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July 15, 2020

On July 7, 2020, the Ashtabula County Grand Jury indicted Michael E. Rodriquez for his alleged involvement in the death of Glenn A. Smith in November of 2019.

**Mr. Rodriquez** was indicted on the following two counts:

1. Involuntary Manslaughter, (during the commission of a misdemeanor) a third degree felony
2. Assault, a first degree misdemeanor

It is alleged that Mr. Rodriquez and Mr. Smith were both at Nikki's Bar in Ashtabula Township. They began to argue over an exchange between Mr. Rodriquez and another person in the bar. The argument turned physical and allegedly Mr. Rodriquez pushed Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith hit his head on the floor. Law enforcement and medical personnel were called to the scene. Mr. Smith refused transport to the hospital and went home. He was discovered deceased in his home in Ashtabula Township the next morning. He was 69 years old at the time of his death. An autopsy was performed and after reviewing the results, the Coroner determined he died from blunt force impacts to the head.

The defendant was taken into custody yesterday and is currently being held in the Ashtabula County Jail awaiting arraignment.

County Prosecutor Cecilia Cooper made the following statement, "First and foremost, on behalf of myself and the Sheriff's Department, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Smith. We know there is nothing we can say to ease their pain. Our Victim of Crime office has reached out to them and will continue to work with them throughout the process. Second, I want to commend the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department for their thorough and professional investigation of this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Cecilia M. Cooper*

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