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PRESS RELEASE

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Independent Investigations Division (IID) Investigating In-Custody Death of Man in Baltimore City

BALTIMORE, MD (July 29, 2023) – The Independent Investigations Division of the Office of the Attorney General is investigating the in-custody death of a man that occurred 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.” An initial review of body-worn camera footage shows MTA officers and EMS personnel were on scene as Baltimore police arrived on scene. MTA officers are seen on video speaking with the man who was acting erratically. Officers physically restrained the man, placed him in handcuffs, and placed him on his side on an ambulance stretcher. Emergency medical personnel and officers secured the man to the stretcher using the stretcher’s restraint straps. The man was in a prone position as he was placed inside the ambulance with emergency personnel who began providing medical aid. After several minutes, the man became unresponsive. An officer removed the man’s handcuffs while medical personnel attempted lifesaving emergency measures. The man was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead a few hours later. Cause and manner of death are pending the results of an autopsy that was performed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The body-worn cameras of the BPD officers were active during the incident. Maryland Transit Administration Police officers are not equipped with body-worn cameras. The video may be released in accordance with Baltimore Police Department and Independent Investigations Division policies.

Under state law, the Independent Investigations Division of the Attorney General’s Office only has authority to investigate the actions of the law enforcement officers and not the emergency medical personnel in this case. IID and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) continue to investigate this incident.

Maryland law requires the Office of Attorney General (OAG) to investigate all police-involved fatalities in the State of Maryland that occur on or after October 1, 2021. These investigations are conducted by the office’s Independent Investigations Division, in conjunction with the Maryland

State Police. The OAG and BPD have an agreement to allow for the Attorney General's investigation while still allowing BPD to meet the investigatory obligations of its federal consent decree.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/072923.pdf>