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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
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**PROSECUTOR FILES FORMAL CHARGES IN CONNECTION OF MURDER
OF 15 YEAR OLD LATAJOHNE PHILLIPS**

Muncie Indiana – On August 14, 2024, 15 year old LataJohne Phillips (DOB 11/22/2008) was shot and killed. On today's date, Prosecuting Attorney Eric M. Hoffman formally charged the following individuals with the following offenses:

K-shaun English 16 years old (DOB 6/16/2008)

1. Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
2. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
3. Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
4. Obstruction of Justice, a Level 6 Felony

Robert Graham 17 years old (DOB 8/16/2007)

1. Murder, a Felony
Firearm Sentence Enhancement
2. Robbery Resulting in Seriously Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
3. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery Resulting in Seriously Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
4. Obstruction of Justice, a Level 6 Felony

Daisha Eckford 19 years old (DOB 6/21/2005)

1. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
2. Aiding, Inducing or Causing Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
3. Obstruction of Justice, a Level 6 Felony

Ricky Nathan 19 years old (DOB 4/17/2005)

1. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
2. Aiding, Inducing or Causing Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony
3. Obstruction of Justice, a Level 6 Felony

Additionally, the Prosecutor's Office is filing a petition with the Juvenile Court for permission to file formal charges against a 14-year-old male juvenile for his alleged participation in events and circumstances of the murder. Under current Indiana law, unlike the adult criminal justice system where the prosecutor has the absolute discretion to file charges without anyone's permission, in the juvenile system, the prosecutor must have the permission of the juvenile court to file charges. Moreover, under Indiana law, I cannot identify that individual unless and until the juvenile court approves the prosecution and charges are filed.

It is important to remember that any accusation that someone has committed a crime, 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 charges are pending in the Delaware Circuit Court No. 5. The Honorable Judge Thomas A. Cannon will set each case for an initial hearing. Copies of the Charging Information and Affidavit of Probable Cause that were filed with the Court in each of the above referenced cases are attached.

Pursuant to Indiana law:

- Murder is punishable by 45 – 65 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.
 - The Firearm Enhancement can add an additional 5 – 20 years to the total sentence
- A Level 2 Felony is punishable by 10 – 30 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.
- A Level 6 Felony is punishable by 6 months – 2.5 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

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

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