



Daniel J. O'Connor Jr.

Franklin County Recorder

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2017

Contact: Mike Hobbs

Director of Community Outreach

(614) 525-2239

Recorder O'Connor and the City of Columbus Launch New Initiative to Help the Homeless

Recorder's Office to become a Steward of Birth Certificates

COLUMBUS, OH- Today, Franklin County Recorder Daniel J. O'Connor Jr. is pleased to announce a new partnership with the City of Columbus that would give individuals the option to file a certified copy of their birth certificate with the Recorder's Office. This is an attempt to create a common sense initiative that seeks to better serve those looking to obtain affordable housing in Columbus.

Currently, after individuals submit their application for public housing they are placed on a waiting list that can exceed a year of wait time. During this process, they are required to submit certain documentation like a photo ID and birth certificate. City officials realized that a major hindrance for individuals waiting a long period, is that many of them had lost or misplaced their birth certificates because they did not have a secure place to keep them. Under federal mandate, if you do not have all the required documentation when you are called from the list, you lose your place and are moved to the back of the line. Therefore, in an attempt to remedy this barrier the Recorder's Office created software that would support this initiative.

"As we move forward in our 100-Day Challenge to End Homelessness, we are pushing the envelope to find new solutions to long term barriers our community is facing. This new initiative is a product of our community coming together and working together to find the solutions we need, not just for youth experiencing homelessness, but for anyone experiencing homelessness. I applaud Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor for joining us in this all too important work," said Columbus City Mayor Andrew J. Ginther.

With this new initiative, anyone in Franklin County can now store a certified copy of his/her birth certificate with the Recorder's Office at no cost. "I believe that as public servants it is our responsibility to always be looking to find more ways that we can partner and collaborate with each other to better serve the public," said Recorder O'Connor. "This is a great example of making government work for the people. It is a very simple solution to a very real problem and I am thrilled to be a part of it." Access to copies of these documents will be controlled and only given to authorized organizations to ensure proper use and will not be publically viewable.

Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady, whose office is also a part of the 100-Day Challenge to End homelessness, also had a comment on this collaboration, "The creativity and innovation in County Recorder Danny O'Connor's solution is exactly the type of approach we need to expect of ourselves as we work to address complex community issues like housing and homelessness," said Commissioner O'Grady. "I am optimistic about this and other efforts to reduce barriers to stabilize housing for our residents."

The Recorder's Office will officially begin accepting birth certificates on September 15, 2017.

###