

Gun's origins sought in apparent murder-suicide

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City police have an put out a trace through the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms bureau in an attempt to learn where a Russell Road resident got the gun he apparently used as part of a weekend murder-suicide, a police official said.

"We're still working on finding out

where he got the gun," Detective Lt. Mark Spaetzel said Tuesday. "We've put out a trace with the ATF to get more information about it."

Police recovered a .45 caliber handgun next to the right hand of Michael Rothgery, 42, originally from the Elyria area. Rothgery's body was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head Saturday afternoon in the backyard of the Russell Road home he and his wife, Mary "Molly"

Rothgery, had moved into in December along with their two daughters. Molly was found dead in a TV room of the house covered with an afghan. Cuyahoga County coroner's office officials said she died of asphyxiation. Molly had filed for divorce July 23. Spaetzel said there were no signs of a struggle in the home.

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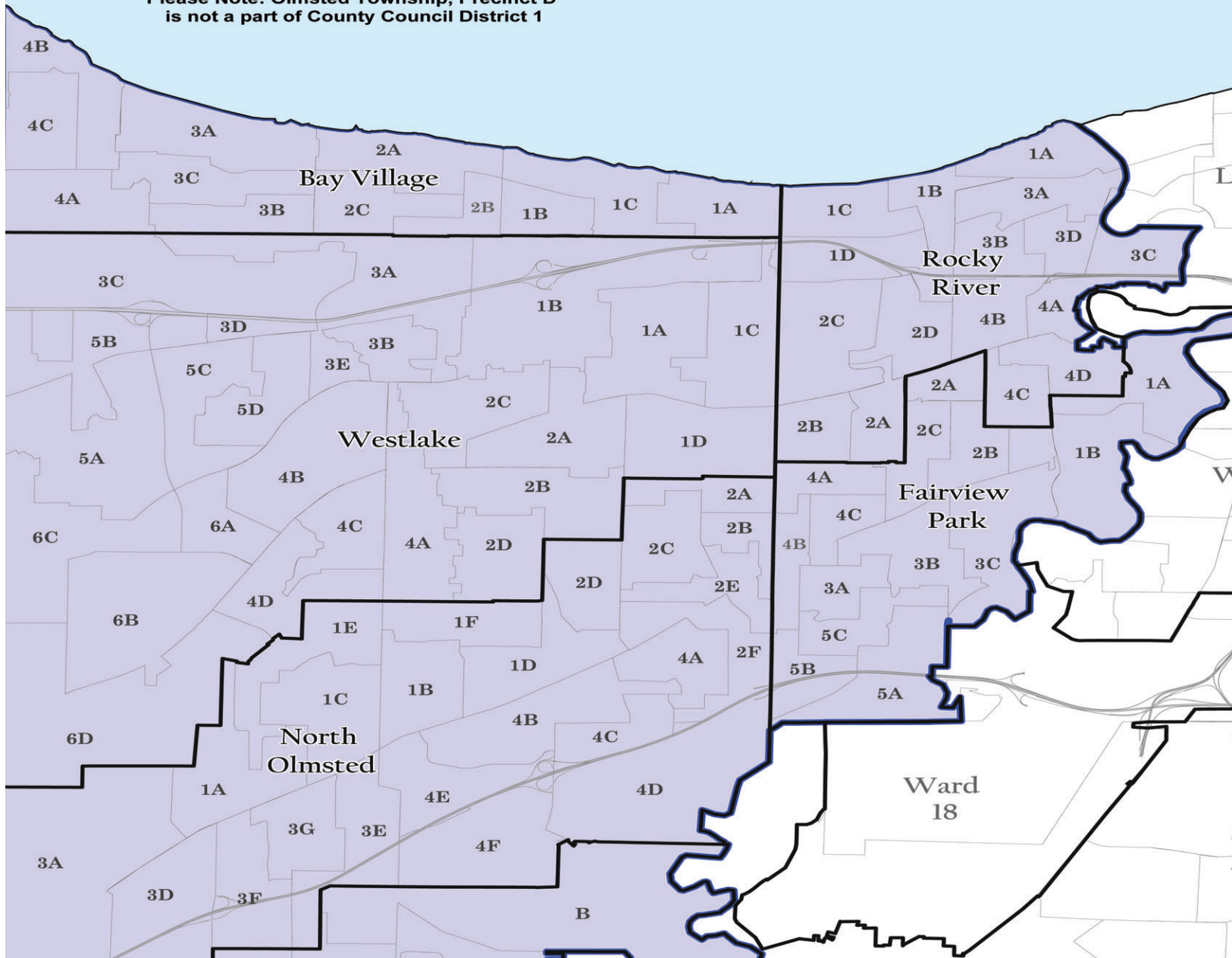
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