

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release

December 11, 2014

FROM: MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

John W. O'Brien, President, John F. Evans, Richard Cultice

The elected sheriff, Charles A. Cox Jr. has been ill for most of the past 12 - 18 months and missed a significant amount of time in the office and on the job. While the commissioners wish him God's speed for a full recovery, his long absences, and a recent court order, have created issues that we feel need to be addressed.

The Miami County Commissioners believe there are many unanswered questions concerning the current status in the Miami County Sheriff's office. The use of Ohio Revised Code section 311.03 to grant Sheriff Cox a medical leave of absence and the subsequent oath of office taken by the judicially appointed acting sheriff, Dave Duchak, during Sheriff Cox's extended illness raises several serious questions that must be addressed.

Most of those questions are legal in nature therefore, today we will submit a letter asking county prosecutor Anthony Kendell for his legal opinion of the statute or statutes that apply to the situation we currently find ourselves.

Once prosecutor Kendell researches the statutes pertinent to this matter and issues his opinion, the county commission will be able to take the appropriate action to ensure the current situation in the sheriff's office does not jeopardize Miami County in any way.

The Miami County citizens can rest assured the Miami County Commissioners will take action to protect Miami County from any potential legal or financial issues that arise concerning the current status in the Miami County Sheriff's office.

Under advice legal counsel the letter submitted to the Miami County prosecutor Anthony Kendell is protected under attorney client privilege and will not be released.