

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Fairfield County Sheriff's Office  
Dave Phalen, Sheriff  
345 Lincoln Ave. Lancaster, OH 43130**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SETTLEMENT ON PENDING LAWSUIT**

**October 5, 2017**

Upon the advice of counsel, and with input from the County's insurer, Fairfield County has settled the pending federal lawsuit between the Sheriff's Office and the estate of Jesse Whitlach. Sheriff Phalen is saddened by the death of Mr. Whitlach but firmly maintains that his passing was not caused by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office or any of its officers. However, the Sheriff believes it is in the County's best interest to resolve this matter rather than continue to engage in the time and expense of protracted litigation.

This settlement was not taken from the County general fund. Rather, the amount was paid by the County's insurer. The resolution of this matter will permit the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office to focus its time and effort on serving the citizens of Fairfield County and bettering our community.