



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: June Scharf,
Public Relations Consultant
Phone: 216.299.4959
Email: June.Scharf@Beachwood.Ohio.com

**CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
WITH THE BEACHWOOD FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE AND
OFFICER BLAKE ROGERS**

(BEACHWOOD, OHIO –July 18, 2023) Beachwood City Council voted to accept the settlement agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and Officer Blake Rogers. Officer Rogers was terminated in February 2021 for an incident that occurred in June 2019.

Since taking office in January 2022, Mayor Justin Berns has worked with and followed the advice of the city’s legal counsel to appeal both the arbitrator’s and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court’s decisions to reinstate Officer Rogers. As part of the appeals process, a mediation occurred which resulted in the proposed settlement.

“Given all the facts, this agreement is in the best interest of the city,” stated Mayor Berns.

Officer Rogers’ return to duty is conditioned upon him obtaining Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) recertification and passing standard fitness-for-duty examinations.

City Council voted to consider hiring an independent law firm to review the city’s process in its handling of the incident.

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