

March 5, 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**San Andreas – Hunt & OHagen, LLP announces** that it has asked the United States Marshals Service to begin an investigation into the handling of 2024-CM-057 and 2024-CM-070.

On the evening of March 4, 2024, Hunt & OHagen partner Matt Murdank met with General Counsel for the United States Marshals Service, Corina Ivanova, to formally refer the matters to her attention and to the attention of USMS.

Clients of the Firm - Hudson Welsh, Justine Stiletto, Dominic Luca, and Koji Ando - allege that they were unlawfully and maliciously targeted by officers and members of the Department of Justice who chose to pursue charges against them that lacked any semblance of probable cause. Each individual was forced to make a payment of \$69,000 in bail - a total of \$276,000 between them - to avoid being unjustly held in prison until trial.

“I believe these individuals were targeted by officers and the State because of their identities and prior victories in court against law enforcement,” said Matt Murdank, a partner with the Firm. “There was no basis in law or fact to charge any of these individuals with such severe crimes. This is a clear-cut case of a violation of their Eighth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution. We look forward to the results of the Marshals’ investigation and to the judicial proceedings that may arise therefrom and otherwise.”

Welsh, Stiletto, Luca, and Ando were originally charged in the cells with 11x Attempted First Degree Murder (Aggravated) and 1x Hostage Taking each. The charges were lowered to 9x Attempted First Degree Murder (Aggravated) and 1x Hostage Taking by the time each docket was posted, but the Department of Justice made no efforts to further amend the charges during the bail hearing for Welsh and Stiletto or by coordinating with officers prior to the posting of the dockets. The State also sought to deny bail to at least one of the individuals and demanded

bail be set at \$69,000, further reinforcing its position that the charges were supposedly appropriate.

Sources indicate that some members of the Department of Justice intended to maintain these First Degree charges despite the lack of probable cause supporting them. SABA Rule 2.6.1 states that “[t]he prosecutor in a criminal case shall refrain from prosecuting a charge that the prosecutor knows is not supported by probable cause.”

Only after Senior Prosecutor Ryan Woods volunteered to take the assignment to each case and met with the Firm was there any change made to the charges on the docket. The Firm thanks Prosecutor Woods for his commitment to the interests of justice.

“Officers and members of the DOJ could and should have utilized any number of other options to determine the appropriate charges against our clients,” said Murdank. “If they weren’t ready to determine charges at the original time of apprehension, they would have had *at least 30 days* to issue a warrant after review and consideration of the relevant evidence. Officers and attorneys cannot and should not get away with the corrupt practice of pressing charges not supported by probable cause.”

Ms. Ivanova agreed to open an investigation into the handling of these matters based on her initial review of the events presented. The Firm believes that individuals who pursued the original charges should be investigated for Abuse of Office.

If you don’t know who we are, fuck around with our clients and find out.

As the largest truly full-service law firm, with the leading lawyers in the nation, Hunt & OHagen serves the legal needs of everyone across Los Santos and beyond.

Matt Murdank, Partner, (832) 741-9704.

Attorney Advertising - Hunt & OHagen, LLP, Peaceful Street, San Andreas.