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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Three Indicted for Having an Unlawful Interest In a
Public Contract Relative to the Berea School District**

CLEVELAND- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty announced the indictment of defendants Randal Scherf, 44, and Jennifer Scherf, 43, both of Port Clinton, and business partner Michael Langford, 66, of Maineville.

Randal Scherf, the former Treasurer of the Berea School District, and his wife, Jennifer, submitted falsified documents to the Berea School District for reimbursement of their medical copayments and deductibles. The Berea School District policy mandates that employees must utilize the health insurance of their spouse if their spouse's employer offers medical insurance.

During the period of October 1, 2009, and April 1, 2012, Randal Scherf submitted \$20,764.74 in unauthorized reimbursements which were also billed to the school district. In addition, he used his position to authorize a District contract with Healthsmart, a business associate of Scherf's private business. Randal Scherf then hired Michael Langford to administer the reimbursement program for the district. The Scherf's also presented a forged document to the Berea School District to justify COBRA payment reimbursements claimed by Randy Scherf so that the school system could reimburse him for these as well. A total of \$28,000 was stolen from the school district.

Today's indictment reflects charges of Theft in Office, Tampering with Records, Money Laundering, Forgery, and Having an Unlawful Interest in a Public Contract. A warrant has been issued for Randal Scherf. All three defendants are expected to be in court for their arraignments which have been scheduled for April 25, 2013, at 8:30 am.

This case was investigated by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, Ohio Ethics Commission, and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department.
