

Michael A. Dvorak
St. Joseph County Prosecuting Attorney
10th Floor County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 235-9544 Fax: (574) 235-9761

St. Joseph County
Prosecutor's Office

Press Release

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Contact: Michael A. Dvorak
Prosecuting Attorney
235-9618

NO CHARGES IN DOROTHY SNYDER ARREST

South Bend, IN—Upon review of the police report from April 25, 2007, and the subpoenaed videotapes of the incident provided by the media, it is the decision of the Prosecutor's Office not to charge Dorothy Snyder, at this time.

We believe that the Roseland police officers had probable cause to arrest Mrs. Snyder. However, while there may be sufficient minimal evidence to file a criminal charge of "resisting law enforcement," we believe that prosecution is not merited due to the minimal level of resistance.

Any charge of misdemeanor "criminal trespass" would require the State to prove that the Town of Roseland's ordinance was a validly enacted ordinance creating a permissible restriction which could properly be enforced. The Prosecutor's Office is aware of the ongoing and pending civil litigation and disputes regarding the legality of the ordinance related to the videotaping of persons without their permission following the conclusion of town hall meetings. Criminal prosecutions are intended to punish violations of criminal laws, not to resolve civil lawsuits or disputes. The dispute over the "videotaping ordinance" is properly resolved through the civil court process.

At the present time, the Prosecutor's Office believes that the incident resulting in the arrest of Dorothy Snyder on April 25, 2007, does not merit prosecution.