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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Brown Announces that No Charges Will Be Filed in October 2023 Fatal Use-of-Force Incident in Anne Arundel County

BALTIMORE, MD (May 15, 2024) – Today, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown announced his decision to not seek charges in the October 2023 fatal use-of-force incident in Anne Arundel County.

On October 29, 2023, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Anne Arundel County Police officers responded to the 900 block of Waugh Chapel Way in Gambrills for a report of two men in a vehicle with guns and drugs. When officers arrived at that location, they ordered the two men out of the vehicle. The first individual, an adult man, complied and was placed in handcuffs. The second individual, Lavaughn Coleman, complied with officers' commands to exit the car, to walk backward toward officers, and to kneel on the ground. When an officer attempted to place him in handcuffs, Mr. Coleman stood up and ran, striking that officer, knocking off his body-worn camera and sending the officer to the ground. Corporal A. Stallings, who had given Mr. Coleman the initial commands to exit the car, ran after Mr. Coleman on foot and told him to stop before discharging his taser, which struck Mr. Coleman. Mr. Coleman fell to the ground, hitting his head on the pavement. Officers provided medical aid and requested emergency medical services. Mr. Coleman was taken to a local hospital, and then an area trauma center where he was pronounced deceased on December 14, 2023.

The Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) began investigating the use-of-force incident on December 7, 2023, and concluded its investigation on March 29, 2024. After completing its investigation and evaluating all the available evidence, the Office of the Attorney General¹ has determined that Corporal Stallings did not commit a crime under Maryland law. Accordingly, the Attorney General has declined to prosecute Corporal Stallings in this case.

¹ [1] Beginning with incidents occurring on or after October 1, 2023, the Office of the Attorney General, 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.

A copy of the IID's detailed investigative findings and analysis of relevant legal issues can be found in its declination report [here](#).

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/051524a.pdf>