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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SETTLEMENT REACHED WITH FORMER NEWTON FALLS MAYOR

The Ohio Ethics Commission today reached a settlement with Former Newton Falls Mayor Patrick Layshock regarding an allegation that the former mayor used his public position to benefit his brother's business.

Layshock agreed to accept a public reprimand and has acknowledged that the Ohio Ethics Commission's investigation found sufficient evidence supporting violations of the Ohio Ethics Law. In exchange for his agreement, the State of Ohio will dismiss the criminal conflict of interest charges and not pursue further prosecution.

The Commission's investigation revealed that Layshock participated in city meetings regarding his brother's company, L&V Associates Property Development. The former mayor also encouraged City Council to hasten the progress of his brother's development project in Newton Falls. Therefore, the Ethics Commission determined that Layshock committed conflict of interest violations under Ohio's Ethics Laws and related statutes. A copy of the settlement agreement is attached.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In the Matter of Patrick Layshock
Inquiry No. 09-Q-0819-035
September 2012

This agreement is entered into between the State of Ohio (State) and Patrick Layshock pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 102.06(G)(1).

Summary: On August 19, 2009, the Ohio Ethics Commission opened an investigation of potential ethics violations by Patrick Layshock, former Mayor of the City of Newton Falls, Ohio (City). Specifically, the Commission received a charge that while serving as the City's Mayor, Layshock participated in matters related to the business and property interests of his brother, Kenneth Layshock.

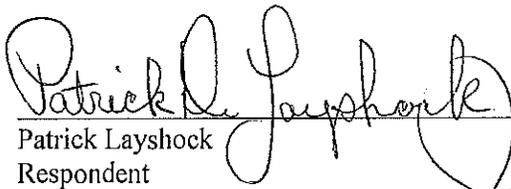
Facts: The investigation revealed that between January 22 and March 16, 2009, Layshock participated in two-three (2-3) meetings and abstained from another meeting that had some connection with his brother, Kenneth Layshock's business and property interests in claimed violation of RC§102.03(D). In addition, Layshock initiated telephone calls to two (2) city officials regarding Forum Health's proposed development of an urgent care facility on that property owned by Kenneth Layshock in the City.

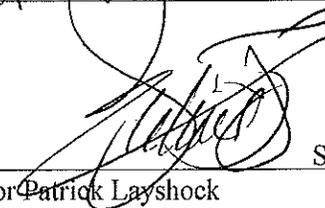
Staff reviewed the results of this investigation with the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting, in Executive Session, on June 17, 2011. The Commission authorized staff to share the results of its investigation with the appropriate prosecuting authority. On January 20, 2012, the Newton Falls Municipal Prosecutor filed a criminal complaint charging Layshock with two conflict of interest violations, misdemeanors of the first degree. While Layshock admits that the claimed facts support potential violations of 102.03(D) of the Ethics Law because he participated in matters related to his brother's business and property interests, the State nevertheless determined that these matters should be addressed through the settlement authority under 102.06(G) based upon the following factors in mitigation:

In mitigation of any violation of RC§102.06(G), the development of Kenneth Layshock's property, regarding which Layshock participated, never occurred. In addition, Layshock no longer serves in a public position with the City. Finally, Layshock was cooperative with the Commission staff during its investigation.

Per the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the State hereby issues a public reprimand to Patrick Layshock for violations of Ethics Laws, and in lieu of continued prosecution of this matter. Layshock agrees to enter into this settlement agreement to resolve the pending charges and any subsequent prosecution by the appropriate prosecuting authority based upon any of the facts involving Layshock that were the subject of the investigation by the Ethics Commission. This agreement will be a public record.

Per the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the State in consideration of Patrick Layshock's acceptance of the terms herein, agrees to seek leave of the court to Dismiss the charges currently pending against Patrick Layshock, with prejudice.


September 20, 2012
Date
Patrick Layshock
Respondent


September , 2012
Date
Michael D. Rossi, Attorney for Patrick Layshock


September , 2012
Date
Joseph Fritz, Newton Falls Prosecutor


September 25, 2012
Date
Ohio Ethics Commission
Julie M. Korte, Chief Investigative Attorney
Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Newton Falls