



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTHUR ECKLES, CALUMET CITY, INDICTED FOR ARMED ROBBERY

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Arthur Eckles, Jr. age 43, of Calumet City, Illinois, was indicted by a Grand Jury in Jackson County of Armed Robbery and Aggravated Robbery resulting from a robbery from a business located at 1901 South Illinois Avenue in Carbondale on October 13, 2017.

Regarding the Armed Robbery charge, the Bill of Indictment alleges that on or about October 13, 2017, Eckles, while acting together and in concert with others, and being legally accountable for their actions, knowingly took property from the person of the presence of a store employee, being money and cigarettes, by threatening the imminent use of force, and the defendant was at the time armed with a firearm. Armed Robbery is a Class X Felony. If convicted, the defendant faces six (6) to thirty (30) years of imprisonment. Because a firearm was used, an additional 15 years to the term of imprisonment shall be imposed by the Court. It is a non-probationable offense.

The Aggravated Robbery charge alleges that on or about October 13, 2017, Eckles, while acting together and in concert with others, and being legally accountable for their actions, knowingly took property from the person of the presence of a store employee, being money and cigarettes, by threatening the imminent use of force, and the defendant was at the time indicating by his actions to the victim that he was presently armed with a firearm. Aggravated Robbery is a Class 1 Felony. If convicted, the defendant faces four (4) to fifteen (15) years of imprisonment.

An Indictment is merely a charge and not evidence. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

Eckles is currently in custody at the Jackson County Jail with bond at \$500,000. He is scheduled to appear in court for arraignment on October 31, 2017, at 12:45 p.m.

The investigation is being pursued by the Carbondale Police Department. State's Attorney Michael Carr and Assistant State's Attorney Casey E.A. Bloodworth are handling the prosecution.

*A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. **Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor.** For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see **Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity.** For any press release involving a case which has not yet been tried, please note that: **a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.***