

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR
WESTON WAMP

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2024

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Hamilton County Launches Third Recovery Court Dedicated to Assisting Veterans in the Justice System

Program tailored to individual veterans' needs; launch marks Tennessee's eleventh veterans treatment court

Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp, Judge Boyd Patterson, and Judge Gary Starnes today announced the official launch of the Hamilton County Veterans Treatment Court, an innovative program aimed at addressing the unique needs of local veterans involved in the criminal justice system. This specialized court represents a significant step in the county's commitment to supporting those who have served our nation by providing them with the resources and accountability needed to thrive.

"The launch of Hamilton County Veterans Treatment Court furthers the county's commitment to supporting those who have defended the American values we hold dear," said **Mayor Wamp**. "Veterans face challenges that many civilians can't fully understand, and this court exists to bridge that gap by offering them a path to accountability, recovery, and renewed purpose."

Hamilton County's Drug Recovery Court and Mental Health Court have long been recognized for their effectiveness in reducing recidivism. The addition of Veterans Treatment Court provides a more focused approach to assist veterans involved in the justice system. Veterans Treatment Court will follow the existing framework for other accountability courts, using proven methods that are already supported by state and federal funding.

"Veterans always stand up for America whenever we need them. Veterans Treatment Court is Hamilton County standing up for veterans who need us," said **Judge Boyd Patterson**. "Our diverse alliance of community service partners allows us to help local veterans suffering from issues related to their military service. Through compassionate collaboration, we can reduce recidivism, rebuild families, increase public safety and save taxpayer dollars. On behalf of the entire Veterans Treatment Court team, we thank Mayor Wamp and the Commissioners for supporting our project."

Mayor Wamp allocated funding in this year's budget for a case manager to oversee the court, and the county will pursue grant funding to sustain and expand the program in the coming years.

"I'm proud to see Veterans Treatment Court finally come together in Hamilton County," said **Judge Gary Starnes**. "This court is designed to guide veterans through their recovery, offering the right treatment and supervision to help them overcome challenges and reintegrate into society—ultimately strengthening both our justice system and the community at large."

The American Legion Post 14 has donated six flags, each representing a branch of the military, to stand as proud symbols in the Veterans Treatment Court courtroom. Following today's presentation honoring local leaders and veterans, the County Commission will vote on accepting the donation December 18th.

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