MARK A. McCANN, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Howard County, Indiana | 62nd Judicial Circuit
Howard County Courthouse, 104 N. Buckeye Street, Room 208, Kokomo, Indiana 46901
Tel. 765-457-7273 | mark.mccann@howardcountyin.gov

Release date: October 7, 2026

Media contact: Mark A. McCann, Prosecuting Attorney, 765-456-2230

Kokomo Police Officer Charged With Official Misconduct and Fraud After Department Audit of License Plate Reader Searches

KOKOMO, Ind. (October 7, 2026): Howard County Prosecuting Attorney Mark A. McCann announced today that criminal charges have been filed in Howard Superior Court 4 against Jeffery Alan Bornes Jr., 40, of Kokomo, a Kokomo Police Department officer who is currently on administrative leave.

Bornes is charged with one count of Official Misconduct, a Level 6 felony, and two counts of Fraud, each a Class A misdemeanor.

The charges allege that between February 19 and February 28, 2026, Bornes used his department-issued account to search the Flock Safety automated license plate reader system 18 times for a vehicle registered to a private individual known to him, entering "welfare check" as the reason for each search. The State alleges the searches had no law enforcement purpose and that the stated reason was false.

The searches were identified in September 2026 during a Kokomo Police Department review of more than 9,000 license plate reader searches conducted by its officers. The department referred the matter to the Prosecutor's Office for a charging decision.

"License plate readers are a public investigative tool. Officers are given access to do police work, not to look up people in their personal lives," McCann said. "The Kokomo Police Department found this through its own audit and brought it to us. That is how accountability is supposed to work, and the department deserves credit for it."

Bornes was taken into custody on October 7, 2026. Bond was set at $12,000.00. An initial hearing will be scheduled in Howard Superior Court 4.

If convicted, a Level 6 felony carries a sentencing range of six months to two and one-half years and a fine of up to $10,000. A Class A misdemeanor carries up to one year and a fine of up to $5,000.

The charges are allegations only. Bornes is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

To protect the integrity of the case, the Prosecutor's Office will not comment further on the evidence or on the individual whose vehicle was searched.