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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1, 2008

The Office of the State Prosecutor announced today that as a result of its investigation regarding submissions of fraudulent requests for overtime pay, It. James Folk of the Allegany Sheriff's Department has submitted his resignation. His resignation was a required condition of the agreement entered into between the Office of State Prosecutor and It. Folk as an alternative to possible misdemeanor criminal charges being filed.

The overtime pay was pursuant to a grant provided by the Maryland State Police. The purpose of the grant was to enforce the laws regarding traffic near and around school buses as they pick up and drop off students. The State's investigation revealed that the Lieutenant was paid approximately \$490.00 for supposed overtime hours which he could not have conceivably worked during a nine month period between September 2006 and June 2007. The Lieutenant submitted requests for overtime pay when school buses were no longer in service at the end of the day.

State Prosecutor Robert A. Rohrbaugh stated, "It is important to resolve this matter without a prolonged trial which will be distracting at a time when the Sheriff's Office is being re-organized. Considering the fraudulent overtime payments amount to a misdemeanor, it is prudent to resolve this matter expeditiously to re-assure the citizens of Allegany County that their law enforcement officers are not persons who are taking advantage of their position for their personal benefit."

The agreement will be a permanent part of Folk's personnel file so that other law enforcement agencies which may be seeking to employ Folk in the future will be aware of the resolution. Lastly, Folk will repay the \$490.00 in fraudulent overtime to the County by November 1, 2008.

It. Folk has not admitted any wrongdoing pursuant to the agreement but has submitted his resignation, effective October 1, 2008.