



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Macomb County Prosecutor's Office collaborates with U.S. Attorney's Office in charging former Warren Police Officer Matthew Rodriguez with civil rights violation charge

Mount Clemens, MI - On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Jaquwan Smith was arrested and lodged at the Warren Police Department for an alleged crime where he was charged with armed robbery (life felony), carrying a concealed weapon (five year felony), felony firearm (two year mandatory felony), assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer (two year felony), and breaking and entering a vehicle to steal property less than \$200 (93-day misdemeanor). When Smith was being fingerprinted, it is alleged Warren Police Officer Matthew Rodriguez assaulted Smith while Smith was in his custody.

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 which could be charged under Michigan law.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District through U. S. Attorney Dawn Ison, has charged Matthew Rodriguez with a ten-year civil rights violation of 18 U.S.C. § 242 (Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law). The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has now deferred 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 ultimately dismiss the state misdemeanor charges against Rodriguez and allow the federal charge to move forward.

"Collaboration between my office and the U.S. Attorney's Office in this case is necessary in holding accountable those who trample upon the rights of others. With our collective efforts and determination for change, we confront injustice," 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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