



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

www.taneycountyprosecutor.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
(417) 546-7260**

DATE: MARCH 15, 2012

VARRIEUR FOUND GUILTY IN ALTERCATION WITH BRANSON POLICE

RAYMOND D. VARRIEUR (d.o.b. 9-17-1980), of Branson, was found guilty as charged by Judge Mark Orr, after a bench trial held on January 26, 2012. Judge Orr scheduled Varrieur's next appearance for April 12, 2012, at which time it is expected a sentencing date will be set. Varrieur was charged by the Taney County Prosecutor's Office with the class D felony of resisting a lawful detention, the class C felony of tampering with a motor vehicle in the first degree, class B misdemeanor driving while intoxicated, and the class A misdemeanor of assault on a law enforcement officer in the third degree.

Charges stemmed from a traffic stop of Varrieur by Branson Police as he was driving away from the Bleu Olive restaurant on Commercial Street, on June 6, 2010, around 1:30 a.m. The arresting officer approached Varrieur's car and asked him to exit the vehicle to complete some Field Sobriety Tests. Varrieur did not respond in any way and, instead, placed the vehicle in drive and proceeded eastbound on Oklahoma Street. Varrieur had to stop when the road came to a dead end. When the officer caught up to the defendant and again asked him to exit the vehicle, Varrieur said "I have a better idea," and put his vehicle in reverse, striking the patrol car that was parked immediately behind him. Then, when the arresting officer and backup officers attempted to get Varrieur out of his vehicle, the defendant yelled profanities, pulled away from the officers, and pushed an officer to the ground.

Class D felony resisting a lawful detention carries a maximum penalty of up to four (4) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.00. Tampering with a motor vehicle in the first degree (for crashing into the Branson Police car) is a class C felony, which carries a maximum penalty of up to seven (7) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.00. Varrieur faces a maximum of six (6) months in the Taney County Jail for driving while intoxicated, and one (1) year in the Taney County Jail for assaulting a law enforcement officer.

MAIN OFFICE: (417) 546-7260 | FAX: (417) 546-2376

BAD CHECKS: (417) 546-7261 | VICTIM/WITNESS: (417) 546-7263 | CHILD SUPPORT: (417) 546-7262