

Overview of Criminal Housing Docket

Public Safety & Governance Committee | October 4, 2022
Law Department – Quality of Life Division

Hamilton County's Criminal Housing Docket

- Created by Hamilton County Municipal Court in 2003, with City Council support
- County-wide jurisdiction over building, housing, sanitation, health, fire, zoning, or safety codes applicable to buildings, structures, and real property
- Convenes weekly, Tuesday mornings

Case Referral Process

- 2017: Quality of Life assumes docket
- Cases referred by City's code enforcement departments, Hamilton County Sheriff
- Typical cases: illegal dumping, housing/property conditions threatening public and tenant safety, long-standing blighted properties

Case Referral Process

- Each case is reviewed and authorized by individual inspector and their supervisor, the Quality of Life prosecutor and Chief Counsel
- Reason for possible rejection: owner-occupancy, minimal enforcement history, absence of person in control

Prosecutions 2012-22

Year	Cases Filed	
2012	19	
2013	10	
2014	22	
2015	102	
2016	156	
2017	30 (January-June 2017)	20 (June '17-on; QoL assumes docket)
2018	36	
2019	43	
2020	31	
2021	19 (12 dumping cases)	
2022	7 (5 dumping cases)	

Ideal Prosecution Outcomes

- Compliance achieved; healthy housing; blight elimination
- Deter future violations
- General policy is to recommend community service (and restitution in dumping cases); jail time for egregious violations
- Sentencing is at the Judge's discretion

Pending Cases

- 1027 Ross (W. Price Hill)
 - Good Investments, LLC/Avi Ohad
 - Occupied rental property without heat source; tenants relocated
 - Civil citations failed to result in compliance; charges filed February '22
 - Bench trial October 11, 2022

Pending Cases

- 1027 Ross (W. Price Hill)



Pending Cases

- 414-20 Oregon (Mt. Adams)
 - Pankaj Desai
 - Failing retaining wall (200'x137') below Rookwood Pottery building; landslide concern
 - Civil orders and citations issued from 2018-on
 - Charges filed November '21; engineering firms retained, work in progress

Pending Cases



Contact

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