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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Attorney Cautions Against Rush to Judgment Against East Lansing Police Officer: “Don’t Judge”
Criminal Defense Attorney Mike Nichols will represent Officer Andrew Stephenson in the
investigation of the officer’s December, 2019 role in assisting another officer in a traffic stop**

East Lansing defense attorney Mike Nichols is calling on prosecutors to quickly clear East Lansing Police Officer Andy Stephenson of any charges related to a 2019 use of force complaint that has become the source of media controversy recently. Stephenson has served the citizens of East Lansing for over nine years and is currently rotating through an assignment at the Detective Bureau. Police video shows that Stephenson and two other officers followed their training in order to bring the subject safely into custody for misdemeanor traffic violations.

“Officer Stephenson was following his department’s training on use of force when the subject attempted to resist arrest,” Nichols said. “Apart from that, he was defending himself when the man tried to bite him, broke the skin and then the officer was informed of a very specific health concern for which he is still being monitored.” Nichols urges the public to wait for all the facts to come out, and avoid comparisons to the Minneapolis incident in which George Floyd was killed.”

“Officer Stephenson followed his MCOLES and department training and briefly utilized a knee-press to stabilize him. I counted for 18 seconds at most and as soon as the man was in handcuffs and compliant, the officer got up.”

Stephenson is a graduate of Ferris State University, with a family in the mid-Michigan area. He became a member of the ELPD in 2010. “I want the East Lansing City Council to show support for this officer. He’s served this community with distinction and pride and these claims and the length of time this process is taking is tearing him up. This is not about police brutality; this is about a police officer who did his job and should go back to work.”

The Ingham County Prosecutor has referred the Michigan State Police report to be reviewed by a different prosecutor’s office. That process, by law, will go through the Michigan Attorney General’s office and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.