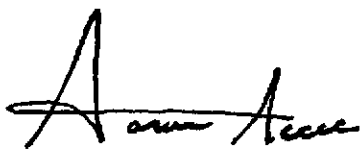


As your Sheriff of Trigg County I would like to respond briefly to the allegations being levied against me. On November 30, 2022, I was indicted by the Trigg County Grand Jury on charges of Two Counts of Official Misconduct (Assault 4<sup>th</sup> Degree and Terroristic Threatening 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree). This investigation has been ongoing since the beginning of March of this year and I was initially given the opportunity to cooperate with the investigators and provided them with a statement. This case was previously reviewed by a Special Prosecutor and an offer to a plea deal was made by the prosecutor to plea to a Class A misdemeanor on this single charge. The offer required me to resign my position as Sheriff, remove my name from the election ballot, "voluntarily surrender" my Kentucky law enforcement certification, and pay a fine amount of \$500.00 I declined to take any plea deal as I am innocent. It wasn't until then that additional investigation continued, and the previous prosecutor recused himself from the case. After a second prosecutor was appointed, this case was presented to the grand jury as a "felony." Though I continued to cooperate with the investigation, prosecutors did not attempt to get my side of the story on these additional charges. Only one side of the facts was presented to the grand jury which was convened just weeks after the election.

These allegations are without merit, and I look forward to sharing my side of the story and being allowed to clear my name. However, until this case is resolved, I will be making no comments related to the details of the circumstances surrounding these charges. I have cooperated and am innocent of these charges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Acree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke.