

**This statement is from Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administrative and Presiding Judge Brendan J. Sheehan:**

The events taking place in our country are historic, and last weekend those events reached our doorstep. Never in my life could I have imagined coming to the Justice Center and seeing National Guard vehicles around the building. This week has been spent cleaning up the Justice Center and offices at Courthouse Square. We postponed everything but emergency hearings and arraignments to allow the security and building crews to do their jobs.

Buildings can be repaired. What will take time is the processing of our emotions as a city, county, and nation. As a Court, we must acknowledge the pain, anger, frustration, and sadness felt by those in our community. These emotions must be accepted and validated. Our employees are experiencing the same feelings that have gripped our nation.

I do not have the answers, but I do have hope for the future. On Monday, we plan to re-open the Justice Center to the public that our Judges have sworn an oath to serve. We, as a Court, will continue to have difficult but necessary conversations, and respect each other through the process.

Be safe, be well.

Judge Brendan Sheehan