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May 18, 2017

Mr. Jerry C. Cirino, President  
Mr. John R. Hamercheck  
Mr. Daniel P. Troy  
Lake County Board of Commissioners  
105 Main Street  
Painesville, OH 44077

RE: Request to place an additional .5 Mill levy on the 2017 General Election ballot for the Lake County Crime Laboratory

Dear Commissioners:

This year, 2017, is the last year in which the Lake County Crime Laboratory will have sufficient revenues to operate at its current level. This means that in 2018 the laboratory will have insufficient revenues to operate without layoffs of personnel and a substantial decrease in laboratory services. If a levy is passed in November, 2017, the revenue collections on the new levy may commence in 2018 and avoid the partial shutting down of the laboratory.

The last crime laboratory levy was on the ballot in 1999. At that time, I stated that the .3 mil levy would be sufficient to operate the laboratory for fifteen years. We have actually been able to extend that levy slightly longer. Due to increased case load (especially in drugs and DNA), the rising costs of everything, the requiring of additional staff and the need for new equipment, the current levy is no longer able to sustain the crime laboratory. In fact, the current levy revenues are only about one half of the amount needed to operate the laboratory.

I previously reviewed the financial needs of the crime laboratory with Lake County Auditor's office. An additional .5 mill levy should support the operation of the crime laboratory for another twelve to fifteen years.

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