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District Attorney

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

As it has begun to be reported, I have had conversations with my staff regarding the very difficult decision I have made to retire in the near future.

As of this time I have not chosen a date to make my retirement official.

The decision to retire is, indeed, bittersweet.

It is bittersweet because as I reflect over 36 years, my career has largely been in public service. As a public defender in Ohio and New York, and as a prosecutor in Ohio and New York, I have been blessed to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

I reflect on the fact that I have led a team of amazing prosecutors through the pandemic and the ever-evolving criminal justice reform. We have maintained our unwavering commitment to victims by believing them, supporting them, and being a voice for them. There were times we prosecuted the hard cases, and the verdicts were not always what the victim or their family had hoped for, but to be the person who was a voice for the most vulnerable was always a humbling but rewarding moment. I have been proud to "lead from the front" and try many of these difficult cases alongside my Assistants.

The teams and everyone I have worked for made this the experience of a lifetime. Our attorneys, more importantly our administrative professionals, our victim advocates, our DA investigators, and our best friend and facility dog, Juno, make coming to work every day a joy.

While I am leaving this behind, I welcome the opportunity to be a leader for my team in a different way. This journey has never been about me. I hope the selfless team I have built takes time to take care of themselves. It will be most difficult to not be around the people I respect, admire, and love; however, knowing those relationships are forged in the cauldron that is prosecution, I have no doubt we will always be together.

I have work to do between now and my last day, including deciding that "last day". I will leave my team, my County, and my family in the best possible place to decide their paths. I look forward to the next stage in my journey with gratitude, pride, and humility. I also look forward to relaxing, finding new hobbies, and time with my family.

With so much left to do, I will not do any interviews at this time. Once we have identified a date of retirement, we will be able to consider interviews closer to my retirement date.

Thank You all for the opportunity to serve as your District Attorney.

Jim Ritts

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