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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wagner Reese Files Civil Rights Lawsuit against the Clark County Sheriff on behalf of eight women sexually assaulted at the Jail**

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. – On July 25, 2022 Indiana law firm Wagner Reese, LLP filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel, former jail officer David Lowe, and other unknown jail officers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of eight women who allege they were sexually assaulted at the Clark County Jail on October 23-24, 2021. The Plaintiffs are not publicly identified in the lawsuit to protect their privacy.

The case arises from a night of terror at the Clark County Jail located at 501 East Court Avenue, #159, Jeffersonville, Indiana (hereinafter “the Jail.”). The allegations are as follows: On October 23, 2021, former Clark County Jail officer David Lowe allowed two male inmates access to keys to the interior areas of the Jail in exchange for a payment of \$1,000.00. These keys allowed the male inmates, and other male inmates, access to numerous restricted areas in the Jail, including Pods 4(E) and 4(F) that housed women. On the night of October 23, and into the early morning hours of October 24, 2021, numerous male inmates used the keys obtained from Lowe to enter Pods 4(E) and 4(F) where they raped, assaulted, harassed, threatened and intimidated the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit, and other women, for several hours, resulting in significant physical and emotional injuries. Amazingly, even though there were surveillance cameras positioned in locations that showed the male inmates accessing the women’s Pods, and even though the incident involved multiple male inmates and dozens of victims over an extended period of time, not a single Jail officer on duty that night came to the aid of the Plaintiffs and the other victims.

After the incident, rather than support the victims who were subject to sexual assault and abuse, Jail officials punished the women by (1) revoking their “dark privileges” and leaving the lights on for 72 straight hours, (2) placing the women on “lockdown” whereby they were restricted to their pods and denied normal privileges, and (3) confiscating authorized personal property from the women such as pillows, blankets and personal hygiene items without any legitimate security reason.

The lawsuit also alleges that the violation of the Plaintiffs’ constitutional rights was the result not only of a single bad actor, Lowe, but also due to a systemic failure on behalf of the Clark County Sheriff who failed to properly staff the Jail, train the Jail officers, and supervise the Jail officers to make sure they maintained adequate security at the Jail. These systemic failures allowed numerous male assailants to have free run of the Jail for several hours, resulting in a night of terror for the Plaintiffs and other victims.

This is the second civil lawsuit filed against the Clark County Jail as a result of this incident. Another group of victims previously filed a similar lawsuit against the Sheriff on June 21, 2022. *See Coomer, et al v. Jamie Noel, et al*, In the U.S.D.C., Southern Dist. of Ind., New Albany Division, Case No. 4:22-cv-00079-TWP-DML.

On October 25, 2021, Lowe was charged in Clark County Circuit Court with one count of Felony Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Escape, one count of Felony Official Misconduct, and one count of Misdemeanor Trafficking with an Inmate for allowing the male inmates access to the keys in exchange for \$1,000. This criminal case is still pending with trial scheduled for November 1, 2022.

About Stephen M. Wagner and Wagner Reese:

*Attorney Stephen M. Wagner's biography can be found at <https://www.wagnerreese.com/our-team/stephen-wagner/>. Wagner Reese is a personal injury and complex litigation law firm representing clients throughout Indiana and across the country. The Wagner Reese team handles many types of claims, including civil rights violations, class actions, mass torts, product liability, vehicle accident, medical malpractice, and more. For more information about Wagner Reese, visit <https://www.wagnerreese.com/>.*