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For Immediate Release

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Police Cite 39 for Underage Drinking at Party

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (Sept. 19) – Indiana State Excise Police officers and Vigo County Sheriff’s Department deputies cited 39 people for underage drinking and one person for aiding a minor to possess alcohol at a party in Terre Haute Saturday night.

Excise police officers and sheriff’s deputies went to 923 ½ S. 6th Street in Terre Haute around 12:30 a.m. Sunday after an excise officer observed several young-appearing people consuming alcohol on the front porch of the house.

Police spoke with residents, who were hosting an underage drinking party with approximately 60 Indiana State University students. When officers obtained consent to search the house, they entered and found 39 people less than 21 years of age who had been consuming alcoholic beverages. All 39 were cited for illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages. Additionally, one person was cited for aiding a minor to possess alcoholic beverages. Those cited will appear in Terre Haute City Court on various dates.

Excise police officers regularly work with other law enforcement agencies to enforce Indiana law. The Sheriff’s Department deputies who worked with excise police are part of Project 21, an initiative of the VCSD aimed at reducing underage drinking in Vigo County.

“State Excise officers will continue to have an increased presence in college communities to ensure that underage persons do not consume alcohol,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “Underage drinking parties have the potential to result in harm to one or more persons, since the potential for binge drinking significantly increases.”

“Ensuring the safety of students on and around college campuses will continue to be a priority for the agency,” he said.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana’s alcohol and tobacco statutes.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

