

September 30, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: FORMER IDNR WORKER CHARGED WITH OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Macon County man was charged with official misconduct for sexually harassing a fellow Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) employee and violating the State Employee Ethics Act.

James Mayes, 46, of Mt. Zion, Illinois, was charged in Franklin County Circuit Court, with three counts of official misconduct, each a Class 3 felony punishable by two to five years in prison. Mayes's bond is set at \$50,000.

"Nobody should be made to feel unsafe in the workplace," Raoul said. "It is extremely disappointing that a state employee would violate the State Employee Ethics Act in such a manner, and I am committed to holding accountable government employees who do not live up to this higher ethical standard."

At the time of the offenses, Mayes was working as a captain with the IDNR Office of Law Enforcement. While working in the office located in Benton, Illinois, Mayes shared an office space and desk with a female coworker and allegedly began to expose his penis to that coworker when they were together in the office. Mayes also allegedly sent the female coworker pictures of his penis and would ask her to perform sexual acts on him.

As a state employee, Mayes is required to complete training relating to the Ethics Act and sexual harassment in the workplace, and is subject to the statute outlining the State Employee Ethics Act. The case was initially investigated by the IDNR, and then referred to the Office of the Executive Inspector General. The Attorney General's office is prosecuting the case based on a referral by the Office of the Executive Inspector General.

"The kind of behavior alleged in this incident is entirely unacceptable," Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Colleen Callahan said. "The Department of Natural Resources is committed to a safe work environment and has cooperated fully in the investigation conducted by the Office of the Executive Inspector General and the Illinois Attorney General's Office."

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General Haley Bookhout is handling the case for Raoul's Public Integrity Bureau.