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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LA PORTE COUNTY JAIL DEPUTY CHARGED WITH THREE (3) COUNTS OF TRAFFICKING WITH AN INMATE

La Porte County Sheriff Michael Mollenhauer has announced the arrest of a Jail Deputy for her role in trafficking with an inmate. Thirty-eight (38) year old Heather LARI, who has been employed in the Jail since April 1, 2014, was arrested this afternoon for three (3) counts of Trafficking with an Inmate.

In the morning of August 13, 2014, officials in the Jail learned that contraband might be located in a specific cell. An immediate shakedown of the cell and block was conducted and the suspected contraband was located. As the result of an immediate investigation it was determined that that the contraband was brought into the Jail by an employee. This afternoon, Detective Sergeant Ron Heeg testified in La Porte County Circuit Court and as a result, an arrest warrant was issued for LARI for one (1) count of Trafficking with an Inmate, a Level 5 felony and two (2) counts of Trafficking with an Inmate, both class "A" misdemeanors. LARI has since been terminated.

Sheriff Mollenhauer states: "I commend the quick reaction of Jail staff to this information. This information was quickly corroborated and evidence and contraband was located and confiscated. The Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau and Jail Division staff worked in tandem with this investigation." Sheriff Mollenhauer added: "Trafficking by staff will not be tolerated, and as was the case with this investigation, investigations into incidents like this will be swift and criminal charges will be pursued."

LARI will be transferred to the Saint Joseph County Jail for an added measure of security and her bond has been set at \$15,000. She is scheduled to appear in La Porte County Circuit Court on Friday, August 15 at 8:30 am.

*The charges against the defendant is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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*** COURT OFFICES ***

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