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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Chris Vawter, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Date: February 27, 2025
Re: Officer-Involved Shooting – Jasper County Sheriff's Deputy
Indiana State Police Report No. 25ISPC001372

**JANUARY 26, 2025 JASPER COUNTY OFFICER-INVOLVED
SHOOTING WAS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED**

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, at approximately 4:21 PM, a Jasper County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on State Road 14 in Jasper County for speeding (70 MPH in a 55 MPH zone). The driver and sole occupant, identified as Matthew W. Huttle (age 42), was found to be a Habitual Traffic Violator, a felony under IC 9-30-10-16.

Upon being informed of his arrest, Huttle fled to his vehicle, entered the driver's seat, and reached in a manner consistent with retrieving a weapon. The Deputy pursued and attempted to apprehend Huttle. A struggle ensued and the Deputy observed Huttle raising a firearm while stating, "I'm shooting myself." Believing that Huttle posed a deadly threat, the Deputy fired multiple shots, striking Huttle. The Deputy then retreated to his vehicle and awaited backup. Lifesaving measures were attempted, but Huttle was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Investigators later recovered a loaded 9mm handgun and additional ammunition inside the vehicle near where Huttle had reached. Dash camera footage confirmed that Huttle raised an object while inside the vehicle.





After a thorough investigation, the Indiana State Police District 13 Criminal Investigations Division presented the case to the Clinton County Prosecutor's Office on February 26, 2025, for independent review. Based on the evidence and statutory authority under IC 35-41-3-2 and IC 35-41-3-3, the Deputy was legally justified in using deadly force to defend himself.

Probable cause existed to arrest Huttle for a felony. Despite lawful commands, Huttle attempted to reach for a firearm, posing an imminent threat to the Deputy's safety. Given these facts, the Deputy's actions were legally justified under Indiana law. This investigation is now closed, and no charges will be filed.

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Vawter
Deputy Prosecutor