



Carlton County, Minnesota
Office of the County Coordinator

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2020

Event: Carlton County Agrees to Lawsuit Settlement

Location: Carlton, MN

Contact: Dennis Genereau

Carlton County Agrees to Lawsuit Settlement

Carlton, Minnesota — Carlton County has agreed to a settlement of all claims asserted in a federal lawsuit against Carlton County. The lawsuit related to the shooting of Mr. Olthoff during a search warrant executed by the Carlton County Consolidated Emergency Response Team on July 29, 2019. The shooting took place under rapidly occurring and dynamic circumstances in which the shooting officer reasonably believed officers were taking fire from an individual who had reportedly pointed a firearm at a law enforcement officer just two days prior. As a result of his gunshot wounds, Mr. Olthoff sustained a spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegia.

The settlement total is \$6,200,000.00. Carlton County paid \$4,200,000.00 toward the settlement and the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust contributed \$2,000,000.00.

As a result of Mr. Olthoff's severe spinal cord injury and significant future medical bills, a portion of the settlement funds will be placed into trust for Mr. Olthoff's substantial future medical needs.

This settlement resolves all civil litigation stemming from the July 29, 2019 incident. The agreement allows the parties to avoid the protracted litigation involved with adjudicating federal civil rights claims, which may have taken years to resolve, and avoids exposing the taxpayers of Carlton County to a potential verdict significantly higher than the settlement along with payment of Mr. Olthoff's attorneys' fees. The settlement does not assume fault by any of the named parties.