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STATEMENT REGARDING DISMISSAL OF TERRANCE MURPHY CASE

On December 2, 2025, Assistant State's Attorney Brock Shriver filed a request with the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland to set the case *State v. Terrance Murphy*, C-21-CR-25-000468, for a *nolle prosequi* (i.e. dismissal of charges by the prosecution). ASA Shriver did dismiss the charges on December 9, 2025, when the Court set that hearing.

Murphy was charged via grand jury indictment on August 27, 2025, the case having been presented by ASA Shriver and Sgt. Steven Lucas of the Hagerstown Police Department. The charges were related to allegations that Murphy possessed a regulated firearm after having been convicted of crimes that prohibit him from lawfully possessing a regulated firearm. ASA Shriver reviewed additional evidence obtained after Murphy's arrest that undermined the probable cause for the charges against Murphy, namely evidence that the item Murphy possessed was not a regulated firearm pursuant to Maryland law. The item in question was only observed on video and was not recovered. ASA Shriver discussed his concerns with State's Attorney Regina "Gina" Cirincion, who supported his decision to dismiss the charges.

Ethical considerations for prosecutors are not the same as those for other attorneys. Many sources discuss the ethical obligations and the role of a prosecutor, but the American Bar Association provides one of the more concise explanations:

The primary duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice within the bounds of the law, not merely to convict. The prosecutor serves the public interest and should act with integrity and balanced judgment to increase public safety both by pursuing appropriate criminal charges of appropriate severity, and by exercising discretion to not pursue criminal charges in appropriate circumstances. The prosecutor should seek to protect the innocent and convict the guilty, consider the interests of victims and witnesses, and respect the constitutional and legal rights of all persons, including suspects and defendants.

Criminal Justice Standards for the Prosecution Function, 4th Ed., Std.3-1.2(b)(A.B.A. 2017).

In short, a prosecutor's obligation is to seek justice and uphold the laws of the State of Maryland, even when that decision is difficult and likely to be criticized. State's Attorney Cirincion stated, "My office acts and will continue to act within the higher ethical standards required of prosecutors in this State. The Office of the State's Attorney for Washington County exists to serve justice, not political agendas. We will continue our commitment to public safety within the bounds of our ethical obligations."