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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville--A Madison County Grand Jury indicted a Collinsville police officer yesterday on four counts of Obstruction of Justice in regards to a November 16, 2011, traffic stop made outside of the Collinsville city limits.

Officer Luke Tillman pulled over a driver on November 16, 2011, for failure to display any registration. The driver, a 50-year-old female from Maryville, had a valid driver's license and no warrants. After a search of the car turned up a potential "crack pipe", the driver was taken into custody by Tillman. After lab results of the pipe were completed, Collinsville Police made a Felony Warrant appointment with the State's Attorney's Office and the driver was subsequently charged by with Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 4 Felony, on January 18, 2012. Charges were issued based a review of the facts that included Officer Tillman's report.

In March, 2012, during the pendency of the driver's felony case, the State's Attorney's Office was notified by the defense attorney that they had information showing that the driver had, in fact, a valid temporary registration affixed to her car at the time of the stop. The defense attorney also inquired as to whether a video and audio recording was made of this incident, notwithstanding there was no mention of this in Officer Tillman's report. The Collinsville Police Department was contacted immediately by the State's Attorney's Office who requested that this be looked into. Per procedure, all traffic stops by the Collinsville police are audio and video recorded. Per Collinsville Police policy, if the end result is a felony charge, the video must to be logged.

The subsequent investigation uncovered several discrepancies: the driver did have a valid temporary registration affixed to her vehicle; this is not indicated anywhere within Officer Tillman's narrative report; further, from a backup system at the Collinsville Police Department an audio and video recording of the entire stop was made by Officer Tillman's in-car camera system; Officer Tillman's report did not indicate that a video and audio recording were made of the stop nor did Officer Tillman ever log into evidence any video and audio recording; a review of the video confirmed valid temporary registration affixed to the vehicle; the audio and video recording indicated that driver was a neighbor of Officer Tillman.

On March 13, 2012, after learning of the results of the investigation by the Collinsville Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office immediately dismissed the felony charge for the driver and began reviewing the actions of Officer Tillman. Tillman was ultimately suspended by the Collinsville Police Department.

State's Attorney Gibbons said of this incident, "Our system is not based upon convicting persons at all costs. When filing felony charges against any citizen, causing them to be arrested, fingerprinted, booked and separated from their families we must rely on the police reports being factually accurate, truthful and without omissions. In this case my Warrant Officer was presented with a police report that was false, misleading and

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not factually accurate. I commend Chief Williams and the Collinsville Police Department for immediately investigating this matter and bringing it to our attention. The public must be able to have confidence that the justice system is fair and that no one is above the law. I am committed to maintaining the highest standards of justice for the people of Madison County.”

Prosecutors presented evidence to a Madison County Grand Jury resulting in the indictment. Maximum penalty for a Class 4 Felony is probation up to 3 years in prison.

Bond was set at \$10,000. These 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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