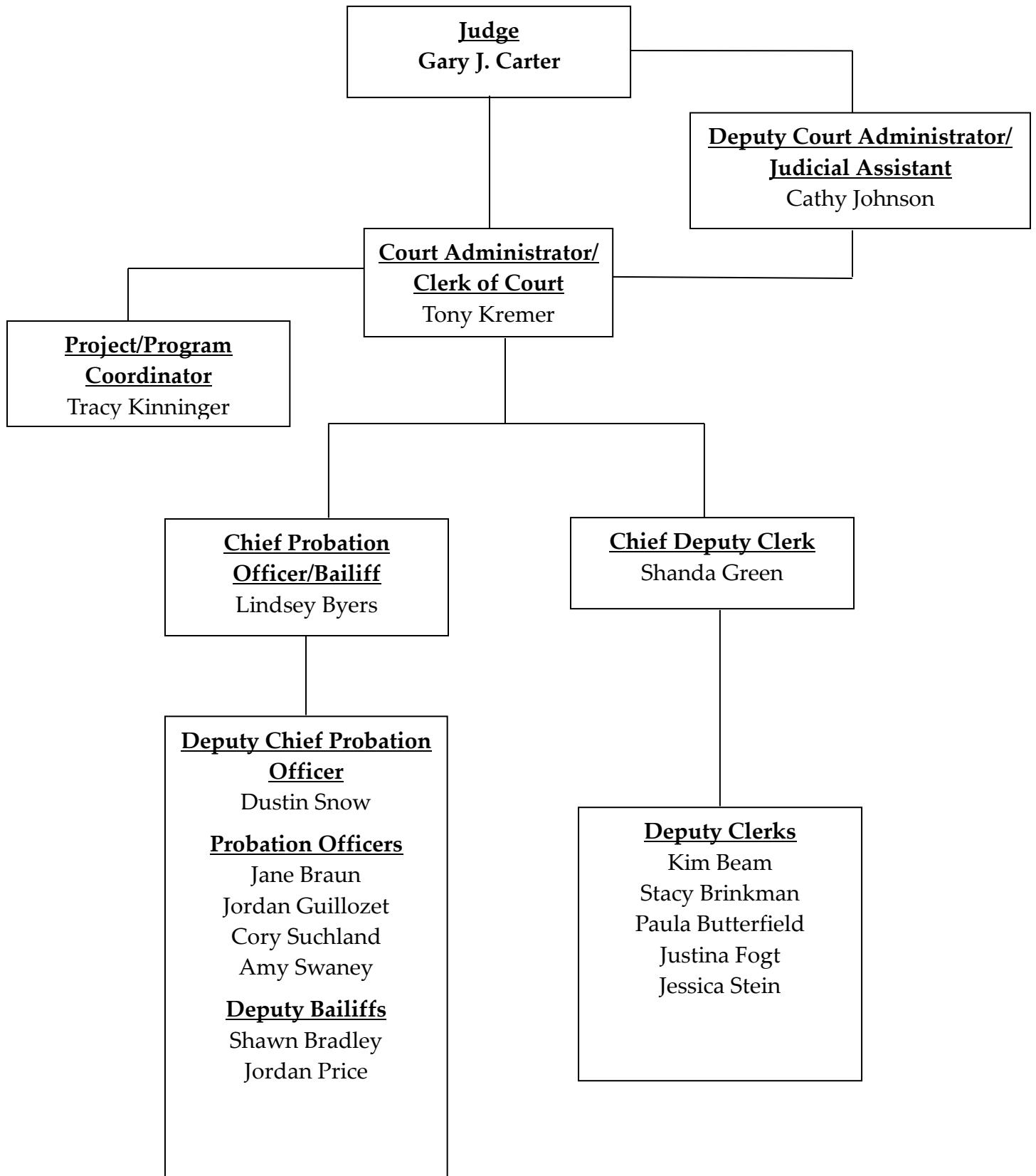
This will be my last year with the Court, as I will retire when my term ends on December 31, 2025. I want to thank the people of Shelby County for giving me the honor and privilege of serving as their Judge. The Court is running very smoothly and I will work closely with my successor to ensure a smooth transition.

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



Change in Assets and Liabilities for the year ending December 31, 2024

The table below displays the Court's changes in assets and liabilities for the year ending December 31, 2024.

	Traffic and Criminal	Civil and Small Claims	Totals
ADDITIONS			
Court costs & fines	\$ 692,281	\$ 297,933	\$ 990,214
Restitution, Bonds, and Judgments	\$ 138,945	\$ 1,109,048	\$ 1,247,993
Total Additions	\$ 831,226	\$ 1,406,981	\$ 2,238,206
DEDUCTIONS			
Judgement costs & bond reimbursements	\$ 87,924	\$ 1,102,559	\$ 1,190,482
Payments to other governments	\$ 729,710	\$ 297,933	\$ 1,027,643
Total Deductions	\$ 817,633	\$ 1,400,492	\$ 2,218,125
Change in net position	\$ 13,593	\$ 6,489	\$ 20,082
Net position, beginning of year	\$ 10,260	\$ 72,162	\$ 82,422
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 23,853	\$ 78,651	\$ 102,504

Statement of Net Position

for the year ending December 31, 2024

The table below displays the Court's statement of net position for the year ending December 31, 2024.

	Traffic and Criminal	Civil and Small Claims	Total
ASSETS			
Cash held by outside agent	73,897	101,143	175,040
Total assets	\$ 73,897	\$ 101,143	\$ 175,040
LIABILITIES			
Payable to other governments	\$ 50,044	\$ 22,492	\$ 72,536
Total liabilities	\$ 50,044	\$ 22,492	\$ 72,536
NET POSITION			
Restricted for:			
Individuals & other governments	\$ 23,853	\$ 78,651	\$ 102,504
Total Net Position	\$ 23,853	\$ 78,651	\$ 102,504

Accounts Receivable Comparison

	2023	2024
PAID TO CITY OF SIDNEY		
Computer Research Fund	\$30,842	\$31,791
City Fines/Forfeitures	\$17,043	\$20,182
Court Costs	\$162,283	\$189,811
40% Ohio State Highway Patrol	\$32,037	\$34,387
Witness and Jury Fees	\$0	\$24
Indigent Alcohol Treatment Fund	\$6,582	\$6,288
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	\$1,054	\$764
Civil Costs	\$190,228	\$208,017
Small Claims Costs	\$1,879	\$1,535
Trusteeship Fees	\$0	\$0
Interest Earned	\$174	\$176
Bank Fees	-\$1,061	\$626
Special Projects	\$101,144	\$104,706
Non Moving Violation	\$115	\$206
Special Pro. Ind Alcohol Treatment	\$3,859	\$2,990
Sidney Police Fee	\$8,170	\$10,141
Unclaimed funds	\$2,762	\$1,434
Drug Test	\$390	\$132
Probation Services Fee	\$18,984	\$12,618
Total Paid To City of Sidney	\$576,486	\$625,828

PAID TO SHELBY COUNTY		
Victims Services	\$992	\$1,108
Canine Control	\$575	\$151
Regular Fines	\$73,954	\$67,070
Uniform Traffic	\$33,863	\$32,325
10% Ohio State Highway Patrol	\$8,009	\$8,647
Witness and Jury Fees	\$124	\$1,625
Crime Stoppers	\$362	\$395
Public Defender Fee	\$7,587	\$8,385
Shelby County Sheriff's Fees	\$2,309	\$2,308
DUI Incarceration	\$6,347	\$4,308
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	\$373	\$731
Shelby County Sheriff Drug Enforcement Fund	\$500	\$0
Overload Fines	\$0	\$183
Law Library	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total Paid To Shelby County	\$138,995	\$131,234

Accounts Receivable Comparison

PAID TO STATE OF OHIO	2023	2024
Reparations Rotary (Victims of Crime)	\$30,921	\$31,259
50% Ohio State Highway Patrol	\$40,046	\$42,983
Department of Liquor Control	\$0	\$34
Division of Wildlife	\$2,121	\$715
Division of Watercraft	\$500	\$150
Board of Pharmacy	\$375	\$164
Seatbelt Education Fund	\$4,103	\$4,238
DUI Enforcement/Education Fund	\$1,154	\$510
Legal Aid Funding	\$38,396	\$40,711
Highway Patrol Drug Enforcement Fund	\$2,178	\$405
Expungement fees	\$810	\$630
Indigent Defense Support Fund	\$81,984	\$81,654
Moving Violation Drug Enforcement	\$10,449	\$10,535
Moving Violation IDSF	\$14,929	\$15,046
State General Fund	\$60	\$71
Total Paid To State of Ohio	\$228,027	\$229,104

MISCELLANEOUS	\$8,610	\$6,237
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(Includes Restitution Paid, Foreign County Sheriff Fees, Payments to Villages, Marriage Fees, etc.)

TOTAL PAID OUT TO GOV'T AGENCIES	\$952,118	\$992,404
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MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL RECEIPTS	\$999,969	\$1,126,331
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(Includes Garnishments, Judgments, Trusteeship, Marriage Fees, Restitution, and all other Miscellaneous Civil Accounts)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT FOR FINES	\$3,498	\$5,157
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Five Year Comparison of Cases Filed

TYPE OF CASE FILED	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Felonies	122	120	89	107	135
Criminal Misdemeanors	562	532	526	534	697
Driving Under Influence	140	149	129	103	89
Other Traffic	3,303	4,959	3,785	3,126	3,274
Civil	1,028	1,226	1,188	1,245	1,337
Evictions	178	160	199	218	218
Small Claims	60	32	54	43	37
Total	5,393	7,178	5,970	5,376	5,787

Cases Reactivated	457	406	389	326	335
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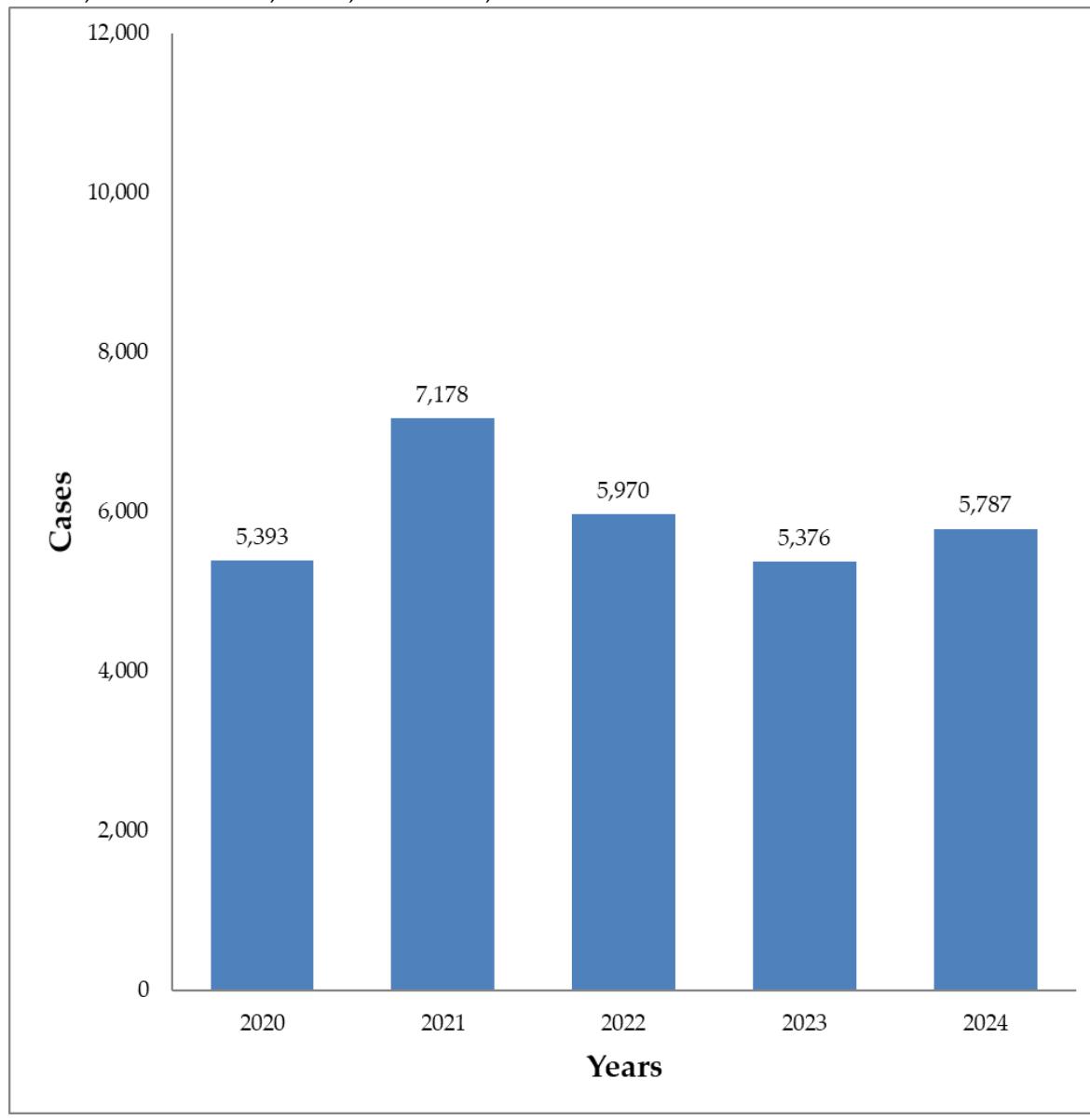
Wage Garnishments	517	604	664	715	810
Bank Garnishments	31	15	65	63	49

Wedding Ceremonies	27	36	24	42	44
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Note: The total cases filed number counts cases based on filing date, rather than offense date. As a result, this total will not match the case filings by agency total on page 11 of this report.

Five Year Comparison of Cases Filed

The table below represents a 5-year comparison of total cases filed in Sidney Municipal Court. Totals include all case types: felonies, criminal misdemeanors, DUI's, Other Traffic, Civil, Evictions, and Small Claims.



Note: The table does not include cases that were "reactivated." Reactivated cases are cases in which a defendant failed to appear, causing the case to be temporarily made inactive. When a defendant appears after the case was previously placed on inactive status, the case is reactivated. The Court processed 335 reactivations during 2024.

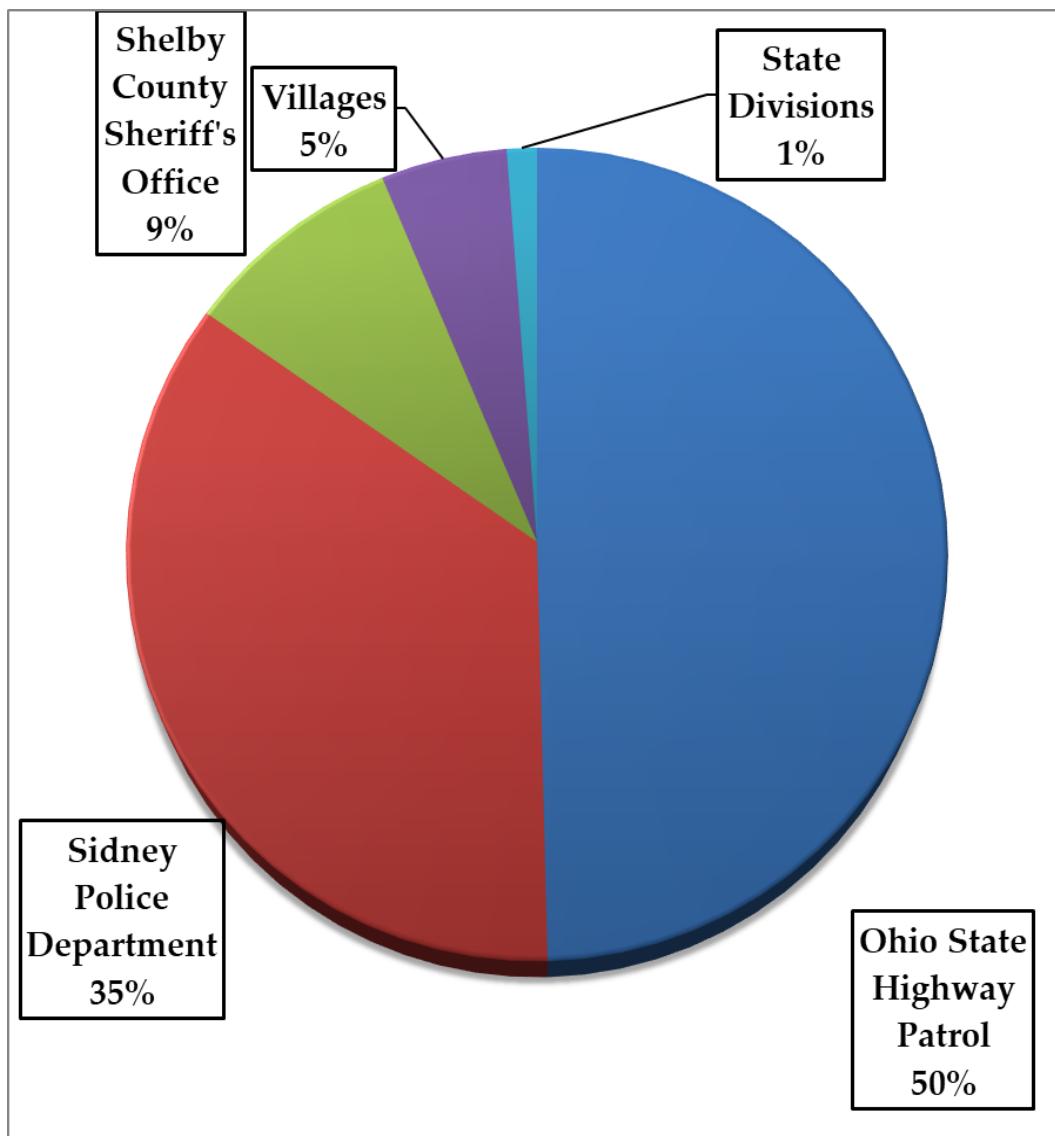
Breakdown of Traffic/Criminal/OVI Case Filings by Agency

AGENCY	FELONIES	CRIMINAL MISD.	DUIs	OTHER TRAFFIC	TOTAL
Ohio State Highway Patrol	5	8	30	1,952	1995
Sidney Police Department & SFD	99	391	38	884	1412
Shelby County Sheriff's Office	33	85	15	225	358
Dog Warden	0	2	0	0	2
Village of Anna	0	7	1	41	49
Village of Botkins	1	19	1	74	95
Village of Jackson Center	0	8	0	10	18
Village of Fort Loramie	1	13	1	28	43
Village of Port Jefferson	0	1	0	0	1
State of Ohio Division of Wildlife	0	7	0	0	7
State of Ohio - Parks & Rec & EPA	0	4	0	33	37
State of Ohio Division of Watercraft	0	1	0	0	1
Ohio Department of Commerce - Liquor Control	0	3	0	0	3
Ohio Department of Taxation	0	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	139	550	86	3,247	4022

Note: The total cases filed by agency counts cases based on offense date, rather than date filed with the Court. As a result, this total will not match the total cases filed on page 9 of this report.

Breakdown of Traffic/Criminal/OVI Case Filings by Agency

Agencies	TOTAL	%
Ohio State Highway Patrol	1,995	50%
Sidney Police Department	1,412	35%
Shelby County Sheriff's Office	360	9%
Villages	206	5%
State Divisions	49	1%
Total	4,022	100%



Case Dispositions 2023 and 2024

FELONIES	2023	2024
Preliminary Hearing Held	40	40
Waiver of Preliminary Hearing	74	96
Dismissals (including at Prelim. Hearing)	-	-
Unavailability of Defendant	2	2
Plea to Reduce Charge	-	-
Total	116	138
CRIMINAL MISDEMEANORS		
Jury Trials	3	5
Court Trials	33	50
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	167	258
Pleas (to reduced charge)	131	122
Payment through Violations Bureau	72	28
Dismissals	98	191
Unavailability of Defendant	58	139
Appeals	-	3
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	-	-
Total	562	796
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE		
Jury Trials	-	1
Court Trials	6	5
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	39	39
Pleas (to reduced charge)	67	47
Dismissals	2	4
Unavailability of Defendant	9	16
Appeals	-	-
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	-	-
Total	123	112

Case Dispositions 2023 and 2024 Continued

OTHER TRAFFIC	2023	2024
Jury Trials	-	-
Court Trials	274	363
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	174	126
Pleas (to reduced charge)	146	158
Payment through Violations Bureau	2,466	2,491
Dismissals	111	111
Unavailability of Defendant	219	213
Appeals	-	-
Transfer to Another Judge or Court	-	-
Total	3,390	3,462

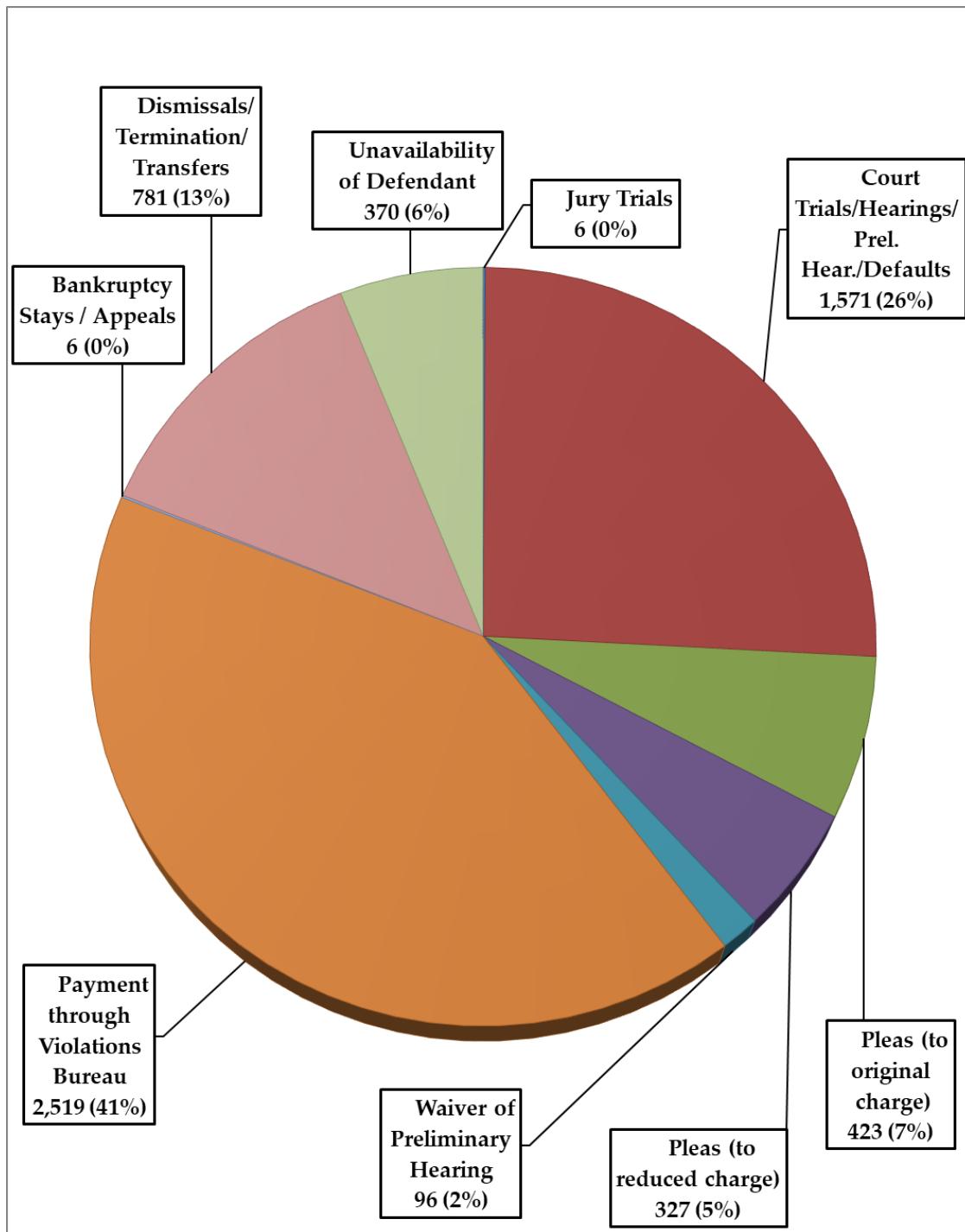
CIVIL	2023	2024
Jury Trials	-	-
Trials to Court (Including Defaults)	1,024	1,085
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	5	3
Dismissals/Other Terminations	362	460
Transfers to Another Judge or Court	-	-
Total	1,391	1,548
SMALL CLAIMS		
Hearings (Including Defaults)	18	28
Transfers to Civil Docket	-	-
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	-	-
Dismissals/Other Terminations	18	15
Transfer to Another Court	-	-
Total	36	43

Case Dispositions 2023 and 2024 Continued

TOTALS FOR ALL CASES	Total	Total
Jury Trials	3	6
Court Trials/Hearings/Prel. Hear./Defaults	1,395	1,571
Pleas (to original charge & at arraignment)	380	423
Pleas (to reduced charge)	344	327
Waiver of Preliminary Hearing	74	96
Payment through Violations Bureau	2,538	2,519
Appeals/Bankruptcy Stays	5	6
Dismissals/Terminations/Transfers	588	781
Unavailability of Defendant	288	370
TOTAL	5,615	6,099

2024 Case Dispositions

The chart below represents a breakdown of the final dispositions of cases in Sidney Municipal Court during 2024.



2024 Juror Statistics

FIRST TERM (01-01-2024 THROUGH 04-30-2024)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	200	
Removed by Jury Commission:	21	11%
Returned by Post Office:	6	3%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	16	8%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	2	
Medical Reasons	10	
Occupation	4	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE FIRST TERM:	157	79%

SECOND TERM (05-01-2024 THROUGH 08-31-2024)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	200	
Removed by Jury Commission:	21	11%
Returned by Post Office:	10	5%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	14	7%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	4	
Medical Reasons	6	
Occupation	4	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE SECOND TERM:	155	78%

THIRD TERM (09-01-2024 THROUGH 12-31-2024)

Number of Jurors Pulled by Jury Commission	200	
Removed by Jury Commission:	15	8%
Returned by Post Office:	15	8%
Excused Based on Questionnaire Information	28	14%
Moved out of Jurisdiction	12	
Medical Reasons	8	
Occupation	8	
JURORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE THIRD TERM:	142	71%

TOTAL NUMBER OF JURORS DRAWN FOR 2024 **600**

TOTAL NUMBER OF JURORS AVAILABLE FOR 2024 **454** **76%**

Probation Department Statistics 2024

NEW PROBATION CASES IN 2024	217	
SUCCESS RATE	75%	
PROBATION COMPLETIONS IN 2024	SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS	UNSUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS
	193	66

ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS

PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS	114
PRETRIAL SERVICES INTERVIEWS	581
MAT	221
CST	191
PAT	46

REFERRALS TO PROGRAMMING

72 HOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM	67
GPS/HOUSE ARREST	16
SCRAM	25
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING	77
ANGER/RAGE COUNSELING	103
HALFWAY HOUSE	5
IN PATIENT PROGRAMS	10
PARENTING CLASSES	11
Pretrial Supervision	19
Batter's Intervention	21
DRUG/ALCOHOL EVALUATIONS	64
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS	339
MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS	101
In House Alcohol/Drug Screens Administered	771
Thinking For a Change / Decision Points	10

Bailiff Department Statistics 2024

PAPERS SERVED

SUBPOENAS	389
SUMMONS	294
WRITS OF RESTITUTION FROM EVICTIONS	67
GARNISHMENTS	7
TOTAL	757

PRISONERS TRANSPORTED TO / FROM JAIL

FEMALES	29
MALES	63
PROBATION/CONTEMPT WARRANTS (OUT OF COUNTY PRISONER PICKUPS)	18
TOTAL	110

LICENSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION	68
UNSUCCESSFUL COMPLETION	3
PENDING	2
TOTAL	73

VIDEO APPEARANCES

FEMALES	226
MALES	579
TOTAL	805