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January 21, 2021

*******PRESS RELEASE*******

People V. Deborah White 2018 CF 108

On February 20, 2020, a Vermilion County Jury found the defendant guilty of two counts of aggravated battery to Danville Police Officer Ryan Birge. On February 17th, 2018, Officer Birge and several other officers responded to a disturbance in the parking lot of Club Deuce, located at 623 N. Vermilion Street, Danville, Illinois. As people were leaving Club Deuce around 2:00 a.m. the crowd outside Club Deuce grew to around 100 people. Verbal arguments and physical altercations began to develop among the crowd. Officer Birge—along with his fellow officers attempted to break up the altercations and regain order. While Officer Birge was placing a combative individual under arrest, the defendant came out of the crowd and proceeded to pepper spray the Officer Birge. The defendant held the can of pepper spray against the side of Officer Birge's face, spraying the mace into his eyes, hair and mouth. The defendant then attempted to flee the scene in her vehicle, but was apprehended by Detective Chelsey Miller.

Aggravated Battery to police officer is a class 2 felony. The defendant faced a potential sentence of probation or up to three (3) to seven (7) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

On January 14, 2021 after hearing arguments the prosecution requested that Deborah White serve five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and two (2) years of mandatory supervised release. The defense requested probation. Judge Nancy S. Fahey sentenced the defendant to 36 months of probation, 180 days in jail with credit for three (3) days already served in addition to fines and court costs.

“We are committed to prosecuting all acts of violence against law enforcement”
-Jacqueline Lacy, Vermilion County State's Attorney

THE PUBLIC IS REMINDED THAT CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO PROVE IT'S CHARGES IN COURT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT.