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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
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INDICTMENT OF MPD OFFICERS

Some time ago, the Star Press asked me whether I could confirm the existence of a federal investigation into Muncie Police Officer Chase Winkle. At that time there was indeed an ongoing federal investigation. However, my office does not confirm or deny the existence of investigations conducted by other jurisdictions. As of today, I can now say that I have been aware of the investigation in to Chase Winkle for quite some time. When I first took office in January of 2019, representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice met with me and made me aware of the investigation into Chase Winkle and the nature of the allegations. During that meeting, I assured the U.S. Department of Justice that it would have the full cooperation of the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office.

Now that Officer Winkle and Officer Jeremy Gibson have been formally indicted and given the nature of the allegations, as a prosecuting attorney I have certain duties and obligations with respect to arrests made by these officers. Indiana law provides that unconstitutional excessive force employed during an arrest may impair or even prohibit the State's ability to proceed with certain cases depending on the facts of each case. Consequently, I have an ethical obligation to review any criminal case that is currently pending or under review by my office for prosecution where Winkle or Gibson were involved. My office has already started to conduct a thorough review of each and every one of Officer Winkle's and Officer Gibson's arrests in order to assess the legality of the arrest as well as any force that may have been used during that arrest. Prior to today's date, I have prepared and implemented a thorough protocol to accomplish this task.

Additionally, given the fact that Officer Winkle and Officer Joseph Krejsa are accused of making false reports, pursuant to long standing U.S. Supreme Court precedent, I am required to disclose the indictment to defense counsel in any pending case wherein officers Winkle and Krejsa were involved and may give testimony as a witness.

The rules of ethics for prosecutors prohibit me from making any comment on the facts or circumstances related to the allegations in the indictment. If any person has allegations of excessive force related to Officers Winkle or Gibson, they should direct those complaints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While

accountability is the touchstone of the criminal justice system, it is important to remember that an arrest and/or the filing of a criminal charge is simply an allegation and is not evidence of guilt. All suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

I think it is also important to point out that these indictments are not at all reflective of the vast majority of law enforcement officers in this community who hold true to their oath to serve and protect this great community each and every day.

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