



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LORAIN MUNICIPAL COURT COVID-19 UPDATED RESPONSE

MARK J. MIHOK,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

THOMAS J. ELWELL, JR.  
PRESIDING JUDGE

LINDA A. WEBBER,  
MAGISTRATE

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Lorain Municipal Court announces several measures being instituted to keep essential court functions operating, while observing social distancing requirements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Municipal Courts typically have sessions with a large number of people. In Lorain Municipal Court, those sessions are: Evictions, Traffic Court, Housing Court, and Tax Court. It is impossible to observe social distancing in those situations. As a result the Court is implementing certain measures to ensure the safety of the public and Court staff.

First, the Court has initiated a 90- day moratorium on eviction cases for non-payment of rent. These hearings will be set no sooner than early July. “The medical experts have indicated that, in Ohio, the coronavirus cases will peak in late April or early May,” said Judge Mark J. Mihok. “The virus is expected to subside, and we believe it will be safe for larger numbers of people to come to Court.” Evictions cases involving and allegation of domestic violence or criminal activity will be heard beginning April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, which coincides with Governor DeWine’s stay-at-home policy.

Traffic cases, housing docket cases, and tax docket cases will be reset to July as well. However, a call-in waiver process will be implemented in order to keep those cases moving. “The waiver process will be more lenient to encourage people to take advantage of it,” said Judge Thomas J. Elwell Jr. “People can still contest the case by entering a plea of Not Guilty, and the case will be set for a hearing in July.”

Clerk of Court, Ted Kalo indicated, “The situation has been changing almost daily, and we are trying to keep things moving while observing social distancing.”

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