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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Brown Announces That No Charges Will Be Filed in the February 1, 2024, Fatal Police Shooting in Prince George's County

BALTIMORE, MD (October 15, 2024) – Today, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown announced his decision not to seek charges in the February 1, 2024, fatal police shooting in Prince George's County, Maryland.

On February 1, 2024, at approximately 5:25 p.m., a Prince George's County Police Department officer responded to an apartment in the 5100 block of Suitland Road after a 911 caller reported that someone broke into his apartment and was taking items from his home. Dispatchers told the officer that the caller was not home and that there was no suspect description. The officer arrived on the scene and entered the apartment after noticing the door open. After he entered the apartment, the officer encountered the decedent, Melvin Jay. During the encounter, the officer verbally commanded Mr. Jay to come toward him and show his hands. Instead, Mr. Jay moved toward the apartment's kitchen and did not show his hands. Moments later, the officer said he heard a "ding" that sounded like "metal on metal" as Mr. Jay reached into the kitchen sink and began to turn toward the officer. The officer discharged his service weapon, striking Mr. Jay once. Backup officers arrived moments later who, along with the first officer provided Mr. Jay with medical aid and called for EMS. Mr. Jay was pronounced dead shortly after emergency medics arrived. One handgun was recovered near Mr. Jay in the kitchen sink, and another was recovered from Mr. Jay's jacket pocket. Mr. Jay was not the 911 caller, but did reside in the apartment.

The Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) began investigating the fatal shooting on February 1, 2024, and concluded its investigation on October 10, 2024. After completing its investigation and evaluating all the available evidence, the Office of the Attorney General has determined that the subject officer involved in the fatal shooting did not commit a crime under Maryland law. Accordingly, the Attorney General has declined to prosecute any of the officers in this case.

A copy of the IID's detailed investigative findings and analysis of relevant legal issues can be found in its declination report. Please click here to read the report:

https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IID/Reports/101524_IID_Report.pdf

To view the previously released video related to this investigation, please click here:

<https://youtu.be/LkTjf0s7CVQ?si=tAcaOZIm79mkLOXF>.

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/101524a.pdf>