

STATE OF OHIO            )  
  )SS.  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY        )

Now comes Donald Cleland who first being duly sworn, affirmed and cautioned according to law deposes and says:

1. Affiant has personal knowledge of all facts related in this Affidavit and is competent to testify.

2. Affiant is retired Cuyahoga County Sheriff's deputy having achieved the rank of Sargent prior to my retirement in 2014.

3. I was director of the Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud task force from 2009 until the task force was dissolved in 2013. I investigated Dawn Pasela for violations of Ohio's Confidentiality statute.

4. The Task force was located at a secret location, and its location and access to said location was limited to law enforcement personnel only as in Police Officers, Federal Agents, Prosecutor's and support staff.

5. Pursuant to Ohio Law, the Task force director and investigatory staff had the powers of a peace officer throughout the county or counties in which the investigation is to be undertaken. The task force had the authority to conduct investigations through the issuance of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.

6. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 177.03 the referral of information by a task force to a prosecuting attorney, to the attorney general, to the commission, or to a special prosecutor



under this division, *the content, scope, and subject of any information so referred, and the identity of any person who was investigated by the task force* shall be **kept confidential** by the task force and its director, investigatory staff, and employees, by the commission and its director, employees, and consultants, by the prosecuting attorney and the prosecuting attorney's assistants and employees, by the special prosecutor and the special prosecutor's assistants and employees, and by the attorney general and the attorney general's assistants and employees until an indictment is returned or a criminal action or proceeding is initiated in a court of proper jurisdiction. Dawn Pasela was bound by this requirement to maintain confidentiality as provided above. Dawn Pasela was aware of this statute and the confidentiality requirement.

7. As the Ohio Organized Crime Commission Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud task force director I was responsible for and did secure documents, files, computers and evidence. All such documents, files, computers and evidence were secured pursuant to Ohio law and good police practice.

8. In order to gain access to the Ohio Organized Crime Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud Task Force office a person had to be provided a key. Only Law Enforcement or law enforcement staff could possess a key. No cooperating witnesses were provided with a key or access to the Task Force office, files in the office or material in the office. The Task Force location was confidential by law and secure.

9. All evidence seized by a search warrant or received pursuant to a subpoena was kept in a locked evidence room. A log was kept of the evidence possessed by the task force of which I was responsible for. No person ever forged any portion of any evidence log or logs. No computers that came into possession of the Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud Task force during the time I was its director was lost or destroyed. Lay witness interviews or lay witness trial preparation

involving lay witnesses including Steve Newcomb of Argent or Kathryn Clover never occurred at the Task Force location as such would violate Ohio's Confidentiality statute.

10. Dawn Pasela was an employee of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office when I became the Director of the Task Force. Dawn Pasela was the office manager of the Task Force office. Dawn Pasela ordered supplies, performed support staff services. Dawn Pasela was a student at Cuyahoga County Community College and wanted to be an investigator. I am aware that in 2011 she failed to appear for work, she was AWOL and that at least on one occasion a well check was performed on her by agents of the task force to ascertain if she was ok.

11. After Anthony Viola was indicted he held a public fundraiser at a local restaurant. The fundraiser was advertised and his attorney was present. Without being asked Dawn Pasela VOLUNTEERED to attend the fundraiser and VOLUNTEERED to wear a recording device to obtain information and to donate money from her checking account to the event. She understood that the TASK FORCE would reimburse her for the donation. Dawn Pasela never went to another of Anthony Viola's fundraisers on behalf of the Task Force as part of any investigation as far as affiant knows Dawn Pasela never contacted Anthony Viola while she was an employee of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office.

11. Dawn was permitted by the Ohio Organized Crime Commission to take home with her a backup hard drive of the computer/server holding the files of the task force. The back up hard drives contained confidential information and data on it. Dawn Pasela was required by law to maintain the confidentiality of whatever was on the back up drive consistent with Ohio Law.

12. When Dawn Pasela was fired by Mike O'Malley the then First Assistant of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office for refusing to take a drug test she took with her the backup

hard drive and was out of town for a period of time. The back up hard drive could not be located for that period of time.

13. For a period of time during the late fall/early summer of 2011 Dawn Pasela did not return the backup hard drive to the Ohio Organized Crime Commission Mortgage Fraud Task Force. The drive was the property of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission and contained confidential records and information.

14. I went to her apartment to try and secure the hard drive. I was not successful as she was not home.

15. After a period of time Dawn Pasela returned the hard drive to another member of law enforcement.

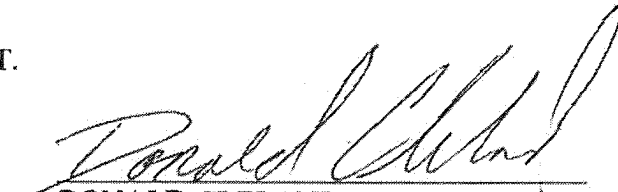
16. In January of 2012 I learned that Dawn had communications with Anthony Viola. I informed the Director of the Organized Crime Commission of such communications at which time he asked me to investigate whether or not Dawn Pasela had provided any confidential information to anyone in violation of Ohio law. Dawn Pasela was required Ohio Revised Code Section 177.03 to maintain confidentiality. During the spring of 2012 leading up to her death in April of 2012 I was actively investigating Dawn Pasela for violating the confidentiality of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud Task Force pursuant to the above-mentioned statute.

17. During this investigation I subpoenaed her phone records, other records and interviewed witnesses. I learned from her phone records and from a witness that Anthony Viola had contacted her on the phone during 2011 after Dawn Pasela was fired. I learned from her phone records and from a witness that after Viola called her, Dawn Pasela called a former senior staff

member of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission and talked to that person. I interviewed that person and learned that Anthony Viola wanted to meet with Dawn Pasela but the, former senior staff member of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission advised her not to meet with Viola because to do so may violate Ohio law and to provide Viola with any information concerning the Task Force may also violate Ohio law, specifically Ohio's Confidentiality law. I learned from that senior staff member that Dawn Pasela told the former OCIC staff member that she would not meet with Viola. I later learned from reading a pleading that Anthony Viola filed in his Federal Court Criminal case shortly before he was sentenced to prison by Judge Donald Nugent in Federal Court that the two never met.

18. At the time of her death Dawn Pasela was under an active investigation by myself on behalf of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission for violating Ohio Revised Code Section 177.03©(4). When I learned that she died on or about August 25, 2012 I closed the investigation. If any person suggests that she was not under investigation that person is either unaware of the investigation or misleading whomever such person is talking to.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

  
DONALD CLELAND

SWORN to before me and SUBSCRIBED in my presence this 3<sup>RD</sup> day of September  
, 2022.



NICHOLAS J. BRYSON  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
My Comm. Expires 06/19/2024  
Recorded in Cuyahoga County

  
NOTARY PUBLIC