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Summit County Prosecutor's Statement on Schismenos Investigation

Prosecutor's Office worked with local, state and federal agencies to identify potential issues

AKRON, OHIO – May 6, 2014 – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh today released the following statement regarding the Schismenos investigation.

“The Akron Police Department first notified our office of a problem involving Officer Donald Schismenos in late June 2011. We worked very closely with APD’s Internal Affairs and the Ohio Attorney General’s Office and met with the FBI to address any issues stemming from the discovery of Schismenos’ secret recordings.

“In August 2011, APD Chief Nice requested an investigation by BCI due to a potential conflict of interest. Prosecutors and law enforcement identified several issues for review, including whether Schismenos had engaged in any criminal conduct and whether there were any recordings of arrests related to cases handled by the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office. Additionally, the FBI was asked to investigate whether the recordings demonstrated any federal violations by Schismenos.

“In September 2011, our office identified 25 pending and 345 closed cases between 1999 and 2011 involving Schismenos. We sent that list to the Attorney General’s Office to see if any of Schismenos’ recordings were connected to those cases. Videos connected to a few pending cases were discovered, and we turned over those videos to the defense counsel as we received them.

“My office conducted a thorough review of all of our cases two years ago, and we continue to examine any cases that may be linked to any video to ensure that no defendant’s rights were violated. Should a new case be discovered in which Schismenos did not turn over evidence, we will review it.”