



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

DYS Honors Commissioner Bob Proud

September 19, 2016



From left to right: Assistant Director Linda Janes, Commissioner Bob Proud, Director Harvey Reed, and Legislative Liaison Kyle Petty

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

Longtime juvenile justice advocate and Clermont County Commissioner Bob Proud was honored at Friday's RECLAIM Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting was the last for Commissioner Proud, who is retiring after more than two decades of service as chair and member of the committee. His involvement with Ohio's juvenile justice system spans more than 40 years in total. In fact, Mr. Proud was associated with the agency before it became known as the Department of Youth Services in 1981 (formerly the Ohio Youth Commission).

In addition to seven terms as a Commissioner in Clermont County, Mr. Proud has served Ohio's youth in ways that are not always apparent. From volunteering his county as a pilot for RECLAIM in 1994 to helping shape the more recent community initiatives like Targeted RECLAIM, his work is integrated into the Ohio model. With his input, our system has successfully reduced the number of youth admitted to secure facilities, consistent with public safety, and has built community capacity.

When interviewed in 2015 by the *Columbus Dispatch*, Bob explained, “Every number we talk about is a person with a family. When we tell about how many commitments have been averted to a DYS facility, and we’re able to keep that young person locally, and do treatment, that is the beauty of RECLAIM. We keep them local and the counties are paid to keep them local.”

Mr. Proud was presented with a Director’s Coin of Excellence as well as a proclamation from Governor John R. Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor. They thanked Bob for his service to the RECLAIM Advisory Committee and other efforts. “There is no greater display of one’s generosity than by the giving of one’s time, and that is best exemplified by your commitment and dedication to the Committee as well as the many other associations, boards and programs in which you are involved,” they said in the proclamation.

During the tribute, Bob shared that he was touched by the feedback regarding his service and is eager to see what’s next. “My replacement will be a champion for RECLAIM and an active participant with ‘all things RECLAIM’ to move this important work forward,” he said.

I would like to thank Commissioner Proud for his outstanding service and wish him a wonderful retirement filled with time to enjoy family and friends.