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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES ADVISORY OPINION

At its meeting yesterday, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued an advisory opinion regarding Fire Chiefs who also teach part-time at an educational institution. The Commission determined that the Chief cannot approve tuition payments for a department employee to attend a class where the Chief is employed as an instructor.

The advisory opinion does not prohibit department employees from attending courses at the educational institution or a class taught by the Fire Chief. It does prohibit the Chief from signing-off or otherwise authorizing tuition payments. The opinion further restricts the Chief from assigning tuition approval to anyone subordinate to the Chief.

The Commission noted in the opinion that an authority who appoints the Fire Chief, such as a safety director, mayor, city manager, council, or board of trustees, can assign tuition approval duty to another department employee who is not employed by the same educational institution as the Chief.

Click [here](#) to read the opinion.

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