



Press Release ***March 4, 2011***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORMER UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE INDICTED BY CLERMONT COUNTY GRAND JURY

Today, Clermont County Prosecutor Don White announced that he and members of his staff presented the first phase of their investigation to a special grand jury session resulting from an investigation and referral of former Union Township Trustee Carl Douglas Walker by the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Clermont County grand jury returned a six count indictment for similar violations of having an unlawful interest in a public contract, ORC §2921.42(A)(1), all fourth degree felonies, punishable by up to 18 months in jail and a \$5,000 fine on each count. All six counts are, in effect, ethics law violations wherein Walker, while a Township Trustee, voted for and approved separate payments of nearly \$100,000.00 to his son Mark Walker's engineering firm, Professional Engineering Group, LLC. A summons will be issued by the clerk and Mr. Walker will be served in the near future.

Prior to March 2, 2006, Carl Douglas Walker was a Union Township Trustee. On March 2, 2006 he resigned as Trustee and was appointed to the position of Union Township Administrator the next day. He was terminated from that job August 12, 2008. Near the date of his termination, the Auditor of the State of Ohio conducted an audit/investigation into allegations of financial misconduct by Mr. Walker as Trustee and township administrator with regard to township contracts with his son's engineering firm. The Auditor's findings were referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission (OEC).

The second phase of the this ongoing investigation involves the period of time when Walker was the Township Administrator from March 3, 2006 to August 12, 2008. White stated that his office is in the process of reviewing the FBI and OEC investigations. "Additional documents must be reviewed and witnesses interviewed in order for us to present multiple charges, ethics violations and other potential felonies, to another grand jury later this year," White stated. "We will be reviewing transactions wherein Union Township paid Mark Walker's engineering firm over \$700,000.00 during the period of time Carl Douglas Walker was the township administrator. We have the assistance of the FBI, the OEC and the Union Township Police Department in our continued investigation."