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## ***Press Release*** ***August 10, 1999***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**FORMER MVSD DIRECTOR ARRAIGNED --  
CHARGES INCLUDE BRIBERY, CORRUPT ACTIVITY,  
ETHICS VIOLATIONS, AND \$2 MILLION FORFEITURE**

Edward A. Flask, former member of the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors, was arraigned this morning in a Trumbull County courtroom before Judge Peter J. Kontos on a 13-count indictment secretly handed up by a Trumbull County Grand Jury last Friday. Charges in the indictment include bribery, engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, having an unlawful interest in a public contract, conflict of interest, and soliciting and receiving improper compensation. The pattern of corrupt activity indictment is a felony of the first degree.

The Grand Jury indictment also demanded Flask's forfeiture of over \$2 million dollars, a sum that includes payments made to Flask from various companies doing business with the MVSD. Flask was released on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond.

The Grand Jury indictments proceed from an investigation led by Special Prosecutor Vic Viguicci, the FBI, Special Assistant Prosecutor Paul Nick, Investigative Counsel for the Ohio Ethics Commission, and investigators from the Ohio Ethics Commission. Prosecutors indicated that the investigation is ongoing and the Grand Jury investigating MVSD has been extended for another five months.

"The Ohio Ethics Commission has been committed to working with the special prosecutor and the FBI on this matter," stated David E. Freel, Executive Director for the Ohio Ethics Commission. "These indictments by the Trumbull County Grand Jury are a significant next step in the process."

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent agency of state government that has the

power to investigate allegations of misconduct of public servants, among its other duties in interpreting and administering the Ohio Ethics Law for many state and local public officials and employees. The Commission has been serving the public, and state and local governments, since its formation as part of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.