

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF  
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR**

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**CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**JUDGE ANDREW D. LOGAN**

**JUDGMENT ENTRY**

This matter came on for consideration upon the Petition of Dennis Watkins, Trumbull County Prosecutor, for the appointment of DANIEL KASARIS, Senior Assistant Ohio Attorney General, Special Prosecuting Unit, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office, as special independent prosecutor for an investigation into alleged illegal activity in the City of Niles, Ohio, involving government officials and others (as described in Petition) which include but not limited to Theft in Office, Tampering With Records, Falsification, and Dereliction of Duty. Said investigation has been on-going by the Ohio State Auditor's Office and the Ohio Attorney General's Office since 2014. After reviewing this appointment request and after due consideration, this Court is of the opinion that the prosecutor's motion is well taken.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Senior Assistant Ohio Attorney General Daniel Kasaris is hereby appointed as special prosecutor and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 2941.63 and 309.10 upon the disqualification of the elected prosecuting attorney of this county because of a conflict of interest.
2. Said special prosecutor shall have the authority to conduct all aspects of any criminal prosecution including investigative activities, grand jury proceedings, all court proceedings, and any and all other acts necessary to further the prosecution of this matter

through the Trumbull County Court of Common Pleas, as well as related appellate work, the same as if he were the duly acting and qualified prosecuting attorney of this county.

3. In order to aid in his investigation, and if appropriate, for the purpose of requesting indictments, the Special Prosecuting Attorney shall have the authority to appear before a regular or special session of the Trumbull County Grand Jury, or apply to his Court for the calling of a special grand jury. The Special Prosecuting Attorney shall prosecute any indictments returned by the Grand Jury as a result of his investigation.
4. The Special Prosecuting Attorney shall have the authority to apply to his Court for an order for the appointment of any additional Assistant Special Prosecuting Attorneys, Investigators, or other staff or equipment as he might believe necessary for the fulfillment of his duties under this order.
5. The Special Prosecuting Attorney shall enter into an oath for the faithful performance of the duties as Special Prosecuting Attorney for Trumbull County, Ohio.

It is the further ORDER of the Court that the Board of County Commissioners pay all the necessary expenses of the Special Prosecuting Attorney, if any, including travel and any other reasonable and necessary expense ordered by this Court.

It is the further ORDER of the Court that all other documents or records previously sealed or Ordered sealed by this Court or any other Common Pleas Court since the Niles City investigation by the Ohio State Auditor's Office (later joined by the Ohio Attorney General's Officer) in 2014 shall remain sealed as confidential investigatory work product (or any other appropriate public record exception to disclosure) since there is an on-going investigation by the aforementioned State offices and any release of these materials could jeopardize the investigation.

It is the further ORDER of the Court that the Petition of Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney DENNIS WATKINS to appoint a Special Prosecutor in the Niles City Investigation and all attached documents to the petition shall be sealed until further Order of this Court since there is an on-going investigation as previously described by the Court.

The effective date of this Order is December 8, 2015 and the Special Prosecuting Attorney DANIEL KASARIS shall begin his duties on that date and until further Order of this Court.

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2015

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HONORABLE ANDREW D. LOGAN  
JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO.

cc: Dennis Watkins, Prosecuting Attorney, Trumbull County, Ohio  
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine  
Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost  
Trumbull County Board of Commissioners

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Today, December 8, 2015, as Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney, I petitioned Judge Andrew D. Logan, Administrative Judge, Trumbull County Common Pleas Court, Warren, Ohio to appoint a special prosecutor to handle the on-going investigation by the Ohio State Auditor's Office and the Ohio Attorney General's Office of the City of Niles regarding possible criminal conduct. Judge Andrew D. Logan approved my request and appointed Daniel Kasaris, Senior Assistant Ohio Attorney General as Trumbull County Special Prosecutor in the matter. Further, Judge Logan ordered my application and other relevant investigatory records sealed until further order of the Court in order to protect this investigation until its completion. A copy of Judge Logan's Entry is attached. The Office of the Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney will give no further comment in this matter. The case is now being handled by Order of the Court by the Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.**

**DENNIS WATKINS  
TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**IN RE: OATH OF OFFICE FOR  
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR**

) **CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
) **JUDGE ANDREW D. LOGAN**  
)

I, DANIEL KASARIS, first being duly sworn according to law, do hereby swear and affirm and make my oath that I will support the Constitution of the United States and Constitution of this State, the State of Ohio, and faithfully discharge the duties of Special Prosecuting Attorney of Trumbull County, Ohio, in the matter of Prosecutor Inquiry Number \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL KASARIS

Before me, ANDREW D. LOGAN, a Notary Public in and for the County of Trumbull and the State of Ohio, personally appeared DANIEL KASARIS, Senior Assistant Ohio Attorney General, Special Prosecuting Unit, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office, known by me personally to be such individual who, first being duly sworn according to law, did make the foregoing oath and affirmation and swear to the above matter and in the presence did affix his signature to same above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal at Warren, Ohio this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015.

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ANDREW D. LOGAN  
NOTARY PUBLIC

## RECEIPT FOR PROPERTY

<b>Trumbull County Sheriff's Office</b> 150 High Street Warren, Ohio 44481 (330) 675-2508 (330) 675-7041 Fax		DATE <p style="font-size: 1.2em; text-align: center;">12-3-2015</p>	CASE NO. <p style="font-size: 1.2em; text-align: center;">N/A</p>
Defendant(s) / Victim <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">City of Niles</p>	Address <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">34 W. State St Niles, OH</p>	Phone <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">330-544-9000</p>	

Purpose for which obtained:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> confiscated	<input type="checkbox"/> found	<input type="checkbox"/> other
Item No.	Qty.	Description of Articles Brand Name, Model, Serial No., Size, Color, Mfg., Condition			
1	6	LARRICCIA'S ITALIAN MARKET PLACE - drawings, blueprints (Yellow)			
2	7	Hampton Inn - drawings, blueprints (Pink)			
3	10	Cafaro Headquarters - drawings, blueprints and manual (1) (Blue)			
4	2	Residence Inn - drawings, blueprints and manuals (2) (Green)			
5	9	Advanced Area on Aging - drawings, blueprints (Orange)			
6	1	Bankers box containing the Niles Building Department files for the construction projects for the Advanced Area on Aging, LARRICCIA'S Italian Mkt. Place, Cafaro Headquarters, The Residence Inn and The Hampton Inn			
*	ALL	EVIDENCE Has been transported and is being kept by the Auditor of State's office - *			

### CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Item No.	Date Time	Relinquished By:	Received By:	Purpose for change of Custody:

### DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

 Returned to owner

 Turned over to Prosecutor

 Destroyed

[Signature]

(Signature of person receiving property)

December 3, 2015 / 11:00 AM

(Date/Time)

[Signature]

(Witness)

[Signature]

(Witness)

Jedger Sheets

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11/28/08

To

11/23/09