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**To:** Gahanna City Council  
Raymond J. Mularski, Esq.

**From:** Amanda J. Parker, Director of Court Services  
Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor

**Date:** January 18, 2022

**Re:** Mayor's Court Report to Council (January 24, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting)

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### ACTION ITEMS

NONE AT THIS TIME.

### UPDATE

Each month, a report is generated by the Director of Court Services and distributed to the Director of Finance, the Mayor, and to Council, which records and reconciles the Court's operations for the preceding month. The below information provides a breakdown and explanation of the funds that are referenced within the Mayor's Court monthly reports.

The Mayor's Court account is a zero-based account; therefore, at the end of the month, the only money left in the account will be open bonds and outstanding checks. The end of month process requires up to three checks and one ACH transaction to be processed, disbursing the funds received from defendants for that month to the appropriate entities

City of Gahanna - One check is written that is comprised of the following four accounts.

**Fines, Fees and Forfeitures** - money collected from the fines and fees that are due to the City as a result of the disposition of their case.

**Clerk's Computer Fund** – ORC 1901.261(B)(1) allows for courts to collect the additional funds required to computerize the office of the Clerk of Court, in an amount not to exceed \$10 per case. The City of Gahanna elects to charge \$8 per case. There are strict guidelines as to what this money can be used for. Examples of recent use of this fund are software upgrades and support, as well as maintenance of copiers, fax machines, scanners and computer equipment for the office.

**Court Computer Fund** – ORC 1901.261(A)(1) allows for courts to collect the additional funds required to computerize the court and/or to make available computerized legal research services, in an amount not to exceed \$3 per case. There are strict guidelines as to what this money can be used for. An example of a recent use of this fund is to provide Lexis Nexus access to the Mayor's Court prosecutors.

**Building Fund** – ORC 1901.26(B)(1) allows for courts to charge a fee in addition to regular court costs to provide for the acquisition of additional facilities or the rehabilitation of existing facilities. \$5 is added onto each case and is set aside and being saved for the possibility of purchasing a new facility to house the Gahanna Justice Center.



### State of Ohio

The State of Ohio has required the Court to collect various fees and fines from each case to be sent to the State Treasurer of Ohio monthly. These funds include Victims of Crime, Indigent Defense Support Fund, Drug Law Enforcement, Seatbelt and Child Safety Restraint.

### City of Columbus

HB 215 (R.C.2949.094) in 2009 designated that \$1.50 of each moving violation cost is to be appropriated for the Indigent Driver's Alcohol Treatment Program. Those funds are totaled and sent monthly to the City of Columbus Treasurer to be used for Indigent services provided in the Franklin County Municipal Court.

### Collections

When a case has gone to a warrant with unpaid fines and costs and the warrant has been in effect for approx. 30 days without being served, the case may be sent to Capital Recovery Systems, Inc. This collection agency now charges a flat fee of \$50 per case (\$30 for older cases) and that cost is passed along to the defendant. When a defendant pays in full to us, we then pay Capital Recovery their fee. This line item in the report shows how much we are paying to the Collection agency for the month.