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**Baltimore City Felony Trial Chief To Testify at BPD Commissioner Confirmation Hearing; Demands Transparency and Accountability to Root Out Corruption**

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Tonight, at a Baltimore City Council hearing, Andrew Northrup, OPD’s Felony Trial Chief for Baltimore City, will testify about the need to require the Commissioner to prioritize rooting out corruption in the Baltimore Police Department, with a commitment to full transparency and accountability for all ethically challenged officers, not just those who were part of, or affiliated with the Gun Trace Task Force.

“The findings and admissions from the federal trial, coupled with the DOJ findings of systemic constitutional violations underlying the city’s consent decree make clear that misconduct is a serious issue that extends beyond ‘a few bad apples,’” said Northrup. “The GTTF findings were particularly egregious, but are by no means the only instances of misconduct in the police department. . . . There must be a recognition that the Department’s Internal affairs process completely failed to expose the depth and breadth of the corruption within the department.”

This past year, OPD started a police misconduct unit within the Baltimore City Felony Trial Division to undo tainted convictions (including but not limited to the thousands involving the GTTF officers), as well as detect and root out other ethically challenged police officers.

Northrup calls for the Council to demand, as a condition of confirmation, “strong steps to root out corruption from the BPD [including] assurances from the Commissioner-Designate that his administration will cooperate fully with the Civilian Review Board and the Independent Monitor [and] that any enquiry and investigation into police misconduct is not limited to revelations from the federal trial but includes any and all police misconduct, wherever found or alleged. The Public Safety committee should further hold regular hearings about misconduct to ensure transparency, ongoing external oversight, and accountability.”

“While the verdict was vindicating to our office and our clients who have complained about this misconduct for years, this verdict does not restore trust in the police. Restoration of trust requires both the commitment of and action by the Commissioner. . . .”

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