

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT PERSON: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
440.392.5800



SUBJECT: PAINESVILLE TO APPROVE HEADSTONE DESIGN AFTER PROPER  
RE-APPLICATION

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## PAINESVILLE TO APPROVE HEADSTONE DESIGN AFTER PROPER RE-APPLICATION

*Painesville, Ohio* – City officials have agreed to approve artwork on a Riverside Cemetery headstone, once the monument company re-submits a sketch of the work that was not included in its 2013 gravesite application.

After a meeting with the Painesville City Council, City Manager Tony Carson stated “It is Council’s desire to have a fair resolution that allows the headstone to stay intact. By having the monument company resubmit an application that has the artwork on it will allow the City to approve the headstone.

The monument company had failed to submit the drawing with its initial application, an oversight that went unnoticed until another citizen suggested that the headstone etching was inappropriate.

The city initially concurred, but Carson said this week that it was paperwork, not artwork, that remains the only issue. He said the drawing could remain, provided the company properly re-submits its application.

“It’s the right thing to do,” Carson said. “We best honor our citizens by honoring their freedom of speech -- in life and at rest.”

The etching on the stone is an insignia of a local motorcycle club, whose members lauded Mr. Cody as a Vietnam War veteran.

Carson said he expected the monument company to re-file the application very soon, this time with drawing attached, and he thanked family and friends of Mr. Cody, including the South Madison Motorcycle Club, for bringing the matter to the city’s attention.

Painesville operates two municipal cemeteries, Riverside at 385 Riverside Drive and Evergreen Cemetery near 501 Main Street. The latter has plots dating back to 1850 and one headstone marks the grave of a Civil War veteran who won the Medal of Honor.

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