



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ERIC M. HOFFMAN, PROSECUTOR
46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

100 W. MAIN STREET, ROOM 312
MUNCIE, IN 47305

TELEPHONE 765-747-7801
FAX: 765-747-7830

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
Subject: Press Release
Date: May 17, 2019

Former Northside Middle School Teacher Charged with Battery

Muncie – The Delaware County Prosecutor's office has filed formal charges against Eric Bowman (53) relating to the alleged battery and intimidation of a student. On May 15, 2019, Bowman was formally charged with the following:

- Count 1: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years of Age, a Level 6 Felony.
- Count 2: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years of Age, a Level 6 Felony.
- Count 3: Intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor.

The Honorable Judge John M. Feick of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 4 found probable cause for Bowman's arrest and ordered the issuance of a warrant for Bowman's arrest. Bowman was arrested on the warrant during the evening hours of May 16, 2019.

A copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause, the Order Adjudicating Probable Cause, and the Charging Information.

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.

The ethical rules for prosecutors in Indiana prohibit further comment on this matter. At this time, there will be no further comment.

###

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 4
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C04-1905-F6
AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF INDIANA

Count 1:

VS

Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old

ERIC J. BOWMAN

I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)(3)
a Level 6 Felony

Count 2:

Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old

I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)(3)
a Level 6 Felony

Count 3:

Intimidation

I.C. 35-45-2-1(a)(2)

a Class A Misdemeanor

The undersigned deposes and says upon information and belief that Eric J. Bowman has committed the offense of Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 2: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 3: Intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor, and in support thereof says as follows:

- The affiant is an investigator for the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office.
- This affiant has received a written report from Officer Kyler Welsh, a person this affiant knows to be a police officer with the Eaton Police Department and a reliable person.
- Antoneo McDuffie (Antoneo), date of birth April 29, 2005, reported to law enforcement that on February 19, 2019, Eric J. Bowman (Bowman), a teacher at Northside Middle School, physically pushed Antoneo while inside the band room and in the hallway at the school. During band class, Bowman became upset at a student who had been playing the wrong musical notes for rehearsal. Antoneo noticed the fellow student was crying and asked Bowman "Why are you making him play?" Agitated, Bowman pointed toward Antoneo and fellow classmate Zion Strong and said, "You're the reason I'm heartless." Antoneo and Zion Strong began to laugh, which further angered Bowman.
- Infuriated at Antoneo's laugh, Bowman ran toward Antoneo knocking over music stands. Bowman yelled at Antoneo to exit the band room. While moving towards the door, Antoneo lost a sandal and tried to retrieve it. However, Bowman stopped Antoneo from retrieving the sandal by using his chest to push Antoneo out of the band room doorway.

- Outside of the band room, Bowman told Antoneo, he would punch Antoneo in the face. Antoneo responded, "No you're not." Trying to avoid any further confrontation with Bowman, Antoneo re-entered the band room to retrieve his sandal while Bowman continued to threaten to hit Antoneo in the face.
- Back inside the band room, Bowman picked up a music stand and gestured toward Antoneo as if Bowman wanted to throw the music stand at Antoneo. Instead, Bowman threw the music stand toward the floor. The music stand bounced off of the floor and hit another student, Jacob Shopher, as well as a xylophone instrument. After seeing the music stand being thrown, Antoneo again left the band room for the Principal's Office.
- On the same day, Officer Kyler Welsh was in Northside Middle School for a building security meeting. At approximately 10:00 a.m on February 19, 2019, Officer Welsh walked down the 8th grade hallway to room 122 for the building meeting.
- As Officer Welsh walked toward room 122, he heard Bowman yelling at Antoneo. At approximately the same time, Antoneo saw Officer Welsh. Antoneo requested Officer Welsh escort Antoneo to the office because Bowman threatened to hit Antoneo in the face and Antoneo McDuffie was concerned for his safety. As Officer Welsh escorted Antoneo and Bowman to the office, Bowman continued to be verbally aggressive towards Antoneo. Officer Welsh observed Bowman use one arm push to force Antoneo. against some lockers. At that moment, Teacher Tara Gudger stepped out of a nearby room due to the noise of the incident. Officer Welsh instructed Mrs. Gudger to escort Antoneo to the office. Officer Welsh instructed Bowman to return to his classroom in an attempt defuse the situation.
- As Bowman walked away, he stated that he was going to hit Antoneo and Mrs. Gudger responded by telling Bowman "You can't do that." Bowman replied "I can and I will." Bowman turned and started to walk aggressively toward Antoneo. Officer Welsh had to step in Bowman's path to physically hold him back. Officer Welsh instructed Bowman that if he continued to act belligerently, Officer Welsh was going to place him under arrest. Bowman then proceeded to leave the building escorted by Principal Eric Grimm.
- Officer Welsh reviewed the surveillance video of the incident from outside of the band classroom where the incident began. The video tape depicted Eric Bowman pushing Antoneo McDuffie against the lockers several times.
- Statement were taken from several student witnesses. They reported that they observed Bowman push Antoneo and throw the music stand which hit Jacob Shopher.
- Based on this information it is requested that a warrant be issued for the arrest of Eric Bowman on the charge of Count 1: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 2: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 3: Intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor.

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: May 14, 2019

/S/ Debra Mace

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF Delaware)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 4
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C04-1905-F6

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

ERIC J. BOWMAN

ORDER ADJUDICATING PROBABLE CAUSE

This matter is before the Court on a certain Affidavit of Probable Cause filed by the State of Indiana, through its Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Bryce A. Winslow, and files a criminal Charging Information along with an Affidavit for Probable Cause which is examined by the Court.

From said examination the Court finds that probable cause does exist for the arrest of Eric J. Bowman for the crime of Count 1: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 2: Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old, a Level 6 Felony; Count 3: Intimidation, a Class A Misdemeanor. The Clerk of this Court is ordered to issue a warrant for the arrest of Eric J. Bowman. Bail is fixed as follows: Bail in the amount of

\$_____.

Dated_____



Judge, Delaware Circuit Court 4

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 4
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C04-1905-F6
INFORMATION:

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

ERIC J. BOWMAN

8943 E CR 200 N
Hagerstown, IN 47346

DOB: 1/23/1966

SSN: XXX-XX-8683

Count 1:
Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years
Old
I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)
(3)
a Level 6 Felony

Count 1:

The undersigned says that on or about February 19, 2019 in Delaware County, State of Indiana, Eric J. Bowman, a person at least eighteen (18) years of age, did knowingly or intentionally touch Antoneo McDuffie a person under the age of fourteen (14), in a rude, insolent, or angry manner to wit: pushed McDuffie through a doorway contrary to the form of the statutes in such cases made and provided by I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)(3) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

ERIC M. HOFFMAN
Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

BY: /s/ Bryce A. Winslow
Bryce A. Winslow 32847-29
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 4
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C04-1905-F6

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

ERIC J. BOWMAN

8943 E CR 200 N
Hagerstown, IN 47346

DOB: 1/23/1966

SSN: XXX-XX-8683

INFORMATION:

Count 2:

Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years
Old

I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)
(3)

a Level 6 Felony

Count 2:

The undersigned says that on or about February 19, 2019 in Delaware County, State of Indiana, Eric J. Bowman, a person at least eighteen (18) years of age, did knowingly or intentionally touch Antoneo McDuffie, a person under the age of fourteen (14), in a rude, insolent, or angry manner to wit: pushed McDuffie into a bank of lockers and/or a wall contrary to the form of the statutes in such cases made and provided by I.C. 35-42-2-1(c)(1) and I.C. 35-42-2-1(e)(3) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

ERIC M. HOFFMAN
Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

BY: /s/ Bryce A. Winslow
Bryce A. Winslow 32847-29
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 4
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C04-1905-F6
INFORMATION:

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

ERIC J. BOWMAN

8943 E CR 200 N
Hagerstown, IN 47346

DOB: 1/23/1966
SSN: XXX-XX-8683

Count 3:
Intimidation
I.C. 35-45-2-1(a)(2)
a Class A Misdemeanor

Count 3:

The undersigned says that on or about February 19, 2019 in Delaware County, State of Indiana, Eric J. Bowman did communicate a threat to Antoneo McDuffie, with the intent that Antoneo McDuffie be placed in fear of retaliation for a prior lawful act, contrary to the form of the statutes in such cases made and provided by I.C. 35-45-2-1(a)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

ERIC M. HOFFMAN
Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

BY: /s/ Bryce A. Winslow
Bryce A. Winslow 32847-29
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana