

SUMMIT COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, 2009 marks the Twentieth Anniversary of the Miami-Dade Drug Court, the first Drug Court in the nation. That court sparked a national revolution that changed the face of the American Justice System; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across this nation safer, providing focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships and bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, 60 to 80 percent of drug offenders sentenced to prison and over 40 percent sentenced to probation recidivate, and whereas fewer than 17 percent of Drug Court Graduates recidivate; and

WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program evaluations and studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts are demonstratively effective and significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, over 25,000 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, substance abuse and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and community supervision personnel, researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others dedicated to Drug Courts and similar types of treatment programs are healing families and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, The Drug Court movement has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,301 operational Drug Courts and 3,410 problem solving courts as of December 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Summit County Felony Drug Court (SCFDC) is an innovative program available to felony drug possessions/abuse offenders county wide, taking offenders from all three Municipal Courts within the county; Akron, Barberton, and Cuyahoga Falls. This program swiftly introduces drug possession/abuse offenders to drug treatment with continuing judicial involvement, increases the likelihood of rehabilitation and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. It is a collaborative effort between the courts, prosecutor's office, law enforcement, defense attorneys, and treatment providers, providing offenders with mandatory treatment, increased supervision, and coordinated use of community resources; and

WHEREAS, Friday, May 15, 2009 marks *National Drug Court Commencement Day*, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known by all and declared by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio that this Council declares that a "Drug Court Month" be established during the Month of May, 2009, recognizing the practitioners and participants who make drug courts work and the significant contributions that the Summit County Felony Drug Court has made and continues to make, in reducing drug usage and crime.



Nick Kostandaras
Council President