

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



## **OHIO LABOR COUNCIL**

### **OHIO LABOR COUNCIL WINS ARBITRATION CASE INVOLVING TERMINATION OF BEACHWOOD OFFICER BLAKE ROGERS**

(Columbus, OH. October 13, 2021) The FOP/Ohio Labor Council, Inc. received the Arbitrator's decision yesterday which found in favor of the union and against the City of Beachwood with respect to its termination of Officer Blake Rogers that occurred in February 2021. General Counsel Douglas Behringer represented Officer Rogers in a hearing before a neutral Arbitrator on July 30, 2021. OLC Staff Representative Chuck Aliff stated, "We felt confident in our presentation and surprised at the lack of evidence presented by the city to support its laundry list of violations."

On October 12, 2021, the Arbitrator issued his Award ordering Officer Rogers reinstated to his employment. The Arbitrator considered all of the evidence presented and found that the city should not have terminated Officer Rogers. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #86 President Maxwell Zugay said, "We are pleased that Officer Rogers has finally been vindicated and are eager for him to return to duty."

The Arbitrator found that the City of Beachwood treated Officer Rogers in a disparate manner and that it committed numerous due process errors in the handling of the disciplinary action against Officer Rogers. The Arbitrator stated, "the city did not have just cause to terminate the grievant" and ordered him reinstated to his former position. The Arbitrator also sustained a second grievance finding that the city wrongfully released disciplinary documents to the local news prior to him being terminated.

"The Arbitrator issued the only decision that he could in this case based on the evidence presented. We have been eagerly waiting for this this day to have a neutral Arbitrator issue his Award after considering the evidence presented by the City and by the Union. The Arbitrator considered all of the evidence and found that the actions of Officer Rogers from over two years ago did not warrant termination." "The Ohio Labor Council has stood by Officer Rogers during this long and arduous journey and are very satisfied with the outcome. We are eager for the city to reinstate Officer Rogers to continue his record of loyal and professional service to the citizens of Beachwood" said Gwen Callender, Executive Director of the FOP, Ohio Labor Council, Inc.

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