



**INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS  
DIVISION**

Report Concerning the Police-Involved Death in  
Baltimore County on April 23, 2025

February 24, 2026

*Public Release: March 3, 2026*

## **Declination Report Concerning the Police-Involved Death of Arvel Lamont Jones, Sr. on April 23, 2025**

The Independent Investigations Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General (the “IID”) is charged with investigating “police-involved incidents that result in the death of individuals or injuries likely to result in death.”<sup>1</sup> If the Attorney General determines that the investigation provides sufficient grounds for prosecution, then the IID “shall have exclusive authority to prosecute the offense.”<sup>2</sup>

### **I. Introduction**

On April 23, 2025, at approximately 10:22 a.m., a Baltimore County Police Department (“BCPD”) patrol officer responded to the 5100 block of Leeds Avenue, for several reports of a man shooting a bow and arrow at cars driving by. The man was described as wearing a gray shirt, blue jeans, and a black ski mask. The BCPD patrol officer arrived at the location, observed the male subject, and called for back-up assistance. A BCPD detective in an unmarked vehicle responded to the location at approximately 10:25 a.m. The detective exited his cruiser and the man turned toward him with the bow loaded and drawn. Nearly simultaneously, the detective fired a handgun at the man and the man fired an arrow at the detective. The man was struck but the detective was not. Moments later, the officers advised of shots fired and rendered medical aid until Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) responded and took over life support. The male, later identified as Arvel Lamont Jones, Sr., was transported to an area hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

After completing its investigation and evaluating all available evidence, the Office of the Attorney General has determined that the subject officer did not commit a crime under Maryland law. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General has declined to prosecute the subject officer in this case.

The IID’s investigation focused exclusively on potential criminal culpability relating to the subject officer’s conduct. By statute, the IID only has jurisdiction to investigate the actions of police officers, not those of any other individuals involved in the incident. Moreover, the IID’s analysis does not consider issues of civil liability or the department’s administrative review of the subject officer’s conduct. Compelled statements by subject officers may be considered in civil or administrative proceedings but may not be used in criminal investigations or prosecutions due to the subject officers’ Fifth Amendment rights. If any compelled statements exist in this case, they have not been considered in the IID’s investigation.

This report is composed of a factual narrative followed by a legal analysis. Every fact in the narrative is supported by evidence obtained in this investigation, including forensic and autopsy reports, police radio transmissions, dispatch records, police and EMS reports, surveillance footage, photographs, department policy, and interviews with civilian and law enforcement

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<sup>1</sup> Md. Code, State Gov’t § 6-602 (c)(1).

<sup>2</sup> Md. Code, State Gov’t § 6-604 (a)(1).

witnesses. The subject officer in this case chose not to make a statement to the IID; the officer's choice had no impact on the prosecutorial decision in this matter.

The legal analysis explains why the IID will not bring charges under the relevant Maryland statutes.

This investigation involved one decedent and one subject officer:

- A. The decedent, Arvel Lamont Jones, Sr., was 51 years old at the time of the incident. He was a Black male who lived in Arbutus, Maryland.
- B. Detective Todd Wiedel has been employed by BCPD since December 1996. He is a White male and, at the time of the incident, was 51 years old.

The IID reviewed all available departmental disciplinary records and criminal histories of these involved parties and, where they existed, determined none were relevant to this investigation.

## II. Factual Summary

On April 23, 2025, sometime before 10:22 a.m.,<sup>3</sup> the Baltimore County Police Department (“BCPD”) non-emergency line received a phone call reporting that a man carrying a “loaded crossbow” was walking in the 1400 block of Linden Avenue in Arbutus, Maryland. The caller stated that the man was wearing a black ski mask, and was traveling toward the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus.

At approximately 10:22 a.m., BCPD received a 911 call reporting that a man in a black ski mask with a bow had fired an arrow at a passing vehicle near the intersection of Leeds Avenue and Greystone Road in Arbutus.<sup>4</sup> The caller described the man, who investigators later identified as Arvel Jones, Sr., as a Black male wearing jeans, a mask, and a gray t-shirt. Less than a minute later, BCPD dispatchers radioed for several officers to respond to the area for a “weapons incident.” The responding officers were given the masked man’s race and clothing description, and told that he was walking along Leeds Avenue towards Circle Drive.

A different uniformed BCPD officer in a marked cruiser, who was not initially dispatched to the area, radioed that he was close to the area and would respond. A moment later, BCPD Detective Todd Wiedel, working in plain clothes and an unmarked cruiser, radioed that he was also in the area and would respond. Detective Wiedel asked dispatchers to repeat the subject’s description, and they replied

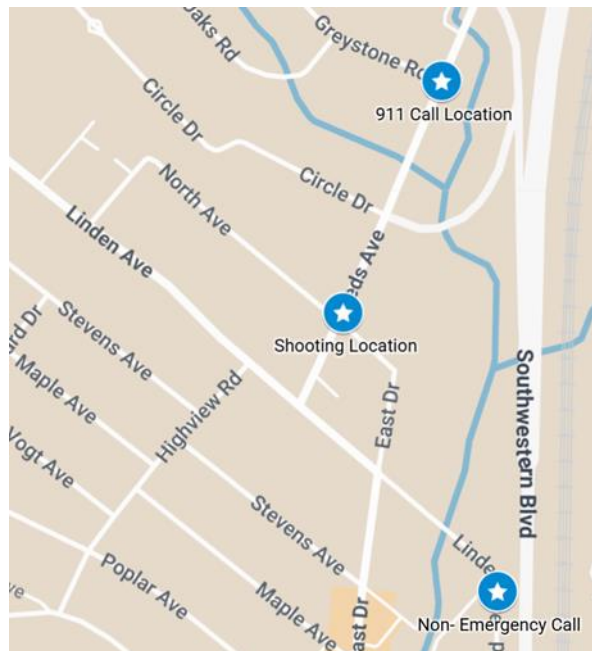


*Image 1:* A still image from private surveillance footage showing Mr. Jones walking down Leeds Avenue with a loaded bow.

<sup>3</sup> Unlike 911 calls, calls to the BCPD non-emergency line are not logged and time-stamped.

<sup>4</sup> This location is approximately 0.5 miles from the location of the earlier non-emergency call.

that the description was of a “Black male, aged mid-thirties, wearing a gray t-shirt, blue jeans, [and] black ski mask.”



*Image 2:* A map of the approximate locations where sightings of Mr. Jones were reported and where the shooting took place.

According to civilian and law enforcement eyewitnesses, Detective Wiedel encountered Mr. Jones at the intersection of Leeds Avenue and North Avenue, stopped his cruiser, and exited the driver’s seat standing near the driver’s side front door of his cruiser. Within seconds, Detective Wiedel drew his handgun and Mr. Jones turned toward him with his bow loaded and drawn. Detective Wiedel and Mr. Jones nearly simultaneously fired their respective weapons at each other; there is insufficient evidence to determine who fired first.

At approximately 10:25 a.m., the uniformed officer radioed that he was on Leeds Avenue, out of his patrol car, and with the masked man, who was walking towards Linden Avenue. The uniformed officer did not provide a cross street or block number over the radio, but later investigation revealed that he encountered Mr. Jones on the 5100 block of Leeds Avenue. A few moments later, dispatchers requested that another officer get to the area to back up the uniformed officer, and Detective Wiedel radioed that he was “out with him.”

A little over twenty seconds later, just before 10:26 a.m., the uniformed officer stated that the masked man was not stopping and still had the bow. Eight seconds later, Detective Wiedel radioed that shots had been fired.<sup>5</sup>



*Image 3:* A crime scene photograph of Mr. Jones’s bow.

The arrow missed Detective Wiedel, but Detective Wiedel’s gunfire struck Mr. Jones, causing him to fall to the ground. After the shooting, the uniformed officer activated his body-worn camera. That footage shows that Detective Wiedel and the uniformed officer immediately

<sup>5</sup> Detective Wiedel was not wearing a body-worn camera because he was in plain clothes, and the uniformed officer did not turn his body-worn camera on until after the shooting, so there is no video evidence of what occurred during those eight seconds. However, eyewitnesses accounts and the physical evidence on scene—discussed in detail below in Section III (A) of this report—provide evidence as to what happened.

radioed for EMS and began to provide Mr. Jones with medical aid. At the same time Mr. Jones was being treated, a second 911 call was received, stating that a masked man was carrying a bow with an arrow in it “like he [was] ready to shoot someone with it” at the intersection of Leeds Avenue and North Avenue. EMS arrived minutes later and transported Mr. Jones to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

### III. Supplemental Information

#### A. Physical Evidence

Maryland State Police (“MSP”) crime scene technicians recovered Detective Wiedel’s department-issued Glock 9-millimeter semi-automatic handgun at the scene, along with four 9-millimeter cartridge casings. Two of the cartridge casings were recovered from the driver’s seat floorboard of Detective Wiedel’s cruiser, one cartridge casing was found in the back seat floorboard of Detective Wiedel’s cruiser, and the fourth cartridge casing was collected from underneath the cruiser. When fired, Glock handguns eject cartridge casings to the right, so the physical evidence is consistent with Detective Wiedel firing his weapon while standing relatively close to the driver’s side door of his cruiser.

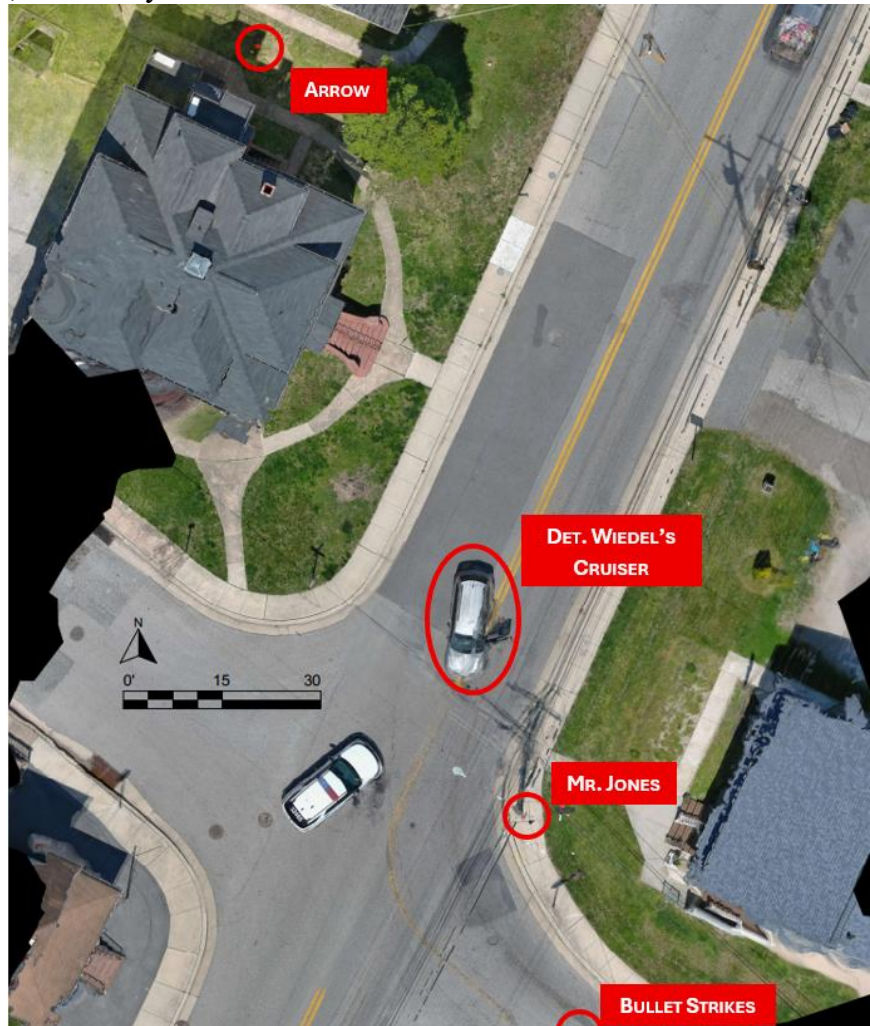


*Images 4 & 5:* Crime scene photographs of the shell casings recovered within Detective Wiedel’s unmarked cruiser (left) and underneath the cruiser (right).

Photographs taken by MSP technicians at the crime scene show that Mr. Jones’s blood was found only on the sidewalk near a utility pole at the intersection of Leeds Avenue and North Avenue. Mr. Jones’s bow was also recovered in the same general area. The available body-worn camera footage does not show Detective Wiedel or the uniformed witness officer moving Mr. Jones during medical treatment. Accordingly, the physical evidence is consistent with Mr. Jones being in that location at the time of the shooting. Mr. Jones’s location was approximately 30 feet away from Detective Wiedel’s cruiser.

Crime scene technicians recovered an arrow between two houses approximately 130 feet away from Mr. Jones’s location, and nearly in line with Detective Wiedel’s cruiser. The distance that the arrow traveled and its direction of travel are both consistent with the arrow being fired from Mr. Jones’s bow while he stood at the intersection. Further, multiple eyewitnesses on scene at the time reported that Mr. Jones had the bow drawn and pointed at Detective Wiedel around the time of the shooting, which is consistent with the evidence.

MSP technicians found bullet strikes in the side of a house behind Mr. Jones’s position, at an angle almost 180 degrees from where the arrow was found. The technicians also recovered a projectile from inside of the house. Both Detective Wiedel’s handgun and Mr. Jones’s bow were examined by MSP technicians and found to be operable.



In sum, the physical evidence is consistent with eyewitness statements that: (1) Detective Wiedel was standing near the driver’s side door of his cruiser around the time of the shooting; (2) that Mr. Jones drew the bow with enough force to fire the arrow; (3) that Detective Wiedel’s and Mr. Jones’s weapons were fired at almost the same time; and (4) that Detective Wiedel and Mr. Jones were facing each other at the time that their weapons were fired.

*Image 6:* An overhead photo of the scene taken by MSP technicians showing the location of the recovered arrow, Detective Wiedel’s cruiser, and the location where officers gave Mr. Jones medical aid. The home with the bullet strikes is not pictured, but its approximate location across the street has been marked.

## B. Autopsy

On April 24, 2025, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (the “OCME”) performed an autopsy of Mr. Jones. The medical examiner determined that Mr. Jones’s cause of death was gunshot wounds to his chest and right thigh. The medical examiner concluded that Mr. Jones’s

manner of death was homicide.<sup>6</sup> There was no evidence of soot deposition or gunpowder stippling on the wounds, which indicates that Mr. Jones was not shot at close range.

### C. Department Policy

The BCPD Field Manual contains written policies and guidelines that address the use of force and the discharge of firearms by its sworn officers.

Under Section 12-1.0, officers must, if reasonable and feasible, try to communicate with a subject and de-escalate a conflict without resorting to using force. Additionally, officers are directed to use “the least amount of force necessary and proportional to safely control a situation” and may not use force against a person unless that force is necessary and proportional to “prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to a person” or to “carry out the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer.” The policy provides that force is “not necessary unless there is no reasonable alternative to using force that, under the totality of the circumstances, would safely and effectively achieve the same legitimate ends.” Further, officers may not use deadly force unless it is necessary and proportional to protect a person from imminent death or serious harm, and all other alternatives have either been exhausted or are unreasonable given the circumstances. After using force, as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so, officers are responsible for rendering “basic first aid to persons injured as a result of police action” that is consistent with their training and promptly requesting appropriate medical assistance. The policy does not elaborate on what metrics officers may use to determine the safety or feasibility of rendering aid in any given situation, nor does it provide an overview of the sort of first aid training that officers receive.

Field Manual Article 12-4.0 governs the use of firearms. It limits the discharge of firearms to six specific circumstances, including self-defense from death or serious injury and defense of another person from death or immediate danger of serious physical injury.

## IV. Legal Analysis

After a criminal investigation, prosecutors must determine whether to bring criminal charges against a person. When making that determination, prosecutors have a legal and ethical duty to only charge a person with a crime when they can meet the State’s burden of proof; that is, when the available evidence can prove each element of that crime beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutors must also determine whether the person accused of the crime could raise an affirmative defense. In those cases, prosecutors not only need to prove the crime, but they also must determine whether the evidence could disprove the defense beyond a reasonable doubt. Ultimately, the decision to bring any charges rests on whether the available evidence is sufficient for prosecutors to meet that standard.

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<sup>6</sup> Manner of death is a classification used to define whether a death is from intentional causes, unintentional causes, natural causes, or undetermined causes. The Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner uses five categories of manner of death: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. “Homicide” applies when death results from a volitional act committed by another person to cause fear, harm, or death. These terms are not considered a legal determination; rather, they are largely used to assist in collecting public health statistics. *A Guide for Manner of Death Classification*, First Edition, National Association of Medical Examiners, February 2002.

Based on the evidence presented here, three offenses were considered in this case. First is the violation of Maryland’s Use of Force Statute, which makes it a crime for police officers to intentionally use excessive force.<sup>7</sup> The second and third offenses are homicide-related charges due to the intentional killing of a person.

The evidence in this case shows that the subject officer, Detective Wiedel, did not violate any of the aforementioned criminal statutes. Accordingly, the IID will not pursue criminal charges against him. This report explains in further detail why, based on the evidence, a prosecutor could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Detective Wiedel committed a crime.

#### A. Maryland Use of Force Statute

Proving a violation of the Use of Force Statute requires a prosecutor to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that a subject officer:

- (1) used force that was not necessary and proportional to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to themselves or another person, or to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective;
- (2) intended to use force that was excessive, *i.e.*, not necessary and proportional under the circumstances; and
- (3) the use of excessive force resulted in serious bodily injury or death.<sup>8</sup>

As it is undisputed that the subject officer fired his weapon and fatally shot Mr. Jones, only the first two elements are at issue.

Determining whether an officer’s use of force is “necessary and proportional” to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to someone or accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective is a fact-specific inquiry. Generally speaking, a use of force is considered “necessary and proportional” when an officer had no reasonable alternative under the circumstances, the degree of force was appropriate in light of the officer’s legitimate law enforcement objective, and given the context, the force was not likely to result in harm that was out of proportion or too severe in relation to the officer’s law enforcement objective, given the context in which it was used.<sup>9</sup> When a factfinder—either a judge or a jury—conducts this analysis, they must consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature of the call for service, what occurred in the moments before force was used, what the subject officers knew at the time force was used, and the time and distances involved.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See Md Code, Public Safety §3-524(d)(1).

<sup>8</sup> MPJI-Cr 4:36.

<sup>9</sup> For a more detailed discussion of the “necessary and proportional” standard, see [this opinion](#) written by the Office of the Attorney General. 107 Op. Atty. Gen. Md. 33.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*; see also *Barnes v. Felix*, 605 U.S. 73, 80 (2025) (“[T]he ‘totality of the circumstances’ inquiry into a use of force has no time limit... earlier facts and circumstances may bear on how a reasonable officer would have understood and responded to later ones.”).

Based on the totality of the circumstances, there is no evidence that Detective Wiedel used, or intended to use, force beyond what was necessary and proportional to prevent Mr. Jones from posing a danger to him. First, with respect to whether the use of force was necessary, Mr. Jones’s behavior posed a threat to Detective Wiedel’s safety at the time Detective Wiedel discharged his weapon. Detective Wiedel was in the area for a legitimate law enforcement objective; back up to a uniformed officer handling a 911 call for a masked man shooting a bow and arrow at passing cars. Mr. Jones pointed his loaded and drawn bow and arrow at Detective Wiedel seconds after Detective Wiedel’s arrival. Given the context of the call, the brief amount of time, and the relatively close distance between himself and Mr. Jones, Detective Wiedel was left with no reasonable alternative to protect himself other than deadly force.

Second, with respect to whether the kind and degree of force used by Detective Wiedel was proportional to the imminent threat of harm presented by Mr. Jones, the evidence shows that it was appropriate. Mr. Jones aimed a deadly weapon at Detective Wiedel—a loaded, drawn bow—within seconds of Detective Wiedel’s arrival. As the bow and arrow presented an imminent threat of serious harm or death to Detective Wiedel, Detective Wiedel’s use of force was proportional under the circumstances.

Based on the evidence, a prosecutor could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Detective Wiedel’s use of force was not necessary and proportional to prevent an imminent threat of physical injury. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General will not charge him with a violation of the Use of Force Statute in this case.

## B. Homicide Offenses

There are four homicide charges that a prosecutor may consider in the State of Maryland:

- First Degree Murder: the willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing of another.<sup>11</sup>
- Second Degree Murder: when the defendant intended to kill or inflict such serious injury that death would be the likely result and there was no justification or mitigating circumstances.<sup>12</sup>
- Voluntary Manslaughter: an intentional killing that is not murder because the defendant acted in partial self-defense.<sup>13</sup>
- Involuntary Manslaughter: when the defendant acted with gross negligence and that conduct caused the death of another.<sup>14</sup>

First Degree Murder was not considered in this case because there is no evidence that the shooting of Mr. Jones was premeditated. Premeditation requires a prosecutor to prove that “the design to kill must have preceded the killing by an appreciable length of time, that is, time enough

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<sup>11</sup> MPJI-Cr. 4:17 (3d ed. 2024).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> MPJI-Cr 4:17.2 (3d ed. 2024).

<sup>14</sup> MPJI-Cr. 4:17.9 (3d ed. 2024).

to be deliberate.”<sup>15</sup> While this inquiry requires a fact-specific evaluation, a factfinder should consider the totality of the circumstances, including whether an individual is defending themselves against deadly force.<sup>16</sup> As the shooting of Mr. Jones was intentional, but not premeditated, Second-Degree Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter are the homicide offenses that remain for consideration.

If the evidence indicates that there is legal justification for homicide, such as self-defense, then a prosecutor could not prove the remaining homicide offenses against the subject officer.<sup>17</sup> A police officer’s use of deadly force is legally justified if it is in complete self-defense, defense of others, or in furtherance of law enforcement-related duties.<sup>18</sup>

Complete self-defense, also known as perfect self-defense, exists when the accused: (1) was not the initial aggressor (or did not raise the level of force to deadly force); (2) had a subjective belief that they were in immediate or imminent danger of serious harm or death; (3) had a belief that was objectively reasonable; and (4) used force that was not more than what was reasonably necessary in light of the threat or actual force.<sup>19</sup> Complete self-defense is an affirmative defense, which means that a prosecutor must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that one of the elements of self-defense is not applicable.

When an officer has sufficient probable cause to believe that a person poses a “threat of serious physical harm,” then the officer may use deadly force,<sup>20</sup> and the reasonableness of that decision must be viewed from “the perspective of a reasonable police officer similarly situated.”<sup>21</sup> In practice, this means that a factfinder must consider that police officers often work under rapidly changing circumstances and that what constitutes a reasonable use of force may change from moment to moment.<sup>22</sup>

The evidence shows that Mr. Jones was the aggressor. The initial 911 call reported that Mr. Jones had fired arrows at cars prior to Detective Wiedel’s arrival. Eyewitnesses stated that Mr. Jones turned toward Detective Wiedel with his bow loaded, drawn, and aimed at Detective Wiedel. Those facts provided a basis for Detective Wiedel to reasonably believe that his life was in danger. Since Detective Wiedel faced a threat of death or serious bodily injury from Mr. Jones, his use of deadly force against Mr. Jones was reasonably necessary.

Based on the investigation, Detective Wiedel’s actions do not constitute the crime of Second-Degree Murder because the evidence would not allow a prosecutor to overcome any of the elements of complete self-defense. Moreover, because complete self-defense also applies to

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<sup>15</sup> *Tichnell v. State*, 287 Md. 695, 717 (1980).

<sup>16</sup> See *Purnell v. State*, 250 Md. App 703, 714-715 (2021).

<sup>17</sup> See *Malaska v. State*, 216 Md. App. 492, 517-522 (2014).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*; MPJI-Cr 4:17.3 (3d ed. 2024).

<sup>19</sup> *Porter v. State*, 455 Md. 220, 234-36 (2017); MPJI-Cr 4:17.2, *supra*.

<sup>20</sup> *Estate of Blair v. Austin*, 469 Md. 1, 24 (2020) (quoting *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 11 (1985)).

<sup>21</sup> *State v. Albrecht*, 336 Md. 475, 501 (1994); *State v. Pagotto*, 361 Md. 528, 555-556 (2000) (quoting *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989)); *Barnes*, 605 U.S. at 80.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

Voluntary Manslaughter,<sup>23</sup> a prosecutor would be unable to prove any homicide offense in this matter.

Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General will not charge Detective Wiedel with a homicide offense.

## **VI. Conclusion**

This report has presented factual findings, legal analyses, and conclusions relevant to the April 23, 2025, police-involved death of Arvel Lamont Jones, Sr. in Baltimore County, Maryland. The Office of the Attorney General has declined to pursue charges in this case because, based on the evidence obtained in its investigation, the subject officer did not commit a crime.

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<sup>23</sup> *State v. Faulkner*, 301 Md. 482, 485 (1984).