

STATE OF MARYLAND

v.

WILLIAM PORTER

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IN THE  
CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Case No.: 115141037

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**SECURITY/MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER (JURY SELECTION)**

Trial of this case is scheduled to begin on November 30, 2015. The following order is entered to preserve the security and dignity of the Court, and to accommodate the interests of the public and the media to the greatest extent possible, while causing minimal disruption to the Circuit Court and the surrounding community. This order applies to the proceedings relating to selection of a jury. A separate order will govern trial proceedings following selection of the jury.

Accordingly, it is this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2015, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,

**ORDERED** as follows:

1. Jury selection will be conducted in Courtroom 400, Mitchell Courthouse, 100 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The presiding judge will be Judge Barry Williams.
2. Ms. Terri Charles, Deputy Director, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, State of Maryland Judiciary, telephone no. 410-260-1486, cell no. 443-995-9263, email address: [terri.charles@mdcourts.gov](mailto:terri.charles@mdcourts.gov), is designated as the Court's media liaison for purposes of this Order. In her absence, Ms. Angelita Plemmer Williams, Director, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, telephone no. 410-260-1564, cell no. 410-562-3620, email address: [angelita.williams@mdcourts.gov](mailto:angelita.williams@mdcourts.gov), will act as

the media liaison. All media inquiries must be directed to the media liaison.

3. John Anderson, the Sheriff for Baltimore City, is responsible for maintaining security in and around the Circuit Court buildings. All persons must comply with the Sheriff's instructions concerning security measures in these buildings. References to the Sheriff herein include his deputies and assistants. Maj. Sabrina Tapp-Harper, telephone no. 410-396-7201, e-mail address [Sabrina.Harper@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Sabrina.Harper@baltimorecity.gov) shall serve as the Sheriff's media liaison.
4. All persons entering the Courthouse must adhere to security procedures as directed by the Sheriff; pass through electronic security devices; and submit their equipment and belongings to search procedures conducted by the Sheriff's deputies. In order to expedite entry, all persons are requested to refrain from bringing backpacks or extra bags into the Courthouse. Bags and backpacks larger than 18" x 13" x 7" will not be permitted in the courtrooms.
5. No audio or video recording or transmitting equipment, including cameras, shall be permitted inside the Courthouse, except as provided in this Order.
6. Limited seating will be made available in the gallery of Courtroom 400 based on the courtroom capacity as determined by the court. A portion of these seats will be set aside for members of the media, and will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis. Each media outlet will be allotted one seat. Members of the media may indicate their desire for a reserved seat by emailing the Office of Communications and Public Affairs at [communications@mdcourts.gov](mailto:communications@mdcourts.gov). That Office will allocate seats

based on requests received, and will communicate to the Sheriff's Office the names of media members allotted seats reserved for media. Members of the media should arrive at 8:00 a.m. on the dates of the hearings. The remaining seats will be made available to members of the public on a first-come/first-served basis.

7. Overflow seating will be made available to members of the media and the public in the gallery of Courtroom 406 based on the courtroom capacity as determined by the court. A live video/audio feed from Courtroom 400 will be furnished to this Courtroom. Seats in Courtroom 406 will be allotted pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph 6 of this order.
8. All electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops and tablets, must be turned off inside Courtroom 400 and Courtroom 406, unless express permission is given by Judge Williams. Cell phones may not be used in the lobby area outside of Courtroom 400. Sheriff's deputies may inspect an electronic device for misuse, and, if necessary, confiscate the device if it appears to be in use in violation of this order. Sheriff's deputies and other court personnel are not liable for any damage to or loss of electronic devices confiscated pursuant to this Order.
9. The Sheriff will establish procedures to govern orderly entry and exit to and from the Courthouse and the courtrooms. Sheriff's deputies will control visitor movement on the fourth floor of Mitchell Courthouse on the days of the jury selection hearings, including any waiting areas for admission to Courtroom 400 and Courtroom 406.
10. No food or drink is permitted in any courtroom. Smoking is not allowed anywhere



in the Courthouse. Persons who leave the courtroom during proceedings will not be readmitted until the next recess.

11. A designated room in Mitchell Courthouse (Room 450) will be set aside for use by the media on the dates of the hearing. Use of electronic devices will be permitted in this room.
12. Members of the Circuit Court staff shall not be photographed or interviewed regarding this case.
13. No media conferences or interviews with attorneys, parties, or witnesses shall be conducted in the Courthouse or at the entrances of the Courthouse. Members of the media or any other person may not impede foot traffic on the sidewalks surrounding the Courthouse or obstruct access to the Courthouse. Parking restrictions will be strictly enforced.
14. The Sheriff's deputies are authorized to enforce compliance with this Order and are empowered to remove any person who fails to comply with its terms. Violations of this Order will subject the violator to a revocation of all media privileges, to exclusion from the Courthouse, and, if appropriate, to the contempt powers of the Court.
15. This Order is subject to modification by the Court at any time.

**W. MICHEL PIERSON, Judge**

Judge's signature appears on original document

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W. Michel Pierson  
Administrative Judge