

STATE OF MARYLAND

v.

KIERAN CHRISTOPHER SCHNELL,

Defendant.

IN THE

CIRCUIT COURT FOR

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

CASE NO.:

CO2CR-24-1918

\* \* \* \* \*

CRIMINAL INDICTMENT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland for the Body of Anne Arundel County do on their Oath present the following:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. The Anne Arundel County Police Department is a county agency in the State of Maryland, the purpose of which is to be the primary provider of law enforcement services to the citizens of Anne Arundel County. The Anne Arundel County Police Department's mission is for its officers to prevent and/or solve crime while working in partnership with their community.

2. Kieran Christopher Schnell, Badge # 2435 (hereinafter "SCHNELL") was hired as a sworn law enforcement officer by the Anne Arundel County Police Department on or about November 14, 2019. SCHNELL completed the Anne Arundel County Police Academy's entrance level training program on or about July 23, 2020, and completed the Anne Arundel County Police Department's field training program on or about November 2, 2020.

3. On December 6, 2023, and December 7, 2023, SCHNELL's assignment was as a patrol officer with Platoon 3 at the Anne Arundel County Police Department Eastern District Police Station.

4. At approximately 12:04 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, SCHNELL was in a marked patrol cruiser with its lights off and was parked on the side of the 7600 block of Fort Smallwood

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT  
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SCANNED

ORIGINAL

Road. The cruiser was positioned so that SCHNELL could observe the traffic along Fort Smallwood Road.

5. At approximately 12:05 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, a white sedan with two occupants, traveling southbound on Fort Smallwood Road at approximately 92 m.ph. passed SCHNELL's position. The speed limit along that section of Fort Smallwood Road is 35 m.p.h.

6. SCHNELL pulled onto Fort Smallwood Road and accelerated after the white sedan. As he drove, SCHNELL traveled at approximately 79 m.p.h.

7. Within a few seconds, SCHNELL was passed by a marked Anne Arundel County Police Department cruiser driven by Officer Eddie Enrique Vasquez ("VASQUEZ"), who was traveling at approximately 115 m.p.h.

8. SCHNELL did not activate his emergency lights or sirens or his body-worn camera during the pursuit of the white sedan.

9. SCHNELL did not radio to dispatch during the pursuit of the white sedan.

10. SCHNELL did not contact a supervisor about his pursuit of the white sedan.

11. At approximately 12:05 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, the white sedan, which had turned its headlights and taillights off, continued driving along the southbound lanes of Fort Smallwood Road onto the Stoney Creek Bridge. The Stoney Creek Bridge has two travel lanes, one lane northbound and one lane southbound, divided by a double yellow line, and a speed limit of 35 m.p.h.

12. As it drove, the white sedan crossed the double yellow line into the northbound lane to weave around an uninvolved civilian vehicle at approximately 109 m.p.h.

13. Approximately five seconds later, VASQUEZ, traveling southbound and without activating his emergency lights or sirens, crossed the double yellow line into the northbound lane to weave around the same uninvolved civilian vehicle.

14. SCHNELL, also without activating his emergency lights or sirens, followed approximately three seconds behind VASQUEZ, weaving around the uninvolved vehicle at approximately 107 m.p.h.

15. At approximately 12:06 a.m. on or about December 7, 2023, the white sedan collided with a utility pole near the 8400 block of Fort Smallwood Road, approximately 2.5 miles after the point SCHNELL began his pursuit of the white sedan.

16. VASQUEZ arrived at the scene of the crash approximately four to five seconds after it occurred, activated his body-worn camera, and radioed to dispatch that a crash occurred.

17. SCHNELL joined VASQUEZ a few seconds later, activated his body-worn camera, and the officers attempted to aid the white sedan's occupants.

18. The front passenger of the white sedan was pronounced dead on scene.

19. The driver of the white sedan was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for injuries and subsequently released.

20. Between approximately 12:18 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, SCHNELL spoke with multiple supervisors about the crash. During those conversations, SCHNELL made factual misrepresentations and material omissions to his supervisors about the circumstances of the crash and concealed the occurrence of the pursuit.

21. At approximately 3:23 a.m. on or about December 7, 2023, SCHNELL wrote a report about the crash. In the report, SCHNELL made factual misrepresentations and material omissions about the circumstances of the crash that concealed the occurrence of the pursuit.

22. On December 8, 2023, Anne Arundel County Police Department investigators discovered information which indicated that a pursuit occurred and that it was related to the crash.

23. The crash team members informed Maryland State Police investigators about the incident.

24. Maryland State Police investigators subsequently informed the Maryland Office of the Attorney General Independent Investigations Division ("IID").

25. The IID assumed the pursuit fatality investigation on or about December 8, 2023.

**COUNT ONE**  
**(Misconduct in Office)**

26. On or about December 7, 2023, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, KIERAN CHRISTOPHER SCHNELL, did corruptly and in violation and perversion of his duties as a duly sworn law enforcement officer for the Anne Arundel County Police Department, commit misconduct in office by knowingly, willfully, and intentionally providing oral statements with factual misrepresentations, material omissions, and falsehoods to his supervisors to conceal the circumstances of a fatal vehicle crash, in violation of the Common Law of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

**Misconduct in Office, Common Law**  
**Maximum Penalty: Anything not cruel and unusual**  
**CJIS Code 2-0645**

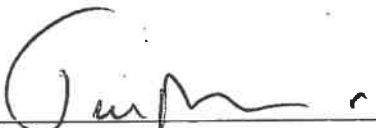
**COUNT TWO**  
**(Misconduct in Office)**

27. On or about December 7, 2023, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, KIERAN CHRISTOPHER SCHNELL, did corruptly and in violation and perversion of his duties as a duly sworn law enforcement officer for the Anne Arundel County Police Department, commit misconduct in office by knowingly, willfully, and intentionally submitting written statements with factual misrepresentations, material omissions, and falsehoods to his supervisors to conceal the circumstances of a fatal vehicle crash, in violation of the Common Law of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

**Misconduct in Office, Common Law**  
**Maximum Penalty: Anything not cruel and unusual**  
**CJIS Code 2-0645**

TRUE BILL  
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony G. Brown  
Maryland Attorney General  
Maryland Office of the Attorney General

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Traci Robinson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Independent Investigations Division

Circuit Court: SUMMONS

Tracking No.: 23-7002-00277-5

Prosecutor: Assistant Attorney General Traci Robinson

Description: White Male, DOB: ██████████