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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: January 24, 2018

LAFOURCHE PARISH GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICMENTS IN THREE SEPARATE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

THIBODAUX – A Lafourche Parish grand jury has indicted four men in three separate criminal matters, District Attorney Kristine Russell announced Tuesday.

Kai Williams of Thibodaux was indicted on one count of second degree murder. Williams is accused of killing Grace Owens on November 24, 2017 in the vicinity of Midland Drive in Thibodaux.

Williams is currently being held on a two million dollar bond, and is scheduled for a formal arraignment on Wednesday. Second degree murder carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Also indicted was Michael Lirette on a charge of aggravated rape of a juvenile. The victim, who is now an adult, reported that she had been sexually assaulted by the defendant when she was between the ages of five and eight.

Lirette's bond was set at \$150,000. Aggravated rape carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison as well.

Finally, Tremell Batiste was indicted for the second degree murder of Chansie White, while Dontrell Bryant was indicted for accessory after the fact to second degree murder and obstruction of justice for his role in the same offense.

The victim was shot on November 15, 2017 by a suspect in a white Crown Victoria. The subsequent investigation identified Batiste as the shooter. Bryant is accused of helping Batiste flee to Assumption Parish and helping dispose of evidence of the crime.

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Based on the indictment, on State's motion, Batiste's bond was increased to one million dollars from \$500,000. Batiste's arraignment is scheduled for January 25. Bryant has a bond of one million dollars which remains in full force. Bryant's arraignment is also scheduled for January 25.

Batiste faces life in prison if convicted of second degree murder. Accessory after the fact is punishable by up to five years in prison and a five hundred dollar fine. Obstruction of justice carries a sentence of up to forty years in prison at hard labor, and a fine of up to \$100,000.

Russell presented the Lirette case to the grand jury, while Assistant District Attorney Cam Morvant presented the Batiste, Bryant and Williams cases.