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GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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February 28, 2023

The Honorable Monique H. Worrell
State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit
415 North Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

State Attorney Worrell:

As you are well aware, our state suffered inexplicable tragedy last week when a series of shootings in Pine Hills left three people dead – a mother, her nine-year-old daughter, and a news reporter – and at least two others injured. The shocking nature of these horrific acts is difficult enough to process, but even more galling is the fact that the man who was promptly arrested for these crimes, Mr. Keith Melvin Moses (aka Keith Moses), date of birth June 11, 2003, has been allowed to remain on the streets after multiple arrests, including one your office has refused to prosecute. He has also been reported as a “known gang member” with an extensive criminal history, including aggravated battery, assault, and grand theft.

Most recently, on November 12, 2021, Mr. Moses was arrested in Orange County for “possession of cannabis < 20 grams.” The arrest affidavit states “[i]t should be noted that all three subjects have multiple firearm possession charges, to include Attempted First-Degree Murder and Armed Robbery with a Firearm and all had ski mask style masks on them or in the vehicle.” Further, our records indicate that Mr. Moses was on Juvenile Felony Probation at the time of this arrest, having previously been arrested for offenses such as Battery, Burglary, Larceny, Robbery with a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm, Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon Without Intent to Kill, and multiple instances of resisting an officer, among other serious arrests. Tragically, despite the clear threat that Mr. Moses posed to our community, you apparently made the decision to not pursue charges against him.

The failure of your office to hold this individual accountable for his actions – despite his extensive criminal history and gang affiliation – may have permitted this dangerous individual to remain on the street. Clearly, Mr. Moses should never have been in a position to commit those senseless crimes of last week. As we seek to learn valuable lessons from this heartbreaking event, we must determine if Mr. Moses was enabled by gaps in our sentencing laws that must be corrected, or, to be frank, your office’s failure to properly administer justice.

Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution grants the Governor the authority to “require information in writing from all executive or administrative state, county or municipal officers upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.” Given this authority, I request that the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit please provide the following information and documentation:

- Copies of any and all reports, letters, summaries, statements, and emails regarding Keith Melvin Moses.
- Copies of any and all policies, reports, letters, summaries, statements, and emails regarding decisions made by your office related to Keith Melvin Moses.
- Copies of any and all reports, letters, summaries, statements, and emails regarding Keith Melvin Moses's Juvenile Felony Probation.
- Copies of any and all documents relating to the juvenile record of Keith Melvin Moses.
- Any and all communications between Officer Estefano Pino (ID 7496) and the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit from November 13, 2021, through January 18, 2022.
- Information on the number and circumstances of individuals who (1) were arrested for committing a felony or had violated the terms of their probation by being arrested for a crime, (2) had a prior criminal history, and (3) were not prosecuted by your office.

Unless otherwise indicated, the relevant timeframe for responsive material is up to, but not later than, February 21, 2023. The deadline for full compliance with this request is March 14, 2023. Please identify which documents must remain confidential under applicable law.

Sincerely,



Ryan D. Newman
General Counsel