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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Sept. 14, 2020

**ATHENS, Ohio** – Trea Benedict, 22, of Jackson, was indicted Monday by an Athens County Grand Jury on seven felonies and five misdemeanor counts — all related to alleged activity of voyeurism, menacing and burglary. Chief among the allegations is a first-degree felony charge of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity.

The superseding indictment on Benedict charges:

- Engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity (F1)
- Burglary (F2)
- Attempted burglary (F3), two counts
- Tampering with evidence (F3), two counts
- Menacing by stalking (F4)
- Petty theft (M1) two counts
- Voyeurism (M2)
- Voyeurism (M3) two counts

In June, social media accounts in and around Athens shared video and photographs of a male in the North High Street area of the city who continued to loiter near a house and who also removed security cameras from the premises. Posts made by the Athens Police Department regarding the suspect were shared more than 500 times. Fingerprints found at the scene matched those of Benedict and he was arrested by the Athens Police Department.

According to the superseding indictment filed on Monday, Benedict was previously convicted of voyeurism and menacing by stalking as a teenager. In 2018, he was convicted of attempted burglary in Lorain County after following a woman home and trying to gain entry to her home with sexual intentions. He is currently on probation for that charge.

Beginning in early June, residents of a home on North High Street reported hearing and seeing someone around the residence on multiple occasions. The occupants began to find evidence of

forced entry and witnessed a camera flash from outside a window on at least once occasion. The incidents continued through July until Benedict was arrested in August. Benedict denied being in Athens despite phone locations indicating otherwise. Investigators also found photos of at least one of the residents on North High Street on Benedict's phone.

"No one should have to fear for their own safety in our community, not the least of which includes their own home," said Athens County Prosecutor Keller Blackburn. "These are very serious allegations and we are pleased that the residents of North High Street can have some peace of mind now."

Benedict is currently being held in the Southeastern Ohio Regional Jail. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Athens County Common Pleas Court on Wednesday. This case was investigated by the Athens Police Department and Athens County prosecutor's Office.

