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**PRESS RELEASE: TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS; ALLEGATION OF
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND SOLICITATION ACT VIOLATIONS;
INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT**

July 29, 2014

The Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney has concluded its review of the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's investigation of a complaint alleging a violation of Michigan's Charitable Organizations and Solicitation Act raised by a representative of the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition against the Traverse City Beach Bums. The Charitable Organization and Solicitation Act makes it a crime to intentionally mislead or misrepresent solicitation efforts for a charitable organization. Violations of this act are punishable by up to 5 years in prison if the amount taken is greater than \$1,000.

In the beginning of July, a representative of the Area Veterans Coalition made a complaint to the Prosecutor alleging that the Beach Bums did not turn over funds raised from charitable auctions conducted by the Beach Bums in 2012 and 2013. At these auctions, the Beach Bums sold patriotic jerseys and other merchandise stating on its website that the money raised from the auctions was going to area veterans. The Coalition representative stated that money from the auctions was never received by the Coalition.

Given the serious nature of the allegations, the complaint was turned over to the Grand Traverse County Sheriff for further investigation. The Sheriff Department conducted an investigation by interviewing officials with both the Coalition and the Beach Bums. The Prosecuting Attorney has reviewed the Sheriff's investigation and has concluded that the Beach Bums have not violated Michigan's Charitable Organizations and Solicitation Act. The Veterans Coalition has informed both the Sheriff Department and the Prosecutor that the Coalition and Beach Bums have met to resolve any differences and are planning to work together on future charitable events.

Bob Cooney
Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney

