



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

40 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300

CHRISTOPHER M. CARR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

www.law.ga.gov
(404) 656-3300

May 10, 2020

Bobby L. Christine, Esq.
United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia
22 Barnard Street, Suite 300
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Re: Request for Investigation Related to the State Investigation of the Death of
Ahmaud Arbery on February 23, 2020 in Glynn County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Christine:

Please accept this letter as a formal request for the Department of Justice to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the state investigation of the death of Ahmaud Arbery on February 23, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to, investigation of the communications and discussions by and between the Office of the District Attorney of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit and the Office of the District Attorney of the Waycross Judicial Circuit related to this case.

This case involves the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery in Glynn County on February 23, 2020 within the Brunswick Judicial Circuit. At the time of Mr. Arbery's death and up until May 7, 2020, no arrests were made in the case.

On February 27, 2020, this Office received a request from the Office of the District Attorney of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit to appoint another prosecutor for this case. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-18-5, this Office appointed the District Attorney for the Waycross Judicial Circuit to prosecute the case on that same date. At the time of the request by the Brunswick Circuit District Attorney and acceptance by the Waycross Circuit District Attorney, neither revealed to this Office that the Waycross Circuit District Attorney had already taken a role in the case in reviewing evidence and advising the Glynn County Police Department regarding whether to make arrests in the case.

On April 7, 2020, this Office received a request from the Office of the District Attorney for the Waycross Judicial Circuit to appoint another prosecutor for this case. In that request, the Waycross Circuit District Attorney again did not inform this Office of his prior involvement in the case before his appointment and specifically describes to this Office the actions that he took "upon taking the case." In the request of April 7, 2020, the Waycross Circuit District Attorney indicates that he and the Brunswick Circuit

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District Attorney learned as of “about 3-4 weeks ago,” that his son who is employed as a prosecutor in the Office of the Brunswick Circuit District Attorney had handled a prior prosecution of Mr. Arbery and that one of the defendants in this case had also served as an investigator on the same prosecution. The request of April 7, 2020 does not provide any reason for the delay in contacting this Office to request appointment of a new prosecutor since the discovery of those facts. Nor does the request of April 7, 2020, reveal that, on April 2, 2020, the Waycross Circuit District Attorney had provided the Glynn County Police Department with a written opinion that no arrests should be made in the case which confirms “an initial opinion the day after the shooting” which would have been February 24, 2020 prior to the appointment of the Waycross Judicial Circuit to this case.

On April 13, 2020, this Office appointed the District Attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit to this case. On May 5, 2020, the Atlantic Circuit District Attorney requested that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation conduct an investigation into the death of Ahmaud Arbery. The GBI commenced its investigation on May 6, 2020 and made two arrests on May 7, 2020.

This Office stands ready to provide its entire file regarding the appointment process for the prosecutors in this case and to provide any assistance requested related to the investigation of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Carr", is written above the printed name.

CHRISTOPHER M. CARR
Attorney General

cc: J.C. Hacker
Acting Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Atlanta Field Office
3000 Flowers Road S.
Atlanta, Georgia 30341