

No Charges for Former Lebanon Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell announced that a grand jury heard evidence relating to the actions of former Lebanon Division of Police Officer Eric Holmes, but did not issue an indictment.

During an administrative review, Lebanon Division of Police discovered that from 2018 until February of this year, Holmes issued verbal warnings to 140 motorists for various traffic violations. However, after the stops were concluded, Holmes then completed written traffic citations for those same motorists, submitted them to Lebanon Division of Police for internal recording purposes, but then disposed of the duplicate copies of the citations that would ordinarily be served on the motorists and filed with the court. As a result, the motorists never knew about the citations nor faced any repercussions from the court, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or otherwise.

After conducting its own internal administrative investigation, Lebanon Division of Police requested the Warren County Sheriff's Office to conduct a criminal investigation. The Warren County Sheriff's Office then submitted its investigative findings to the Warren County Prosecutor's Office for consideration of possible criminal charges.

Based on both the administrative investigation and the criminal investigation, there was no evidence that Officer Holmes received any tangible benefit from his actions. Lebanon officers have wide discretion to issue warnings to motorists who commit moving violations. There was no evidence of any kickbacks from the motorists or *quid pro quos* from Officer Holmes. Lebanon does not have a "quota" system for its officers, nor did Officer Holmes receive any compensation, promotion, or duty assignment as a result of the increased number of citations that Lebanon's internal records showed that he had purportedly issued.

Although Holmes resigned from the Lebanon Division of Police, Fornshell noted that the details of Holmes' actions will still be disclosed to defendants in all cases involving Holmes pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decisions in *Brady v. Maryland* and *Giglio v. United States*.



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