

Mark Cann, 1097 Locust Corner Road, Pierce Township

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

January 22, 2020

I am here today to present a rebuttal to your decision, in making Clermont County a gun sanctuary county. I am also asking you to reconsider your decision based on my comments here. The Cann family has lived in Clermont County for 100 years. We have been successful farmers, business people, educators, community volunteers and, yes, politicians. You all know Donna and me well, who for the past 20 years have been actively involved in government affairs in Pierce Township and the county. We've given our time, money and effort to make Clermont a better place to live.

Your recent decision, however, has compelled me to respond to what I believe has set the wrong tone for our community. The following is a letter I wrote to the Cincinnati Enquirer and was published last week in an edited fashion. Here is the unedited version: Titled....

Gun Sanctuary Resolution Sends Wrong Message

The passing of the gun sanctuary resolution by the Clermont County Commissioners is as unnecessary as it is useless. It has no teeth and smacks of political shenanigans more so than any meaningful service to the community. I guess it's the "They're gonna come and get all our guns" mentality that some people can't shake. I'm a lifelong, proud Clermont County resident and gun owner. I support the right to keep and bear arms. I think I have a good grasp on the difference between hunting for sport and killing. I am a combat Vietnam veteran. My father was a WWII veteran with a bronze star and two purple hearts. My uncle was a WWII veteran as well and happened to be a Clermont County commissioner just like you in the 1960's. His name is inscribed in a plaque on the wall as you enter the Board of Elections building. They knew and I know, what killing weapons do. Our forefathers had no idea what types of weapons would be developed 250 years ago, just as we don't know what kinds of killing weapons will be developed in the future. The three commissioners may well be gun owners, or not, but they're not veterans. They don't know killing. At some point, we must step back and have meaningful, pragmatic and unemotional discussions about limitations on what reasonable arms (killing weapons) we have a right to bear. The statement David Painter made that, "The only way to stop a bad guy is a good guy with a gun", is childish and unbecoming as a community leader. Mr. Painter, we're not all gun-totin' cowboys out here in Clermont County. We're intelligent, likeable folks who don't necessarily like to have political positions pushed down our throats without a forum for input and expressing community opinions. It's not the message you should be sending.

You say you have changed nothing, but you have. You've set a tone and perception of this county that we are all of one mindset when that is untruthful and disrespectful. This resolution delivers no positive results and it could have long term effects, including activities like attracting extreme gun activists who may wish to have a gun rally here, which could have harmful repercussions; it could effect economic development deterring businesses who may not agree; it has the potential to widen community divisiveness; and, it does nothing to positively affect the quality of life we all seek. In fact, it ~~is~~ does the opposite. It is contradictory and inflammatory and you have no data to present that the majority of our community supports it.

I and I believe my father and uncle would ask that you thoughtfully rethink, reconsider, and pray hard, on the decision you have made. And I now ask respectfully that after further consideration and reflection, you graciously and without apology, rescind your resolution.