



For Immediate Release: March 20, 2015  
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### ***Four Indicted in Election Falsification Case***

The Union County Sheriff's Office announced this morning the indictment of four individuals as a result of an on-going investigation into election falsification. The Union County Grand Jury returned a total of 20 counts against David Winecoff, age 63 of 40 West Long Street in Columbus, Shampayne L. Thompson, age 26 of 2321 Howey Road in Columbus, Michael H. Johnson, age 35 of 5052 Kilbourne Run Place in Columbus, and Cristiana N. Holloway, age 31 of 863 Miller Avenue in Columbus. Each person was indicted for four counts of Election Falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, and one count of Forgery, also a felony of the fifth degree.

The Sheriff's Office was originally contacted in August 2014 by Gary Wallace, Director of the Union County Board of Elections regarding names that had been forged on petitions filed on August 4, 2014. The petitions were filed by the Kroger Company for two local liquor options in preparation for moving the local grocery store from its current location to a new location in the "Marysville 8" precinct. The two petitions had been circulated to have the option placed on the ballot in order to obtain liquor permits at the new location. The Kroger Company contracted with a professional petition circulation firm called The Strategy Network (also known as 'TSN'). The firm employed people to circulate the petitions to collect signatures of registered voters in support of the petitions within the target precinct. The petitions, which contained several pages, were then reviewed by the Union County Board of Elections. Board of Election employees determined the two petitions contained a total of 432 signatures, 219 of which did not match those on file and appeared flagrantly inaccurate. Some of the signature names were even misspelled. Board employees contacted several people and confirmed that their signatures had been forged.

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

*M. J. Patton* 3/20/15  
Malcum J. "Jamie" Patton  
Sheriff – Union County