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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

On September 8, 2020, the Circuit Court of Lee County, Mississippi entered orders dismissing with prejudice all charges brought against former Lee County Deputy Sheriff, Mike Mayhew.

After a change of administration in the Attorney General's Office, a new team of prosecutors and investigators, prompted by exculpatory evidence provided by Mr. Mayhew's attorney, conducted a thorough review of all of the evidence available. This review included an evaluation as to why key evidence, including Mr. Mayhew's statement to a former investigator, was missing from their file, re-interviewing potential witnesses, and reviewing documentary evidence. At the conclusion of their review a decision was made that the cases against Mr. Mayhew lacked prosecutable merit.

Prior to this action, Mr. Mayhew had filed several motions alleging misconduct in the handling of the case by the former prosecutors and investigators and seeking the dismissal of all of the charges against him. Hearings on those motions were postponed to allow the new team of prosecutors and investigators an opportunity to independently investigate the cases.

Mr. Mayhew wishes to thank Attorney General Lynn Fitch and her team of prosecutors and investigators for taking an earnest, thorough, and independent review of the evidence in making their decision. Mr. Mayhew also wishes to thank his family and friends who stood by him and supported him through the very difficult years occasioned by the false charges leveled against him. Mr. Mayhew wishes to ask the media and those who were quick to rush to judgment against him, "Where do I go now, to get my reputation back?"

Mr. Mayhew's attorney stated that the case against Mr. Mayhew amounted to a purely personal and political prosecution brought about at the behest of the Sheriff of Lee County, in order to protect his own standing and destroy Mr. Mayhew. When a public official uses the power of his office to bring about the leveling of knowingly false charges against a person he has fallen out with personally and considers a potential future political rival every citizen who values our system of justice should be justifiably concerned.