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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Officer Jonathan Mills—Guilty of Battery Charge

Jonathan Mills to relinquish his law enforcement certification as part of the plea deal

ORANGE COUNTY (May 18, 2023) — On Friday, May 12, 2023, Jonathan Mills, a former officer with the Orlando Police Department (“OPD”) was adjudicated guilty of battery and sentenced to 30 days in the Orange County Jail as a result of a plea agreement with the Ninth Judicial Circuit’s State Attorney’s Office.

On August 12, 2014, pursuant to an OPD issued, “Be on the Lookout” (“BOLO”), a vehicle with two male passengers was stopped by an officer with OPD. Former Officer Mills arrived at the scene shortly thereafter. Although the other officer excluded the two men from the BOLO, did not suspect they had committed any crime, and believed the encounter was over, Mr. Mills ordered the victim out of the car and started to search him for drugs. He inappropriately touched the victim’s genitals, placed him in handcuffs, and continued that search in his patrol vehicle. Mr. Mills had no warrant for this search nor was there any “bona fide medical purpose” to search the victim in that manner—which would have been the only exception to this egregious conduct.

The victim filed a complaint with OPD the same day. However, OPD did not treat the complaint as a criminal matter. Instead, it reviewed the incident as an Internal Affairs investigation.

This case came to the attention of the State Attorney’s Office when a YouTube video in July of 2020, featured a compilation of various incidents of misconduct perpetrated by Mr. Mills in the Parramore community of Orlando. The State Attorney’s Office then conducted an independent investigation and filed charges at-large. Mr. Mills, who was OPD’s Officer of the Year in 2018, was arrested in 2021, and charged with sexual battery as a result of this illegal, warrantless cavity search of an individual during a traffic stop.

“There are few crimes more corrosive to public safety and community trust in the criminal legal system than criminal acts perpetrated by law enforcement officers against the communities they have sworn to protect and serve. The actions of former Officer Johnathan Mills are among the most alarming, and serious that investigators and prosecutors in my administration have investigated,” stated State Attorney Monique Worrell. “It is imperative that we hold officers accountable when they are involved in unlawful conduct. Our office works to hold law enforcement officials in Orange and Osceola Counties to the highest possible standard. When they break the law, especially in the course of their legal duty, they must face the same consequences as ordinary citizens. Holding law enforcement officials accountable is instrumental to restoring the public’s trust and maintaining that trust.”

The State Attorney expressed her disappointment with the presence of the Fraternal Order of Police and uniformed law enforcement officers filing into the courtroom during the sentencing, without regard for the impact of actual or perceived witness intimidation and harassment. Additionally, Florida law permits Mr. Mills to utilize his status as a former law enforcement officer to conceal information regarding his incarceration that would otherwise be publicly available for any non-law enforcement citizen.

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When law enforcement inflicts heinous crimes on its citizens, this type of solidarity and support towards that former officer perpetuates the narrative that law enforcement *is* above the law. It is critical that we demonstrate to the public that the law will be enforced, and victims of criminal behavior will be supported and protected, no matter the offender. It should be equally as important to law enforcement officers to show our community that *no one* is above the law.

Testifying before the Court, the victim stated, “That day, many years ago, I didn’t expect my life to change when I met Jonathan Mills. That day, my college degree, my good name, and my spotless record didn’t mean anything. I was judged by my appearance . . . what happened to me, I wouldn’t wish on my worst enemy. Of all the people Johnathan Mills impacted, I am grateful I can be the person strong enough to speak out. I am happy that a small piece of justice can be obtained after all of these years.”

The State Attorney expressed how this case is a solid example of an instance where a charge is downgraded for the good of the victim, and the preservation of the case. While our office sought to move forward with the filed charges of sexual battery, the charge was ultimately resolved to battery, the strongest charge that could be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Mills was sentenced to 30 days in Orange County Jail, 11 months of supervised probation, 50 hours of community service, he must write a genuine letter of apology to the victim, relinquish his law enforcement certification, and pay court costs within six months of release from jail.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit’s State Attorney’s Office thanks the Investigators, Assistant State Attorneys, and Victim Advocates for their diligent, tireless, and outstanding work on this case. Their participation was critical in order for our office to obtain justice for this victim.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to over 1.9 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.

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