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Ted Strickland, Governor

STATE OF OHIO

Henry Guzmán, Director

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 22, 2008**

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### **TWO OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICERS INVOLVED IN SANDUSKY PHOTO INCIDENT PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE TO BEGIN TERMINATION PROCESS**

*- Governor's decision initiates disciplinary process for termination of troopers -*

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio State Highway Patrol today placed two Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers involved in a Jan. 20 incident at the Sandusky Post on administrative leave pending the disciplinary process for termination.

The action comes a day after Col. Richard Collins and Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzman met with Gov. Ted Strickland to discuss the Sandusky incident. The governor today determined the disciplinary action and asked Director Guzman and Col. Collins to immediately begin proceedings to terminate the employment of the trooper and the sergeant involved.

Trooper Craig T. Franklin and Sgt. Eric E. Wlodarsky received notification of the action earlier today from Ohio State Highway Patrol Col. Richard Collins. Previous disciplinary action and abeyance agreements with the two officers have been rescinded.

"The Ohio State Highway Patrol does not tolerate inappropriate behavior," Col. Collins said. "After further review, and upon the recommendation of the governor, we have commenced termination proceedings for the trooper and sergeant involved in these reprehensible actions."

The Ohio State Highway Patrol completed an administrative investigation of the Jan. 20 incident, in which Wlodarsky photographed Franklin in an outfit resembling a make-shift Ku Klux Klan hood while the two were on duty at the Sandusky Post.

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