



Dayton Clerk of Court Mark Owens to retire after 30 years

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After more than 30 years of dedicated public service, Dayton Municipal Court Clerk Mark Owens will retire Dec. 31, 2021.

Owens made the decision to not run for reelection in 2021, stating “I am happy with what I have accomplished, but after 30 years it is time for new leadership.”

At a formal closing of court ceremony held Dec. 17, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley honored Owens with the key to the city for his promotion of democracy and support of the community. She credited his honorable public service for the past three decades to the citizens of Dayton and thanked him for his support and mentorship.

Owens received multiple additional honors during the ceremony including proclamations from Montgomery County and the City of Dayton for distinguished service to the citizens of the city of Dayton.

Tom Ritchie, Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO, presented Owens with the 2021 AFL-CIO Labor Recognition Award. Ritchie told the crowd that under Owens’ leadership Dayton was the first municipal clerk’s office in Ohio to be unionized. Finally, Ohio Representative Willis Blackshear, Jr., presented Owens with a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Owens was appointed as the clerk of the Dayton Municipal Court on Jan. 25, 1991. He successfully ran for his first full term in November of 1991. He was reelected in 1997, 2003, 2009 and 2015. As clerk of court, he oversaw the implementation of two court management systems, took responsibility for the collection of bail for all courts in Montgomery County and created a Self-Help Center for Dayton Municipal Court.

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