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Press Release

Re: *State of Ohio vs. Charles Schaeffer*, Case #14 CR 0124

Today the Prosecutor's Office filed a motion with the court to dismiss Count Two of the above case against Mr. Schaeffer. Schaeffer had went to trial in October 2014 for his role in the arson at 614 S. Poplar Street that resulted in the death of Daniel Marker and Tara Lynn Vance on May 26, 2014. Originally convicted of four offenses, Mr. Schaeffer received a total stated prison sentence of life with parole eligibility in 25 years. Shey Weiker, the person who had actually set the fire, is also serving a life sentence at the Dayton Correctional Institution.

Mr. Schaeffer appealed his convictions to the Third District Court of Appeals. His conviction for complicity to aggravated murder was reversed based on a faulty jury instruction. His conviction for complicity to attempted murder was reversed due a recent pronouncement by the Ohio Supreme Court that a person cannot be convicted of complicity to attempted murder. Mr. Schaeffer's convictions for complicity to aggravated arson and complicity to murder were affirmed by the Appellate Court and Mr. Schaeffer is currently serving a term of life imprisonment with parole eligibility in 15 years at the Mansfield Correctional Institution.

"Since Mr. Schaeffer is already serving a life sentence from this case, it makes little sense to retry him on the remaining charge" said Derek W. DeVine. DeVine continued, "the costs to the county in a retrial would be substantial and the end result would not change in that Mr. Schaeffer would still be serving a life sentence."

Fostoria Police Chief Keith Loreno echoed Mr. DeVine's statement, "Two people were responsible for the arson and both are serving life sentences. The Fostoria Police Department is happy with the result and agrees with the decision to not have a second trial." Fostoria Detective Shilo Frankart was the primary investigator of the case and he added, "This was a tragic case and so long as both Weiker and Schaeffer are serving life sentences, I am satisfied."

In addition to Mr. Schaeffer and Ms. Weiker, Timothy Hall is serving a 30 month prison sentence for two (2) counts of obstructing justice for aiding Weiker after the crimes. Hall is still incarcerated in the Belmont Correctional Institution.