



PAUL DEWOLFE  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Independent Gun Trace Task Force Investigation Report Documents  
Extensive, Ingrained Corruption; Public Disclosure and Independent  
Investigations Urgently Needed**

For Release: January 13, 2022

Contact: Melissa Rothstein, [melissa.rothstein@maryland.gov](mailto:melissa.rothstein@maryland.gov), 443-963-9531

Today, an [independent investigative report on the Baltimore Police Department's Gun Trace Task Force \(GTTF\) scandal](#) was released by Steptoe & Johnson LLP, extensively documenting the longstanding corruption, misconduct, and impunity that has pervaded the Department for more than 20 years.

Debbie Katz Levi, Director of Special Litigation in OPD's Baltimore City Felony Trial Division, stated:

The independent GTTF Commission report, released today, makes painfully clear why we urgently need full public disclosure of all police records and independent investigation of all police misconduct. The report documents what we, as public defenders, already knew to be true: corruption, violence, and illegality run deep within the Baltimore Police Department--going back decades and ingrained in its culture. This is exacerbated by prosecutors who withhold information about corrupt officers and judges who let them act without checks, resulting in the continued abuse, harassment, and wrongful imprisonment of Baltimore residents

The 515-page report relies on numerous interviews and materials, including documents that should have been disclosed under current policies. "The detailed findings, and the continued misconduct and unaccountability that the report lays bare, make clear that officers cannot police themselves and prosecutors, who rely on their testimony to secure convictions, are not sufficient gatekeepers," Levy noted.

"While the GTTF scandal is among the most egregious, it is not the only police scandal in Maryland in recent years. If we are truly serious about addressing the injustices and abuse resulting from police encounters, we must have full and public transparency for every misconduct report and investigation, for every police agency in the State of Maryland," Levy concluded.

The GTTF investigation report is available at: <https://www.gttfinvestigation.org/>.

# # #