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JOINT PRESS RELEASE :

**From: Renisa Dorner (attorney for David Black and Oleg Smirnov)
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Toledo Firefighters Union Local 92)**

Today, Professor Black and Professor Smirnov have dismissed their defamation lawsuit against the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association and Toledo Firefighters Union Local 92 and their respective presidents. This decision followed discussions between the parties in which the unions confirmed that there was never any intent for certain statements, as carried through various media outlets, to have a negative impact on the professors. The parties recognize that the professors were unfortunately caught in the crossfire between the unions and the City of Toledo. The City asked these professors to perform a limited project and while the unions had every right to disagree with the conclusions reached, the unions did not intend that such disagreement would cause anyone to question the professors' integrity. The parties have satisfactorily resolved their differences which includes an agreement that no further public statements will be made concerning this issue.