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Press Release

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A Public Reminder: Harboring is a Crime

MILWAUKEE, WI – On August 8, 2026, three members of our community tragically lost their lives in two separate homicide incidents. The men and women of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) worked tirelessly to locate and arrest the suspect, Thomas S. Zollicoffer, believed to be responsible for these horrible crimes. A copy of the criminal complaint is attached charging the suspect with seven felonies, including three for intentional first-degree homicide.

During the investigation, MPD was made aware that Zollicoffer informed an acquaintance, Elena S. Cole, that he was responsible for these homicides. Based upon MPD's investigation, MPD believes that Cole allowed Zollicoffer to stay in her home despite his confessions of shooting and killing more than one person. In addition, Cole left her children in his care while she went out drinking. A copy of that criminal complaint is attached charging Cole with one count of Harboring or Aiding a Felon and three counts of Neglecting a Child.

Holding those who cause harm to our community accountable is the responsibility of everyone. Harboring individuals who choose to engage in crime is also a crime that MPD takes seriously. If you are aware of criminal activity, especially criminal activity that causes great harm to our community and to society, immediately contact the Milwaukee Police Department.

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