



# Department of Justice

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## **Former Hertford County Chief Deputy Indicted for Federal Civil Rights Violation in Eastern North Carolina**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina Thomas G. Walker and Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Thomas E. Perez announced today that Timothy Lassiter, former Chief Deputy of the Hertford County Sheriff's Office, was indicted by a federal grand jury for violating an inmate's civil rights while acting under color of law in June of this year.

According to the indictment, on June 12, 2012, Lassiter struck and assaulted an inmate, who was a pretrial detainee. The assault resulted in bodily injury to the inmate and violated his due process rights. If Lassiter is convicted of this charge, he will face a maximum punishment of ten years of imprisonment.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toby Lathan and Civil Rights Division Trial Attorney Betsy Biffel.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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