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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To the Citizens of Marion County:

As you may know, HB5471, the Protect Illinois Communities Act (“Act”), passed both houses of the 102nd Illinois General Assembly and was signed into law by the governor on January 10, 2023. Among other things, the Act criminalizes and bans the possession of certain commonly used firearms and firearm components in the State of Illinois. In so doing, the Act makes criminals out of good, hard-working, and otherwise law-abiding citizens.

We, like many of you, are very concerned about the Act and its infringement upon our 2nd Amendment rights. The right to keep and bear arms is one of the most fundamental rights granted to all United States citizens. It is a right deeply entrenched in our country, our state, and our home here in Marion County. Upon taking our respective positions, we took an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Illinois. When a law conflicts with either of those constitutions, we must stand by our oaths and support the constitutions.

We are aware that all bills passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor are presumed to be constitutional. However, the Act conflicts with recent United States Supreme Court cases, including *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Pistol and Rifle Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, by criminalizing the possession of many of the most popular firearms in America; firearms that we have been able to legally own for many years; firearms that are currently in common use for lawful purposes. Because of this conflict, we believe the Act is unconstitutional.

There undoubtedly will be strong court cases filed in the very near future which will challenge the constitutionality of the Act. Until the courts rule on those cases and the constitutional issues raised therein, we will not expend the limited resources of our communities, supported through your tax dollars, to check compliance with the Act. Your local law enforcement will exercise our arrest and prosecutorial discretion and not make criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens choosing to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights solely due to non-compliance with what we believe to be an unconstitutional law.

We will continue to investigate and prosecute violations of the law. All crimes, including crimes committed using firearms, will be investigated and prosecuted based upon the facts, circumstances, and evidence of each particular case.

YOUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS IN MARION COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT