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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mahoning County Grand Jury Issues Indictments in Oak Hill Investigation

The Mahoning County Grand Jury returned a 73-count indictment today, charging 7 persons and 3 organizations with multiple felony and misdemeanor charges. The Grand Jury had been meeting to review evidence and hear testimony related to an investigation by Special Prosecutors who were appointed by the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas to investigate the county's relocation of the County's Job and Family Services (JFS) office from Garland Plaza to the Oak Hill Renaissance building.

The indictments charge that the owners of Garland Plaza and other affiliated entities, specifically, The Ohio Valley Mall, The Cafaro Company, The Marion Plaza, Inc., and Anthony M. Cafaro, Sr., conspired with County Commissioner John A. McNally, IV, former County Treasurer John Reardon, County Auditor Michael V. Sciortino, former County Job and Family Services Director John Zachariah, attorney Martin Yavorcik, and Flora Cafaro, to prevent or delay the relocation of the County's JFS offices. They further charge that the participants in this conspiracy engaged in a pattern of corrupt activity and committed bribery, perjury, money laundering, tampering with records, and ethics violations in furtherance of or to conceal their participation in this conspiracy, including providing or accepting money, free legal services, campaign contributions, disclosing confidential information, and the offer to guaranty a loan made by a national bank.

The indictments returned by the Grand Jury specifically charge as follows:

- 1) ANTHONY M. CAFARO, SR. with Two counts of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Felonies of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Three counts of Perjury, Felonies of the Third Degree, Four counts of Bribery, Felonies of the Third Degree; and Three counts of Money Laundering, Felonies of the Third Degree;

- 2) THE CAFARO COMPANY with Two counts of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Felonies of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Four counts of Bribery, Felonies of the Third Degree; and Three counts of Money Laundering, Felonies of the Third Degree;
- 3) OHIO VALLEY MALL COMPANY with Two counts of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Felonies of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; and Four Counts of Bribery, Felonies of the Third Degree;
- 4) THE MARION PLAZA, INC. with Two counts of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Felonies of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; and Four Counts of Bribery, Felonies of the Third Degree;
- 5) JOHN A. MCNALLY, IV with Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a Felony of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Three counts of Perjury, Felonies of the Third Degree; Bribery, a Felony of the Third Degree, Disclosure of Confidential Information, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree; Two counts of Conflict of Interest, Misdemeanors of the First Degree; and Soliciting or Accepting Improper Compensation, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree;
- 6) JOHN REARDON with Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a Felony of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Two counts of Perjury, Felonies of the Third Degree; Bribery, a Felony of the Third Degree; Two counts of Conflict of Interest, Misdemeanors of the First Degree; and Filing False Financial Disclosure Statement with the Ohio Ethics Commission, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree;
- 7) MICHAEL V. SCIORTINO with Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a Felony of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Two counts of Perjury, Felonies of the Third Degree; Bribery, a Felony of the Third Degree; Two counts of Conflict of Interest, Misdemeanors of the First Degree; Filing False Financial Disclosure Statement with the Ohio Ethics Commission, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree; and Soliciting or Accepting Improper Compensation, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree;
- 8) JOHN ZACHARIAH with Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a Felony of the Second Degree; Two counts of Conspiracy, Felonies of the Third Degree; Three counts of Perjury, Felonies of the Third Degree; Bribery, a Felony of the Third Degree; and Tampering with Records, a Felony of the Third Degree;

9) MARTIN YAVORCIK with Money Laundering, a Felony of the Third Degree;
and

10) FLORA CAFARO with Money Laundering, a Felony of the Third Degree.

The filing of an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Any person charged is entitled to a trial in which it would be the state's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

If convicted, the maximum penalty for a Second Degree Felony is 8 years in prison and/or a \$15000 fine; for a Third Degree Felony, 5 years in prison and/or \$10,000 fine; and for a First Degree Misdemeanor, 6 months in jail and/or \$1000 fine.

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