



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUDIOUS M. KIZEART, CARBONDALE, INDICTED FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER

A Grand Jury in Jackson County returned a five-count indictment charging Judious M. Kizeart, 24, of Carbondale, Illinois, with First Degree Murder, Armed Robbery, Robbery, and Criminal Cannabis Conspiracy, State's Attorney Michael C. Carr, announced today.

The charges arise from a shooting incident which resulted in the death of Brandon L. Brooks, age 35, also of Carbondale. The incident occurred on February 15, 2018, in the 400 block of East Mill Street in Carbondale.

The indictment charges Kizeart with two (2) counts of First Degree Murder; one (1) count of Armed Robbery, a Class X Felony; one (1) count of Robbery a Class 2 Felony; and one (1) count of Criminal Cannabis Conspiracy, Class 3 Felony.

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.

If convicted of First Degree Murder, the defendant faces a sentencing range of 20 to 60 years of imprisonment. The sentencing range for Armed Robbery charge is 6 to 30 years imprisonment. Neither of these charges is eligible for probation. Robbery carries a maximum sentence of 7 years of imprisonment, and Criminal Cannabis Conspiracy carries a maximum sentence of 5 years of imprisonment.

Kizeart was arrested on these charges last Thursday and is currently in custody in the St. Louis County Jail with a bond set at \$2,000,000. His first appearance in Jackson County has not been scheduled.

The case is being investigated by the Carbondale Police Department. State's Attorney Michael C. Carr is responsible for the prosecution of this case.

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.***