



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, December 17, 2007

Hartmann Implements Cost Saving Measure

Use Of Electronic Return Receipt To Save Nearly \$2 Million Over Next Decade

CINCINNATI --- Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Greg Hartmann expects to save over \$150,000 next year and almost \$2 million in costs over the next decade. Hartmann is generating these substantial savings by using electronic return receipt for certified mail.

“Operating government offices as efficiently as possible is critical to solving the County’s budget crisis. Using existing technology is part of the answer. By switching to electronic return receipt for certified mail, our office expects to save nearly \$2 million over the next decade. Little improvements can make a big difference,” said Hartmann.

One of the Clerk of Courts core functions is to provide notice to participants in the justice system. To ensure that the parties actually receive these notices, the Clerk uses the United States Postal Service’s certified mail with return receipt.

Certified mail with return receipt provides evidence of the date of mailing. It also records the recipient’s signature at the time of delivery and serves as evidence of service.

The Clerk of Courts will send out well over 100,000 pieces of certified mail with return receipt this year alone. Using a conservative 4% annual growth rate, it is estimated that the Clerk will be sending close to 170,000 pieces of certified mail with return receipt per year in just ten years.

The current cost of standard return receipt is \$2.15 per piece in addition to other postage. Electronic return receipt only costs \$0.85 per piece. By using electronic return receipt, the Clerk saves \$1.30 per piece on the cost of certified mail with return receipt.

Standard return receipt generates a physical green card with a signature. Electronic return receipt generates and sends an email with a PDF file that includes an image of the signature. In the near future, Hartmann plans to add functionality to the Clerk’s website that will allow customers to check the status of their service online.

Hartmann’s office also implemented another invaluable program for little to no cost this year. Using the Clerk’s existing information technology infrastructure, the Clerk’s office now provides instant notification background checks for foster homes, county day care workers, and school bus drivers.