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On July 15, 2020, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division (IDNR Law Enforcement) provided the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office with investigative reports and digital evidence regarding events that occurred in the forest near Lake Monroe on July 4, 2020. Details of the investigation by IDNR Law Enforcement and a recitation of pertinent facts are contained in investigative reports released by IDNR on July 16, 2020, and in a probable cause affidavit written by Indiana Conservation Officer Kurt Kinser.

After a thorough review of the evidence in this case, Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Erika Oliphant requested warrants for the arrest of two individuals and filed informations (official charging documents) in the Monroe Circuit Court on July 17, 2020, alleging the following criminal offenses:

Sean M. Purdy is alleged to have committed Criminal Confinement, a Level 5 felony; Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury, a Level 6 felony; and Intimidation, a Level 6 felony.

Jerry Edward Cox II is alleged to have committed Aiding, Inducing or Causing Criminal Confinement, a Level 5 felony; Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury, a Level 6 felony; Intimidation, a Class A misdemeanor; Battery, a Class B misdemeanor; and Battery, a Class B misdemeanor.

These represent all criminal charges that the Prosecuting Attorney has filed based upon these events.

All charges are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

The range of possible penalties for a Level 5 felony is imprisonment of between one (1) year and six (6) years and a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); for a Level 6 felony, imprisonment of between six (6) months and two and one-half (2 ½) years and a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); for a Class A misdemeanor, imprisonment of between zero (0) days and one (1) year and a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000); and for a Class B misdemeanor, imprisonment of between zero (0) days and one hundred eighty (180) days and a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

According to the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct, the Prosecuting Attorney has a special responsibility to refrain from making any statements outside of court that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of the accused. The purpose of this rule is to preserve the right to a fair trial guaranteed by both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana. As such, the Prosecuting Attorney will not comment on the quality or quantity of the evidence reviewed, nor will she comment on any specific piece of evidence, outside of official court proceedings. After a review of the full and complete investigation by INDR Law Enforcement, the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office believes that the above listed charges are supported by probable cause, that admissible evidence will be sufficient to support conviction beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the decision to charge is in the interests of justice.