



WARRICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF MICHAEL WILDER

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STATEMENT FROM SHERIFF MIKE WILDER AND WARRICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGARDING INCIDENT AT OHIO TOWNSHIP EVENT CENTER ON AUGUST 20, 2025

On Tuesday afternoon, August 19, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor's office requested that Warrick County Sheriff's Office deputies provide security for the Town Hall meeting at the Ohio Township Event Center scheduled the next evening, Wednesday, August 20. The Sheriff's Office was unable to provide on-duty deputies on short notice because all on-duty deputies scheduled to work were already assigned for other duties on Wednesday night. Consequently, the Lieutenant Governor's office asked to hire off-duty deputies to secure the event. Two off-duty deputies subsequently agreed to work at the event.

The event was a Town Hall meeting where citizens were encouraged to ask questions, express opinions and concerns, and address the Lieutenant Governor. The event became contentious. Participants were requested by the Lieutenant Governor and others to maintain civility for the benefit of all participants. Amanda Bennett, age 38 and a resident of Newburgh, Indiana, was among the participants who persisted in interrupting the Lieutenant Governor and disrupting event participation. She was asked to leave by a member of the Lieutenant Governor's staff. Bennett evidently agreed to do so and moved toward one of the building's exits on her own.

As she encountered one of the Warrick County deputies providing security, Bennett addressed the deputy in a rude and profane manner. The deputy refrained from intervening or engaging with Bennett. As Bennett passed the deputy, he stepped behind her to confirm that she was departing the Event Center. At that juncture, Bennett spun around on the officer, began yelling at him, and pushed him in the chest. The deputy subsequently apprehended Bennett by taking her to the ground and securing her with handcuffs. The other deputy providing security intervened to assist the deputy in the arrest.

At this juncture, several individuals surrounded the deputies and began to engage in verbal abuse. The deputies assisted Bennett to her feet. While attempting to escort Bennett from the Event Center, other individuals attempted to intervene with the deputies. One of those individuals was Matthew Eike, age 40 and a resident of Newburgh, Indiana. Eike was also observed confronting other participants and appeared to push another participant. Eike was subsequently apprehended for disorderly conduct. Another female individual also attempted to intervene. The female individual fell to the floor and claimed subsequently on social media to have been pushed and injured; however, this

individual has never communicated with the Sheriff's Office regarding this part of the incident or reported any misconduct.

Sheriff's Office personnel have reviewed multiple videos of the incident circulating online or provided to the Sheriff's Office as part of its investigation. Investigators conducted interviews with individuals who witnessed the event and the deputies involved. Investigators also reviewed surveillance camera footage provided by the Event Center, body camera footage, and videos provided by citizens at the event.

The Sheriff's Office arrested Amanda Bennett on the following charges: Battery Against a Public Safety Official (Level 6 Felony), Resisting Law Enforcement (Class A Misdemeanor), and Disorderly Conduct (Class A Misdemeanor). Matthew Eike was arrested and charged with Resisting Law Enforcement (Class A Misdemeanor) and two counts of Disorderly Conduct (Class B Misdemeanors). Both subjects are presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of law. The Sheriff's Office anticipates further arrests as the Prosecutor's Office reviews all reports.

The Sheriff, Command Staff and Defensive Tactics Instructor conducted a "use of force" review of Amanda Bennett's arrest consistent with Office policy. The Sheriff and other deputies reviewing the incident concluded the Deputy used the amount of force appropriate and necessary to secure the arrest of Amanda Bennett. The investigation produced no evidence of any policy or procedure violation by the Deputy involved in that arrest. No further action is anticipated.

Sheriff Wilder's Comments

"The Warrick County Sheriff's Office respects everyone's right to assemble, debate, protest, support, or disagree with public officials, but that engagement should occur in a civil manner regardless of political views. The truth is that many people gathered to hear the Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday night. Some undoubtedly share his views and wished to express support. It's clearly evident that others have strong feelings and disagree with his views. No one objects to a lively debate or the passions that guide people to express their views.

"Many of the participants on Wednesday night were emotional and disagreed with the Lieutenant Governor, and yet they expressed those views in a civil way and with due respect for the rights of other persons participating. They showed that it is possible to exercise Constitutional rights and expressions of disagreement without disrupting the same rights of others in attendance.

"Sadly, the evening ended with confrontation and arrests. The judicial process will sort out the charges brought and actions of individuals who have been charged with crimes. For my part, I want the public to understand that I believe deputies from this office performed as trained, consistent with our policies and procedures, and as professional law enforcement officers. I support them completely.

"We will continue to reflect on and learn from this event. I hope that others will do the same. I hope we can all conclude that it's possible to disagree on important issues without resorting to obscene shouts, raised voices, and intruding on the rights of others to participate and be heard. I hope they will also conclude that it's possible to protest passionately without assaulting a law enforcement officer trying to do his job."

Sheriff Michael K. Wilder