

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



Main Number: (757) 393-8581 · Fax: (757) 393-5135

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASED TO MEDIA – June 11, 2020

Portsmouth, VA

**Contact:** CaShea Coleman  
Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney/Public Information Officer  
[colemanc@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:colemanc@portsmouthva.gov) · (757) 870-7861

### PORTSMOUTH COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY'S RESPONSE TO RECENT EVENTS IN THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

**PORTSMOUTH, VA** — The Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney's Office gave no direction or instruction to any police agency regarding enforcement of the law pertaining to destruction of property. This office will not opine belatedly to provide cover for any agencies or individuals for their actions or lack thereof. We will address any matters as they come and ensure that our actions are equitable and procedurally just.

Procedurally, our office does not contain an intake unit. Warrants are obtained when complaining witnesses, including law enforcement, render probable cause to a magistrate who may issue a charging instrument. This office does not take part in this process. This office makes prosecutorial determination when indictments are requested upon receipt of complete investigative results. Our office has received no such results nor has it initiated any independent investigations.

Our office has been in communication with legal counsel for our community members who were charged and to ensure there is fairness of process we will refrain from making any extrajudicial statements. We must note that the matters will proceed through an open court process which members of the public and the media are able attend.

####

**Stephanie N. Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney**  
Portsmouth Judicial Center · 1345 Court Street, Suite 105  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704