**November 19. 2014**

**Veterans Treatment Court Proposed In Hamilton County**

Dooley is a retired US Air Force Colonel. He served as a mentor in a treatment program that was part of the Veterans court in Las Vegas.
"They have problems and they get to a low level in the downward spiral of how their life goes and they just look for somebody who will give them help," said Dooley.

Dooley says whether it's dealing with PTSD or substance abuse issues, the judge will decide an appropriate treatment plan based on that veteran's needs. In some cases, Dooley says the veterans could walk away without anything on their record if they follow the judge's rules.

"My hope with the veterans is that we will provide a structure that will allow them to have a second chance. But not a second chance that's given to them. If it is so easily obtained that they don't really try hard and they think it's some sort of giveaway problem, they won't value it," said Dooley.

Mayor Andy Berke supports the idea of establishing a Veterans court in Chattanooga.  "They've put their lives at risk. Many of them come back with problems related to that whether it's physical or mental and for us to be able to truly claim to be a great city, we need to make sure we're providing the services they need," said Mayor Berke.

Dooley says his next step is to travel to Knoxville and study how their veteran court is ran. Dooley says he hopes the treatment plan, whether it be counseling or mentoring to be anywhere from eight to 12 month.

To view the WTVC News Channel 9 video filmed on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 [click here.](http://www.newschannel9.com/news/top-stories/stories/veterans-treatment-court-proposed-hamilton-county-13856.shtml)