

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
RESOLUTION #2007-15**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 154, WHICH PROPOSES TO ABOLISH ALL MAYOR'S COURTS BY DECEMBER 31, 2007.

Whereas, House Bill 154 proposes to abolish all Mayor's Courts by December 31, 2007; and

Whereas, in its present form, this proposed measure proposes to reduce the money necessary to keep enough police officers on the streets in a full-time capacity in the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, it has been shown that Mayor's Courts in Ohio have provided an efficient, cost-effective and convenient system for dealing with minor offenses in the Sate as well as in the Village of Yellow Springs; and

Whereas, through the Mayor's Court systems, including the Yellow Springs Mayor's Court, police overtime expenses are kept to a minimum since officers would not have to attend the municipal court for these minor offenses; and

Whereas, citizens can plead their case locally and maintain a right to plead for a new trial at the municipal court if they are unsatisfied with the outcome of Mayor's Court and under H.B. 154 this option would no longer be available; and

Whereas, the Mayor's Court is one that most often hears guilty pleas and does not hear more serious cases such as domestic violence or multiple OVI's; and

Whereas, the Mayor's Courts have become more and more professional with mandatory training; and

Whereas, the Mayor's Courts, including the Yellow Springs Mayor's Court, is a court that takes much of the load of municipal and county courts and a court which saves additional taxpayer dollars in that it reduces the need for new and expensive centralized court buildings; and

Whereas, the Yellow Springs Mayor's Court has proven to be an efficient and convenient way in meting out justice on the smallest of offenses and is a good way to keep order within the community of Yellow Springs while keeping police officers on the street rather than incurring overtime at the local municipal court; and

Whereas, Village Council at the urging of the Mayor and the Village's Administration, believes it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of all Village residents to maintain the Yellow Springs Mayor's Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

Section 1. This Village Council in supporting its Mayor's Court, the Village Police Department and the Mayor's Courts throughout the State of Ohio oppose House Bill 154.

Section 2. All discussions concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were held in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees, that resulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in effect and in full force at the earliest date permitted by law.

Karen Wintrow, Vice President of Council

Passed: June 4, 2007

Attest: _____
Deborah Benning, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL:

Karen Wintrow __Y__ Bruce Rickenbach Absent Kathryn Chase __Y__

Judith Hempfling __Y__ Kathryn Van der Heiden __Y__