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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wednesday, October 14, 2020

DEVALE JOHNSON AND VICTOR PURDIMAN CHARGED WITH FIRST DEGREE MURDER OF JAMONTE ALLISON, SR.

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Devale L. Johnson, age 23, of Carbondale, Illinois, and Victor R. Purdiman, age 30, of Paducah, Kentucky, have been arrested on warrants relating to the First-Degree Murder of Jamonte Allison, Sr., in Carbondale.

On August 17, 2020, Carbondale Police were dispatched to a residence on Robert A. Stalls Avenue for a complaint of shots fired. Jamonte Allison, Sr. was transported by ambulance to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, where he was pronounced dead from multiple gunshot wounds. An extensive investigation led to three counts of First-Degree Murder being filed against Johnson and Purdiman.

Count 1 of the Information alleges that on August 17, 2020, Johnson and Purdiman, while acting together and in concert with each other, and being legally accountable for the actions of each other, without lawful justification, performed acts which caused the death of Jamonte Allison, Sr., with the intent to kill or do great bodily harm to Allison or another by shooting him with a firearm, thereby causing his death.

Count 2 of the Information alleges that on August 17, 2020, Johnson and Purdiman, while acting together and in concert with each other, and being legally accountable for the actions of each other, without lawful justification, performed acts which caused the death of Jamonte Allison, Sr., knowing that such acts created a strong probability of death of great bodily harm to Allison or another, in that they shot him with a firearm, thereby causing his death.

Count 3 of the Information alleges that on August 17, 2020, Johnson and Purdiman, while acting together and in concert with each other, and being legally accountable for the actions of each other, without lawful justification, in performing the acts which caused the death of Jamonte

Allison, Sr., the defendants shot Allison with a firearm, while committing a forcible felony, aggravated discharge of a firearm.

Count 4 of the Information, Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, alleges that Johnson and Purdiman, while acting together and in concert with each other, and being legally accountable for the actions of each other, knowingly discharged a firearm in the direction of Jamonte Allison, Sr.

An Information 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

On October 2, 2020, arrest warrants were issued for Johnson and Purdiman and bond was set at \$1 million dollars each. Johnson and Purdiman were apprehended on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Orange County, Florida.

If found guilty of First-Degree Murder, the defendants face 20 to 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by a three-year period of Mandatory Supervised Release. Probation is not a possibility.

Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm is a Class 1 Felony. If convicted, the defendants can be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for four (4) to fifteen (15), followed by a two-year period of Mandatory Supervised Release.

The investigation is being pursued by the Carbondale Police Department. State's Attorney Michael Carr and Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Suthard 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.***