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***Press Release***  
***April 29, 2003***

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Ohio Ethics Commission  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**FAIRVIEW PARK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SENTENCED FOR ETHICS VIOLATION**

On April 29, 2003, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Bridget McCafferty sentenced Fairview Park City Council Member Jeanine Minek after Minek pled guilty to an Ethics violation in voting to appoint her husband to a vacated seat on city council.

The conflict of interest charge was brought by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office after an investigation by the Ethics Commission. Judge McCafferty fined Minek \$200 plus court costs, and also sentenced her to 6 months in jail. The judge suspended this jail sentence on the conditions that Minek complete 55 hours of community service, pay her fine and costs, and submit to random drug testing while on probation.

The Ethics Commission investigation referred for prosecution in May 2001 found that at a May 15, 2000, meeting of council, a former Fairview Park Council Member announced his resignation, creating a vacancy. Minek broke a tie vote on council to immediately fill the council vacancy, and then in Executive Session, voted to appoint her husband, William Minek, to this seat. Ohio's conflict of interest laws prohibit public officials from authorizing, or using their position in any fashion to hire or appoint, a family member to a paid position.

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent state agency that applies and administers the Ethics Law for state and local public officials and employees outside of the General Assembly and judiciary. The Commission was created 30 years ago upon the enactment of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.

