



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Bob Culver
County Executive

R. Wayne Strausburg
Director of Administration

February 16, 2020

The Honorable Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chairman
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1319

Press release from the Wicomico County State's Attorney

Dear Delegate Davis:

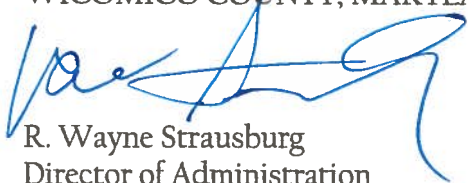
Attached you will find a press release from the office of the Wicomico State Attorney's. The letter is self-explanatory. Every criminal prosecution since 1997 involving the Salisbury City Police Department will have to be reviewed to determine whether or not there have been breaches of evidence security. This effort will be time consuming and very expensive for the citizens of Wicomico County.

You are being asked today to consider relinquishing oversight of the alcohol licensing and enforcement to the City of Salisbury that will, in large part, be overseen by the same police department. We would urge you to weigh a change such in fundamental public safety very carefully.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



R. Wayne Strausburg
Director of Administration



JAMIE L. DYKES, STATE'S ATTORNEY
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR WICOMICO COUNTY

WILLIAM H. McDERMOTT
DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL COMPROMISE OF
SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY STORAGE FACILITIES**

February 14, 2020

On Monday, February 10, 2020, The Office of the State's Attorney for Wicomico County initiated the process of providing disclosures in every criminal case that was charged by the Salisbury Police Department or that contains evidence that is or was being held in the custody of the Salisbury Police Department, from April 22, 1997, through February 7, 2020. Those disclosures provide that the Office of the State's Attorney believes that the integrity of the property storage facilities that contain evidence at the Salisbury Police Department may have been compromised.

On Thursday, February 6, 2020, the Office of the State's Attorney was contacted by the Salisbury Police Department regarding a potential breach of its property storage facilities. The Office of the State's Attorney then requested a detailed briefing by the Salisbury Police Department on Friday, February 7, 2020. As a result of that briefing, The Office of the State's Attorney believes that the integrity of the property storage facilities at the Salisbury Police Department may have been compromised. In turn, The Office of the State's Attorney consulted with The Office of the State Prosecutor and The Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the State's Attorney requested a full investigation by an outside law enforcement agency including an independent inventory and accounting of all property being held in the custody of the Salisbury Police Department. The Maryland State Police has agreed to conduct a criminal investigation, which is underway. In addition, the Maryland State Police will provide technical consultation regarding an inventory of the property storage facilities. It is expected that the investigation, inventory and accounting will take a protracted period of time, it is unknown how long. Since this breach came to light, The Office of the State's Attorney has been committed and working nonstop to ensure integrity, transparency and impartially.

The Office of the State's Attorney will continue to fulfill its legal and ethical obligations. When additional information is learned that requires additional disclosure, we will provide that information in a timely fashion.

For more information or for an interview please call the Office of the State's Attorney
Public Information Officer S/I Carsten Wendlandt at (443) 497-1787.

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