



Man Pleads Guilty to Attempted Aggravated Murder of Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DAVID P. FORNSHELL
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Lance Runion, 57, of Deerfield Township pled guilty as charged to all counts and specifications contained in the indictment for the attempted aggravated murder of Warren County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sara Vaught.

On February 15, 2021, Warren County Communications received a 911 call from Runion's brother and dispatched Warren County Sheriff's Office deputies to Runion's residence at 7831 Hunt Club Drive in Deerfield Township. Deputies knocked on Runion's front door multiple times attempting to check on his safety. Ultimately, when Deputy Vaught arrived on Runion's front porch, Runion opened his front door and immediately fired a Ruger LCP 9mm revolver directly at Deputy Vaught. Deputy Vaught was not struck and returned fire, striking and disabling Runion. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene approximately 60 seconds after Runion was struck, and administered medical treatment to him.

Warren County Common Pleas Judge Timothy N. Tepe accepted Runion's guilty plea and entered a finding of guilt against Runion for attempted aggravated murder (F1) with accompanying seven year and three year firearm specifications; attempted murder (F1) with accompanying seven year and three year firearm specifications; and felonious assault (F1) with accompanying seven year and five year firearm specifications. Runion is scheduled to be sentenced on September 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Runion is required first to serve a mandatory seven year prison sentence on the highest firearm specification. After serving that seven year prison sentence, Runion also must serve a prison sentence on the underlying offenses, and faces a maximum of 11 to 16 ½ year sentence for those (merged) offenses. All told, Runion faces a maximum of 18 to 23 ½ years in prison.

“That Ring doorbell video demonstrates just how quickly, and without any warning, that a situation can become deadly for the women and men who wear the uniform. It also demonstrates how highly trained and skilled Deputy Vaught and our other Warren County law enforcement officers are in responding to these types of life-threatening situations. While I'm grateful that

she was miraculously unharmed, her bravery and training absolutely contributed to her being able to go home from work that night,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended Warren County Sheriff’s Office Detectives Brian Lewis and Brandi Carter, and Warren County Prosecutor’s Office First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steve Knippen, Director of Victim Witness Services Erika Bouelle, and Deputy Office Administrator Jaclyn Zaczek for their work on the case.



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