



Charles E. Coulson
Lake County Prosecuting Attorney

**Assistant
Prosecutors**

David J. Hackman, Jr.
*Chief Assistant
Civil Division*

Karen L. Kowall
*Chief Assistant
Criminal Division*

Eric J. Foisel
Juvenile Division Supervisor

Benjamin J. Neylon
*Support Enforcement Division
Supervisor*

Karen A. Sheppert
Appellate Division Supervisor

Jenny B. Azouri
Michael A. Barth
Charles F. Cichocki
Eric A. Condon
Patrick J. Condon
Seanna M. Conway
Teri R. Daniel
Michael L. DeLeone
Rocco W. DiPierro, Jr.
James R. Dugan
Robert A. Gambol
Gianine A. Germano
Laurence D. Giegerich
Nathaniel W. Johnson
Paul E. Kaplan
Anna C. Kelley
Alexandra E. Kutz
Taylir K. Linden
Carolyn K. Mulligan
Lisa A. Neroda
Jacqueline M. O'Donnell
Christopher R. Radak
Maria A. Rowan
Jason R. Shachner
Rachael E. Wood

Administration

Laura J. Nielsen
Office Administrator

Katrina T. Magnusson
Assistant Office Administrator

Aimee E. Moffat
Administrative Assistant

Abby M. DelaMotte
*Administrative Assistant
Support Enforcement Division*

Peggy T. Grant, MS, LPC
*Victim Assistance
Program Director*

Joseph M. Matteo
Chief Investigator

Lindsay T. Evans
T Director

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.

• ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 105 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 490 • PAINESVILLE, OHIO 44077 •

www.lakecountypProsecutor.org

(440) 350-2683 • (440) 428-4348 • (440) 918-2683 • (440) 350-2585

Painesville Madison West End Fax Number

Mr. Jerry C. Cirino, President
Mr. John R. Hamercheck
Mr. Daniel P. Troy
Page 2.

I cannot over emphasize how important the Lake County Crime Laboratory is to Lake County law enforcement. The Lake County Crime Laboratory is a full service ASCLD/Lab- International Accredited Laboratory. This means that our laboratory conducts itself at the highest international standards. A number of our scientists are recognized throughout the country as forensic leaders. Four of our scientists inspect laboratories throughout the United States and even in foreign countries as part of the ASCLD/Lab-International inspection team. The laboratory is Lake County's most important crime fighting tool.

An additional .5 mill levy is necessary to keep the laboratory operating at a level that will continue to support the needs of Lake County Law Enforcement and to keep our community safe from crime.

MURDER, RAPE, ARSON, DRUGS- the reason we need to keep the Lake County Crime Laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Coulson

cc: Michael Matas
Budget Director