



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Warren Police Officer Matthew Rodriguez has now been charged federally for civil rights violation

Mount Clemens, MI - On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Jaquwan Smith was arrested and lodged at the Warren Police Department for an alleged armed robbery. It is alleged Warren Police Officer Matthew Rodriguez assaulted Smith while Smith was in custody at the Warren lockup.

Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido charged Matthew Rodriguez, age 48, with Wilful Neglect of Duty (one-year misdemeanor) and Assault and Battery (93 day misdemeanor), the maximum penalty allowed under Michigan law.

The U.S. Attorney's Office through Dawn Ison has now charged Rodriguez with a ten-year civil rights violation. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office will be deferring to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan to prosecute this case as the federal system has a legal mechanism for civil rights violations and its penalties. The Macomb County Prosecutor's office will now dismiss the state misdemeanor charges against Rodriguez and allow the federal charges to move forward.

"We are cooperating with the U.S. Attorney to ensure that when fundamental liberties are threatened, justice prevails. Together, we will strive to bring about justice and ensure righteousness in the legal system, reminding everyone that the protection of civil rights is a cornerstone of our democracy," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the State of Michigan. All that are accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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