



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

press@oag.state.md.us

410-576-7009

VIDEO: Attorney General Brown Visits Site of Francis Scott Key Bridge Disaster as Office of the Attorney General Leads Coordinated Legal Effort on Behalf of the State

BALTIMORE, MD (April 24, 2024) – This week, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown toured the site of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse to view, first-hand, the damage and recovery efforts as a result of the Dali cargo ship crashing into a supporting column of the bridge in the early morning hours of March 26, 2024. The tragedy claimed the lives of six construction workers and brought shipping at the Port of Baltimore to a complete halt, impacting surrounding communities, thousands of jobs and commerce in the state and region.

While on the tour, Attorney General Brown remarked, “this is all part of the Office of the Attorney General doing our part, which is going to be to protect the interests of the state of Maryland, which will involve legal actions... Anyone from the ship owner; the management company; it may include others who designed, manufactured, and maintained various systems on the ship. So, at this point, we’re not completely clear on who the responsible and liable parties are. But that’s our responsibility in the Office of the Attorney General, to work with experts, assistant counsel, outside counsel to make the claims to recover for Maryland.”

For the Attorney General’s full boat tour on the waters of the Patapsco River, and more on his thoughts and reactions, click here for the video: https://youtu.be/VH4_zFLtApU.



While the Attorney General was touring the disaster zone, a team of maritime experts boarded the Dali, acting on behalf of the Attorney General, and toured the ship for approximately 10 hours as they got their first up-close look at the contents of the ship and the damage.

The Office of the Attorney General has been preparing for litigation, advising on the release of information to the public and the press, and supporting emergency and long-term procurements for the recovery, restoration, and rebuilding efforts.

In the hours that followed the disaster, Attorney General Brown appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General to lead the coordinated, statewide legal efforts on behalf of the nearly two-dozen state agencies and divisions within the Office of the Attorney General. Also, the Attorney General immediately engaged previously contracted maritime counsel to temporarily assist while our office finalizes the team of outside counsel and experts needed for this wide-ranging and long-term response. Requests for Proposals for outside legal counsel that specialize in maritime law and complex litigation were issued by our office in early April. We anticipate announcing our final selection next week.

Our sincere thanks to the Maryland Transportation Authority for facilitating the Attorney General's visit. On behalf of the 900+ employees of the Office of the Attorney General, our thoughts remain with the families of those killed and with the thousands of workers and families who are still suffering as a result of the tragedy.

###

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/042424a.pdf>