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PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Jury No Bills October 12th Incident

Athens County Prosecutor Keller Blackburn stated today, Monday October 28, 2013 at a press conference that the October 12th, 2013 incident involving two Ohio University students in a sex act at the Chase Bank was presented to the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury found that probable cause did not exist to charge any party from the incident.

While the rules of Grand Juries limit what can be shared from the grand jury proceeding; the Athens Police Department investigation shows that a 20 year-old Ohio University male and 20 year-old Ohio University female obtained alcohol from an uptown bar. The couple left after closing and began kissing at several locations moving from North Court Street to South Court Street. The male and female were chased from a hood of a car, which they were laying on and kissing. At approximately 3:00 a.m. they stopped in front of Chase Bank where the male performed sex acts on the female. The female was responsive, smiling and grabbed the back of the males head. At one point the male asked the female if he should stop because they were building a crowd. The female answered no. This was confirmed by an independent witness that was on the scene. After leaving Chase Bank, the male and female were seen on video voluntarily going to the male's apartment. They arrived to the apartment at approximately 3:34 a.m. and left at approximately 6:30 a.m. The couple were then at the BP gas station on Court Street for about seven (7) minutes. The female was responsive, visualized and screamed out her roommate's name and left with the male, who walked her home. The male provided the female with his cellphone number via a text message. The male has voluntarily cooperated with the investigation. The female has no memory of the incident. Lab results show the female's system was clean of any date rape drug. Neither party was aware that the incident at Chase Bank was videotaped.

This case should remind us of the dangers of social media and new media in our lives. From the time the incident occurred until now, social media has:

1. identified the wrong female
2. has spread false rumors
3. permanently documented the choices these two 20 year-olds made on October 12th, 2013.

Every decision we make now has the potential to be placed on Twitter, Facebook, commented on, shared and embellished, making life today more public than ever before. If a lesson exists from this case, let it be that we should behave as if our family is always watching. We have a responsibility to represent the community well.

Athens Police Department conducted a thorough investigation and worked with the County Prosecutor's Office throughout the investigation.