



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
ADMINISTRATION
WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER
6 SAINT PAUL STREET, SUITE 1400
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202**

*Ph. (410) 767-8460
Fax (410) 333-8496
Toll Free: 1 (877) 430-5187*

PAUL B. DeWOLFE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

BECKY FELDMAN
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Another Problematic Police Body-Worn Camera Video Identified; Baltimore State’s Attorney Still Failing to Disclose Information in Impacted Cases

For immediate release – July 31, 2017.

Contact: Melissa Rothstein, mrothstein@opd.state.md.us; 410-767-9853

Today, a Baltimore City Circuit Court case was dismissed for suspected police misconduct. Last month, the public defender representing the individual charged in that case alerted the assistant state’s attorney to the body-worn camera video that appears to depict multiple officers working together to manufacture evidence. This is the second such videotape to surface, and involves different officers from the video previously released by the Office of the Public Defender (OPD).

While today’s case was dismissed for suspected police misconduct, the State’s Attorney’s Offices refuses to confirm whether this is the same case that was the subject of last week’s press conference, or whether this is yet another video that depicts suspected misconduct.

“The lack of transparency to the public and refusal to disclose to the defense both prejudices defendants and violates the prosecutor’s constitutional obligations,” said Debbie Katz Levi, head of the Baltimore City Public Defender Special Litigation Section. “Hundreds of individuals are awaiting trial on cases that rely on these officers, and hundreds more have likely been convicted based on their testimony.”

While today’s dismissed case involved at least seven officers, the State’s Attorney’s Office confirmed that it has only referred two officers to Internal Affairs. “We continue to call for full disclosure and swift action from the State’s Attorney’s office to ensure justice and fairness for the citizens of Baltimore,” Levi said.

“The prosecution cannot appoint itself the sole arbiter deciding the fate of the many impacted cases,” said Andrew Northrup, Baltimore City Public Defender Felony Division Chief. “The State’s Attorney is constitutionally mandated to provide information to defense counsel and to the judge in every case involving all of these officers, so that the court can decide what, if any, immediate recourse is needed.”

*

*

*