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MADIGAN: ROCK ISLAND SHERIFF PLEADS GUILTY, RESIGNS***Sheriff Jeffrey Boyd Forfeits Pension, Withdraws Candidacy on November Ballot Over Attempted Official Misconduct Charge based on Attempted Cyberstalking***

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that Rock Island County Sheriff Jeffrey Boyd resigned and pled guilty today to attempted official misconduct based on attempted cyberstalking.

Boyd, 48, of Rock Island, pled guilty before Judge Jeffrey O'Connor earlier today to one count of attempted official misconduct based on attempted cyberstalking. As part of his guilty plea, Boyd resigned and has withdrawn his re-election candidacy in the November election. He has also forfeited the pension he earned during his term as Rock Island County Sheriff.

Madigan alleged Boyd used his position as sheriff to intimidate and threaten a woman he met at a Rock Island gym. Boyd pursued the woman over repeated text messages. After the victim asked Boyd to stop and leave her alone, Boyd continued to pursue the woman, attempting to use his position in public office and as a law enforcement officer to intimidate and harass the victim. In June, Madigan said Boyd went further, leveling a threat against the victim in an anonymous text message, putting the victim in fear for her safety.

"Mr. Boyd was elected by the people of Rock Island County to serve as its top law enforcement officer, but unfortunately he attempted to use his position to intimidate and stalk his victim," Madigan said. "My office sought his resignation and criminal conviction to ensure he can no longer abuse the power that the people of Rock Island County entrusted in him."

Under today's agreed sentence, Boyd is forbidden from contacting the victim.

Madigan's Public Integrity Bureau prosecuted the case based on a referral from the Illinois State Police, which investigated the case.

Public Integrity Bureau Chief David Navarro and Chief of the Criminal Prosecutions and Trial Assistance Bureau Bill Elward handled the case for Madigan's office.

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