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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Special Prosecuting Attorney
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Former Anderson Police Officer Resigns and Pleads Guilty

Anderson Indiana – In July of last year, I was appointed Special Prosecutor to prosecute the Madison County case of State of Indiana v. Adam Watters. After I consulted and discussed the case with the victim, the parties were ultimately able to resolve the case by means of an agreed Plea Agreement that was filed on June 11, 2020. A change of plea hearing was held this afternoon in the Madison Circuit Court No. 5 via Zoom video conferencing. In pertinent part the plea agreement provides as follows:

- Prior to entering into this Plea Agreement, the Defendant has resigned his position as a police officer for the City of Anderson.
- The defendant agrees to plead guilty to the following charges:

Count 5: Battery, a Class A Misdemeanor as an included offense of Domestic Battery, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Count 6: Interference with the reporting of a crime, a Class A Misdemeanor.

- The parties agree that the Defendant shall receive the following sentence:

Count 5: Battery, a Class A Misdemeanor as an included offense of Domestic Battery, a Class A Misdemeanor.

- a) The Defendant shall be sentenced to one (1) year in the Madison County Jail. Said sentence shall be suspended based upon successful completion of one (1) year of supervised probation with the standard terms and conditions of probation.**

- b) As a term of probation the Defendant shall submit to a substance abuse evaluation by a treatment provider recommended by the probation department. The Defendant shall comply with all treatment recommendations.**
- c) As a term of probation the Defendant shall complete an anger management class/counseling recommended by the probation department. The Defendant shall comply with all treatment recommendations.**
- d) The Defendant shall pay a \$1.00 fine.**
- e) The Defendant shall pay court costs in the amount of \$185.50.**

Count 6: Interference with the reporting of a crime, a Class A Misdemeanor.

- a) The Defendant shall be sentenced to one (1) year in the Madison County Jail. Said sentence shall be suspended based upon successful completion of one (1) year of supervised probation with the standard terms and conditions of probation. Said sentence shall be served CONCURRENTLY with that of Count 5.**
- As further consideration for this Plea Agreement, the Defendant hereby waives any and all appellate review of a sentence imposed by the court that is consistent with the terms of this Plea Agreement. This waiver of appellate review includes but is not limited to: challenges for abuse of discretion, challenges to the trial court's sentencing statement, and challenges to the appropriateness of the sentence pursuant to Indiana Appellate Rule 7(B). This waiver also includes the waiver of the Defendant's right to have an attorney appointed, at public expense, to prosecute the appeal, as well as the right to have a transcript of the proceedings prepared for the Defendant at public expense.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Honorable Thomas Clem, Judge of the Madison Circuit Court No. 6 accepted the terms of the Plea Agreement and sentenced the Defendant accordingly.

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