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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Phillipsburg Officer Indicted

State v. Justin Sanderson, 2017-CR-2588

DAYTON, OH (8/28/2017) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **JUSTIN W. SANDERSON**, 32, of Huber Heights, has been indicted on 21 counts related to his activity committed as a Phillipsburg Police Officer.

On June 28, 2017, the defendant, dressed in a police uniform and driving a Phillipsburg Police cruiser, met with two women at the Knights Inn on Poe Avenue whom he had met via an ad on backpage.com. They had agreed to meet for sex. The defendant arrived at the motel and informed the desk clerk he was conducting an investigation and needed the room key where the women were located. The defendant used the key to gain entrance and informed the women that he was conducting an investigation into human trafficking and prostitution and was going to give them a warning. He left the motel room, then returned minutes later and engaged in sexual activity with them.

On July 3, 2017, the women reported the incident to Vandalia Police, stating that they did not feel free to resist the defendant's actions because he was a law enforcement officer.

On July 6, 2017, a Vandalia Police officer on routine patrol spotted a Phillipsburg Police cruiser in the parking lot of the Knights Inn. The officer met with the defendant in the parking lot and took him into custody.

When news of the defendant's arrest became public, two more victims came forward and reported separate incidents to the Vandalia Police.

On May 20, 2017, a female was stopped for an OVI investigation by the defendant who was on-duty. She was taken by the defendant to the Phillipsburg Police station where she was forced to have sex with the defendant.

On June 3, 2017, another female was arrested by the defendant on an outstanding warrant. She, too, was taken to the Phillipsburg Police station where the defendant forced her to submit to sexual conduct.

Today, the defendant was indicted on:

- Three counts of Rape by force or threat of force
- Two counts of Kidnapping for Sexual Activity
- One count of Aggravated Burglary
- Seven counts of Sexual Battery while in custody of law enforcement
- Two counts of Gross Sexual Imposition by force or threat of force
- Two counts of Unauthorized Use of Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway
- Four counts of Interfering with Civil Rights

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The counts of kidnapping include Sexual Motivation specifications.

Prosecutor Heck continued, "The actions of this defendant are, quite frankly, disturbing and nauseating. This defendant used and abused his position of authority in order to satisfy his own sexual desires. I am thankful that the original two victims had the bravery to come forward and report what happened."

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of the defendant. He will be arraigned on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

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For more information, contact Mr. Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or info@mcpo.com