

**STATEMENT REGARDING SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S DECISION
TO CHARGE VICTIM VAUHXX BOOKER**

COUNT I. Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury as a Level 6 Felony

COUNT II. Criminal Trespass as Class A Misdemeanor

Video documentation of Bloomington resident Vauhxx Booker being attacked,

EVENT: Press Conference

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 2012

TIME: 2:30 PM EST

LOCATION: Monroe County Courthouse
Southeast Corner
100 West Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47404

ATTENDING: Vauhxx Booker, Attorneys Katharine Liell and Mike McNeil, Attorney William Morris, NAACP Spokesperson, Guy Loftman, and other supporters.

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT

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Today, in an outrageous act of punitive retaliation and prosecutorial vindictiveness, Special Prosecutor Sonia Leerkamp has decided to charge the victim, Vauhxx Booker. But why now? These charges don't stem from any new investigative discoveries or shocking revelations. Make no mistake, this is an attempt to drag Mr. Booker back to the hanging tree.

The Monroe County Branch of the **[NAACP also condemns](#)** the prosecution of Vauhxx Booker, demands that the charges against him be dropped immediately, and calls on Special Prosecutor Leerkamp to resign.

Last July Vauhxx Booker was viciously attacked on public land at Lake Monroe in Bloomington, Indiana, by a drunken mob, including Sean Purdy and Jerry Cox. After being punched, and pinned against a tree, Mr. Booker was threatened with a "noose", called a "nappy-headed bitch", and left with a concussion in a modern-day lynching attempt caught on video for the world to witness.

In an effort to avoid jail time for their crimes, Purdy and Cox proposed a restorative justice process, which Mr. Booker attempted to participate in with his attackers until it became clear that they in fact had no remorse. Prior to the restorative justice meetings, Special Prosecutor

Leerkamp threatened Mr. Booker that if the restorative justice process wasn't successful, HE would be charged - that threat - in and of itself was outlandish. However, Mr. Booker deeply believes in restorative justice and engaged in good faith with his attackers. Mr. Booker withdrew his voluntary participation in the restorative justice sessions once it became apparent that the process was a ruse to allow his attackers to evade justice. Mr. Booker learned that the charges against his attackers would be dismissed, he was even asked to attend a joint press conference where he would be expected to publicly express his forgiveness of the men who brutalized him.

Now, Special Prosecutor Leerkamp has made good on her threats and in an overreach of power has charged Mr. Booker. This incident has been a continual case of a victim being re-victimized by the system.

For their vile behavior, Sean Purdy and Jerry Cox were charged with felonies, but have yet to have spent even a single night in jail, not even at the time of their arrest. Instead, they were allowed to pay \$500.00 in bail to remain free. They used the olive branch of restorative justice to evade incarceration

It is the victim in this assault – Vauhxx Booker - who is being made to pay for having stood his ground against malicious racist name-calling, physical assault, and threats against his life.

But for being Black Mr. Booker would have never been accused of trespassing and brutally attacked Sean Purdy, Jerry Cox, and others. But for being Black DNR officers would have arrested the men that attacked Mr. Booker that very night. But for being Black Mr. Booker wouldn't be expected to publicly forgive his attackers. But if for being Black Mr. Booker wouldn't now stand innocent and unjustly charged in his own attempted lynching.

A prosecutor's role is to speak for society and has the utmost responsibility to seek justice. Yet it is clear that in Indiana, in 2021 even after the death of George Floyd; And despite the international outrage and marches which followed, nothing changes. The new consciousness was supposed to be the beginning of a transformation in our system and people rallied against racism, violence, and inequality. Yet these charges sadly demonstrate that antebellum culture remains; that there still is no justice for the Black Nation in America.

Vauhxx Booker is represented in this criminal matter by Katherine Liell and Michael McNeil.