



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
ADMINISTRATION
WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER
6 SAINT PAUL STREET, SUITE 1400
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202**

*Ph. (410) 767-8460
Fax (410) 333-8496
Toll Free: 1 (877) 430-5187*

PAUL B. DeWOLFE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

BECKY FELDMAN
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

New Charges Against Previously Indicted Officer Underscores Widespread, Lengthy Nature of BPD Corruption; Individuals in Cases Impacted Remain Wrongly Incarcerated

For immediate release – November 30, 2017

Contact: Melissa Rothstein, mrothstein@opd.state.md.us; 410-767-9853

Today, the Acting U.S. Attorney for Maryland announced a new indictment against Wayne Jenkins, a former sergeant with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) already awaiting trial on racketeering and extortion charges with other members of the BPD's disbanded Gun Trace Task Force. The new indictment further alleges that Jenkins planted heroin and, with two unnamed officers, set up Detective Sean Suiter to find the drugs. Detective Suiter was killed the day before he was scheduled to testify in federal court.

“The extent of criminal activity conducted by BPD officers on duty over many years is shocking,” said Debbie Katz Levi, head of the Baltimore City Public Defender Special Litigation Section. “We need massive culture change in the Department and urgent attention must be given to the citizens who have been charged and convicted based on the alleged observations of these officers.”

OPD has previously identified 2,033 individuals with either a pending case or a conviction related to the indicted officers – several hundred involving Jenkins. To date, OPD has helped secure the release of approximately 75 individuals who were incarcerated on charges that were either dropped or reversed because of the indicted officers' involvement.

The SAO had been reviewing each case to determine if they had sufficient evidence without an indicted officer. “The new indictment shows how every case touched by Jenkins and the other indicted officers is irreparably tainted,” explained Levi. “Engaging an unsuspecting officer to identify planted drugs still leads to an illegal arrest and wrongful conviction. The continued incarceration of people subject to this aggressive and unethical police abuse is unconscionable.”

The new indictment further mentions two unnamed officers who knew that Jenkins planted drugs and was arranging for Suiter to find them. “The fact that those officers may not have been indicted does not minimize their misconduct. Rather, it further expands the web of BPD officers involved in serious misconduct and the number of individuals wrongly incarcerated. As the number of implicated officers increases beyond imagination, the need for systemic reform to address deeply imbedded police misconduct can no longer be ignored,” said Levi

*

*

*