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## **Grand Jury Issues Two Hundred Seventy-Two Felony Counts Against Massillon Doctor**

Massillon, Ohio (Stark County) - On February 16, 2017, State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt and Stark County Prosecutor John D. Ferrero announced that the Stark County Grand Jury has issued a two hundred seventy-two (272) count indictment against Stark County physician Frank D. Lazzerini. The indictment is a result of an extensive investigation conducted by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the Jackson Township Police Department, and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with the Stark County Sheriff Metropolitan Narcotics Unit, the Ohio Attorney General, the State Medical Board of Ohio, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The charges result from Lazzerini's operation of a "pill mill" at his medical office, Premiere Family Practice, located at 7452 Fulton Drive NW, Massillon, Jackson Township, Ohio. The indictment charges include the following: one count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree; one count of Telecommunications Fraud, a felony of the third degree; one count of Grand Theft, a felony of the fourth degree; one count of Medicaid Fraud, a felony of the fourth degree; one count of Tampering with Records, a felony of the third degree; nine counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs with Major Drug Offender specifications, felonies of the first degree, eighty-one counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, ranging from felonies of the first degree to felonies of the fourth degree; eighty-nine counts of Trafficking in Drugs, ranging from felonies of the second degree to felonies of the fifth degree; and eighty-six counts of Illegal Processing of Drugs Documents, felonies of the fourth and fifth degree. Lazzerini was also indicted with two counts of Involuntary Manslaughter, felonies of the first degree, for the deaths of two of his patients due to his prescribing.

"This indictment sends a clear message to rogue prescribers that drug trafficking of controlled substance medications will not be tolerated," said State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven Schierholt. "I commend the coordinated efforts by federal, state and local agencies that resulted in this individual being brought to justice."

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