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LA PORTE COUNTY METRO OPERATIONS UNIT ARRESTS THREE (3) FOR TRAFFICKING AND CONSPIRACY TO TRAFFIC WITH AN INMATE

On Friday, October 10, 2014 the La Porte County Metro Operations Unit arrested three (3) females at the Michigan City Superior Courthouse for their role in trafficking and conspiring to traffic with an inmate. The investigation was initiated by the Indiana Department of Corrections and the arrests were the result of a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement investigation that involved the Michigan City Police Department Street Crimes Unit, La Porte County Sheriff's Office Courthouse Security, La Porte County Jail administration and the Metro Operations Unit.

46 year old Maria BURKS, who is a resident of La Porte has been charged with Conspiracy-Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility, a Level 6 Felony, Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility, a Level 6 Felony, and Possession of Cocaine or a Narcotic Drug between ten and twenty-eight grams, a Level 4 Felony. She was taken into custody at the Michigan City Superior Courthouse without incident and after posting a \$20,000 bond, was released.

Brittney SANDERS, a 23 year old Michigan City resident, has been charged with Conspiracy-Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility and Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility, both Level 6 felonies. After her arrest, she was taken to the La Porte County Jail and has been released after posting a \$755 bond.

20 year old Johnesha REED of La Porte was also arrested and charged with Conspiracy-Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility and Trafficking with an Inmate Outside of a Facility, both Level 6 felonies. She was released from the La Porte County Jail after posting a \$755 bond. She too was arrested at the Michigan City Courthouse without incident.

La Porte County Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer stated: "These arrests are the result of intelligence that was rapidly developed and thoroughly investigated. Multiple agencies worked diligently to insure that illegal narcotics were kept out of the hands of Department of Corrections inmates thereby helping to maintain the safety and security of our Courthouse, its employees and the inmates and employees of the Indiana Department of Corrections." All three suspects are being charged in La Porte County Superior Court II.

*The charges against the defendants are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty

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*** COURT OFFICES ***

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