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PRESS RELEASE

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Investigative Reports Released for July 2023 In-Custody Death Investigation in Baltimore City

BALTIMORE, MD (May 2, 2024) – The Independent Investigations Division (IID) of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General today released its investigative reports of the July 25, 2023, in-custody death in Baltimore City.

On July 25, 2023, around 4:20 p.m., Baltimore City Fire Department emergency medical personnel, Baltimore Police (BPD), and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) police officers responded to the 200 block of South Howard Street after a 911 caller reported there was a man lying in the middle of the street trying to kill himself and “fighting people.” The man, later identified as Trea Ellinger, was flailing and speaking incomprehensibly. BPD and MTA officers physically restrained Mr. Ellinger and placed him in handcuffs. Medics then gave Mr. Ellinger a sedative. Officers and medics placed Mr. Ellinger on a stretcher and secured him using the stretcher’s restraint straps. Mr. Ellinger was initially on his side, but he soon rolled into a prone position. The medics placed Mr. Ellinger inside the ambulance and began providing medical aid. After several minutes, Mr. Ellinger became unresponsive. A BPD officer removed the handcuffs from Mr. Ellinger while medics attempted lifesaving measures. Mr. Ellinger was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead a few hours later.

The IID and the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office agreed that an interim report would be useful because all aspects of the investigation were final other than the autopsy report. The IID forwarded its interim investigative report to the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office on October 2, 2023. The IID sent a supplemental report to the State’s Attorney on November 3, 2023, which provided the results of the autopsy and concluded its investigation. The Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office announced its decision not to prosecute the case on April 12, 2024.

The IID’s reports contain detailed investigative findings and an analysis of relevant legal issues. Because the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office—not the IID—retains prosecution authority^[1] in this case, the reports do not make any recommendations as to whether any individual should or should not be charged. A copy of the investigative reports can be found [here](#).

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[1] Beginning with incidents occurring on or after October 1, 2023, the IID has the sole authority, where appropriate, to prosecute police-involved incidents that result in the death of an individual or injuries that are likely to result in the death of an individual. For incidents occurring before that date, the local State's Attorney retains sole prosecution authority.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/050224.pdf>