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**Beth A. Tischler, Prosecutor**

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March 6, 2023

Attorney General, Dave Yost  
c/o Atty. Connor Hollis & Atty. Alison Archer

**RE: STATUS OF PROPOSED ABATEMENT AND REQUEST TO APPROVE**

Good afternoon:

This letter is regarding our March 7, 2022 request for approval of the proposed draft Abatement Agreement with Judge Bradley J. Smith, pursuant to O.R.C. 117.33, in reference to Sandusky County Finding #2020-001.

After submitting our request for approval last year, we provided various documents in response to your due diligence in April and May of 2022. It was our belief that the replies provided were fully responsive to the requests and we had anticipated approval of the Abatement Agreement. I believe our last correspondence seeking items was in May of 2022. As I know we are all managing many pending matters, I wanted to bring this back to your attention so that the County can get closure on this situation.

To that end, the undersigned various involved officials whom I represent, once again collectively request approval of the Abatement Agreement. Being currently unresolved, it leaves a cloud over the county that has ongoing impacts in negative ways that we all wish to move past. This includes one of the non-profits now struggling and potentially closing due to the loss of county funding while this matter has remained unresolved since the 2019 interviews.

As previously indicated and included within the verbiage of the provided draft Abatement Agreement, we emphasize that there were no county funds lost, misdirected, or misappropriated. All funds in question were for a proper public purpose and went to the intended non-profit recipients; each of whom provided a valuable public service to the families and children of Sandusky County as was properly budgeted for by the County Commissioners. To pursue this FFR would create an unjust recouplement to the county and is not desired or requested.

We have always acknowledged that the manner of handling the billing paperwork was not best practice, but there were never any allegations of ill-intentions, self-interest, or any benefit to Judge Smith. Also, the paperwork process has been modified and resolved to avoid any confusion or issues in the future.

Additionally, the County Sheriff has signed this request as well. His inclusion is based upon his knowledge of the involvement of our disgraced former prosecutor (Tim Braun) in the initiation of the original investigation, in a manner that was contrary to the Sheriff's opinion at the time, after he declined to pursue the matter. His knowledge includes a general understanding of the background of issues that have been referenced by Judge Smith throughout this matter; including then-prosecutor Braun appearing to "target" Judge Smith on numerous occasions for inappropriate or retaliatory reasons, which were misrepresented to investigators. This was all being done while then-prosecutor Braun was advising Judge Smith on how to handle the ongoing investigation he had initiated; which went well beyond the clear and obvious conflict of interest to something that appears more intentional and nefarious.

As such, in closing, we ask that this matter be timely reviewed and approved by your office. Any additional requests for information or clarification will be responded to in a timely manner, as well as any requested changes to the wording of the proposed draft Abatement Agreement, which is included for easy reference.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



County Prosecutor Beth A. Tischler



County Sheriff Christopher Hilton



County Auditor Jerri Miller



County Commissioner Charles Schwochow



County Commissioner Russ Zimmerman



County Commissioner Scott Miller