



News Release

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Municipal Court Civil Bailiffs To Carry Handguns For Protection

Safety concerns on duty create need for increased self-defense measures

CINCINNATI --- Hamilton County Municipal Court civil bailiffs are now permitted to carry a handgun while on duty to protect their safety. Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Greg Hartmann announced that this security measure will be mandatory for all bailiffs in September.

“My number one concern is the safety of my employees. Our civil bailiffs work daily in the most crime ridden areas of our community. They usually work alone and are routinely exposed to environments that are hot beds of drugs, guns and violence,” said Hartmann.

Like law enforcement, municipal court civil bailiffs have completed Ohio Peace Officer Training Association (OPOTA) certification before being permitted to carry a gun. In addition to OPOTA certification, each bailiff must complete ongoing situational training to reinforce verbal negotiation as the primary response to volatile situations. The Hamilton County Sherriff’s office will assist with these classes.

The bailiffs will carry a .40 caliber or nine millimeter handgun. In addition to the handgun, bailiffs also carry an ASP baton and mace.

Municipal court civil bailiffs are responsible for the supervision of court ordered evictions and repossessions. In 2006, civil bailiffs supervised over 2,600 evictions and 155 repossessions.

It will be mandatory for all civil bailiffs to carry a weapon on September 4 of this year. The civil bailiffs serve in the Municipal Court Bailiffs division of the Clerk of Courts office. Municipal Court criminal bailiffs, who already carry handguns, are responsible for serving court ordered warrants and subpoenas. In 2006, the criminal bailiffs received 29,000 warrants and served approximately 15,000 subpoenas.