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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Multiple charges have been filed against an Edwardsville police officer for a series of burglaries that were discovered following a weekend burglary at a salon in Edwardsville.

Officer Brian Barker (d.o.b. 5/5/73) was originally charged on December 23rd with burglary and official misconduct following an investigation into a burglary at Reality Salon and Spa. A 911 call was received at the Edwardsville Police Department around 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, 2014, after the burglary was discovered through the owner's security system. Upon learning that an Edwardsville officer was suspected in the burglary, Edwardsville Police Chief Jay Keeven contacted Sheriff John Lakin and the Madison County Sheriff's Department and requested that they handle the investigation. Following the initial investigation into the Reality Salon and Spa, the Madison County State's Attorney's Office charged Barker with one count of Burglary (Class 2 Felony) and one count of Official Misconduct (Class 3 Felony). He is accused of stealing approximately \$450 while on duty.

Further investigation into unsolved burglaries in Edwardsville following Barker's arrest led to additional burglary charges that were filed earlier this morning. He is now facing eleven additional Burglary charges (Class 2 Felony) and one count of Residential Burglary (Class 1 Felony) for crimes committed between May 2012 and November 2014. Additionally, Barker is charged with Aggravated Unlawful Possession of Stolen Firearms (Class X felony). The burglaries occurred at various businesses in the Edwardsville area including several law firms, retail establishments and another salon. The residential burglary occurred in Moro.

If convicted, the charges carry penalties ranging from probation up to 4-15 years on the Class 1 Felony, 3-7 years in prison on the Class 2 Felony and 2-5 years on the Class 3 Felony. Class X felonies are non-probationable and carry a penalty of 6-30 years in prison.

State's Attorney Tom Gibbons expressed disappointment on filing charges against Barker. "It's disheartening filing charges against a law enforcement officer. Their sworn duty is to protect and serve our communities. However, when they violate that trust, it is up to my office to ensure that they are held accountable for their actions. No person is above the law. The citizens of Madison County must have confidence in their justice system, so it is imperative that we ensure equal justice under the law."

The State's Attorney's Office has been advised by Chief Keeven that Barker will be placed on administrative leave without pay. Barker's bond was set at \$100,000 on today's charges and \$75,000 on the original charges. He was released yesterday from the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville last night after posting \$17,500 cash on the initial charges.

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Gibbons thanked Madison County Sheriff John Lakin for providing the immediate assistance and excellent investigative work of his department in conducting the independent investigation of the matter. He furthermore commended the Edwardsville Police Department for their immediate action upon learning of the allegation.

The charges, as well as the statements made herein, are based upon probable cause. The defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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