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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

With the plea entered moments ago in case 2017 CF 1025, I want to answer some of the questions the community has in that matter but must remind everyone that the State's Attorney's Office is still litigating the companion case of 2017 CF 1026 and still have the ability to re-indict in case 2017 CF 1029.

At the time of issuing this release, John Butler is a convicted thief. He has acknowledged the State could prove he stole a significant amount of taxpayer assets and has already made restitution in the amount of \$450,000. As with any non-violent financial crime, the State's Attorney's Office considers input from the victim and investigating law enforcement agency when working toward a conclusion. Our consultations with command at the Illinois State Police Department and City Manager's Office for the City of Bloomington revealed a desire to ensure that Mr. Butler admitted to criminal culpability in this matter and allowed the taxpayers to recoup a substantial amount of the monies stolen during his operation of BMI and CIAM.

This plea agreement does just that. Again, John Butler is a convicted thief who has returned \$450,000 to the taxpayers of Bloomington.

We understand that the timing of this resolution may seem odd to some given that four jurors were selected, but not sworn, to begin the trial. However, as noted for the record in open court at the final pre-trial conference, Mr. Butler refused to accept any personal criminal culpability at that time resulting in an end to any plea discussions on behalf of the State. Negotiations resumed when it became clear that he had changed course.

But for the extraordinary efforts of Sergeant Dan Rossiter of the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation, Special Agent Lisa Matheny of the Illinois Department of Revenue and First Assistant State's Attorneys Brad Rigdon and Chris Spanos, I can confidently say the taxpayers of the City of Bloomington would not have recouped a dime of the money at issue in this matter. While ASA Rigdon and ASA Spanos will be made available to answer questions regarding the case, I again caution that we are actively prosecuting case 2017 CF 1026 which limits their ability to comment on much of the subject matter of 2017 CF 1025.