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NEWS RELEASE

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**Ramsey County Attorney announces felony charges in Trump rally incident
Saint Paul City Attorney files charges on six protesters**

Saint Paul – In a joint briefing, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi and Saint Paul City Attorney Sam Clark announced criminal charges in connection with an unlawful disruption of a permitted rally at the Minnesota State Capitol on March 4. In addition to six individuals charged by the Saint Paul City Attorney, the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office (RCAO) charged two men with felony level crimes.

The RCAO charged Anton William Bueckert with two felony counts of Obstructing Legal Process and Prohibited Use of Tear Gas and one gross misdemeanor count of Third Degree Riot. It also charged Francis Thomas Sagermerek with one felony count of Prohibited Use of Tear Gas and one gross misdemeanor count of Third Degree Riot. A Minnesota State Trooper fractured his thumb during the apprehension of Bueckert.

Sagermerek, 29, of Saint Paul, will make his first appearance in Ramsey County District Court this afternoon at the Law Enforcement Center, 425 Grove Street in Saint Paul. Bueckert, 26, of Minneapolis has a warrant issued for his arrest.

“When people seek to prevent others who are peacefully assembled from making their voices heard, it threatens the very foundation of our democracy, said Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. “I am pleased that we were able to gather sufficient evidence to charge these defendants. I want to thank investigators from the Minnesota State Patrol and Saint Paul Police Department for their diligent work in bringing these charges forward, and the witnesses who cooperated with police investigators by providing statements and video evidence.”

According to the criminal complaints, nearly 400 people attended a permitted rally at the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda on March 4, 2017 in support of President Donald J. Trump. Shortly after the event got underway, protesters, most of whom were peaceful, arrived for a counter demonstration. Some of the counter demonstrators, equipped with face and head coverings and goggles, broke away and attempted to enter the rally from the 2nd floor staircase by pushing and shoving. During the disturbance, they employed smoke bombs, mace and fireworks, thereby creating a chaotic and dangerous situation. Minnesota State troopers and Saint Paul police officers apprehended multiple suspects during the chaotic incident.

After an initial evidentiary review of the investigation, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office declined felony charges, but asked investigators to both submit their files to the Saint Paul City Attorney's Office for charging consideration, and to continue and supplement their investigation. Using additional eyewitness interviews, social media postings and cellphone recordings, investigators were able to more specifically identify and connect individual suspects to criminal conduct and present their cases for charging consideration.

"From the beginning, this has never been about what anybody had to say at the Capitol on March 4. It's also never been about who the police arrested that day, said Saint Paul City Attorney Samuel Clark. "In my mind this has always been about making sure that people who seek to express themselves peacefully can do so free from fear of violence. That should be a bright line for everyone."

Saint Paul City Attorney's Office charges related to the March 4, 2017 rally incident:

- **Jonathan Marc Adams:** fleeing on foot and concealing identity in a public place (both misdemeanors).
- **Linwood Michael Kaine:** fleeing on foot, concealing identity in a public place, and obstructing legal process (gross misdemeanor).
- **Glenn Fredrick Kimball:** fleeing on foot and concealing identity in a public place.
- **Isabell Kimball:** fleeing on foot, concealing identity in a public place, and possession of fireworks (misdemeanor).
- **Hayley Marina Ryan:** fleeing on foot and concealing identity in a public place.
- **Starr Antoinette Vann-Jackson:** use of an electronic incapacitation device and 3rd degree riot (both gross misdemeanors).

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Note: Ramsey County Attorney John Choi is available for comment. Please call Dennis Gerhardtstein if you would like to arrange for an interview.