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STATE OF MARYLAND

* IN THE

* CIRCUIT COURT FOR

CIRCUIT COURT
BALTIMORE CITY
CRIMINAL DIVISION

v.

* BALTIMORE CITY

WILLIAM PORTER

* Case No. 115141037

* * * * *

ORDER

On May 14, 2015, this Court received the State’s Motion for Issuance of Order Barring Extrajudicial Statements.¹ On September 29, 2015, this Court received the Defendant’s Motion for Reconsideration of the Denial of Motion for Removal and Request for Hearing.² The Defendant’s motion noted his concern for the accumulation of pretrial publicity, including the disclosure of evidence not in the public record, and the effect of such on the voir dire process and his right to a fair trial.

For good cause shown, the court hereby finds that:

1. This case has generated extensive local, national, and international publicity, in both print and broadcast media, as well as social media. This coverage is expected to continue throughout, and until the conclusion of, these proceedings.
2. There is a substantial likelihood that certain forms of publicity, such as extrajudicial statements by the parties involved in this case to members of the

¹ The State’s motion was stricken in an order dated June 4, 2015 because the motion was not filed in conjunction with any pending case or controversy.

² Defendant’s motion was denied without a hearing on October 2, 2015.

press or media, could impair the rights of the Defendant, the State, and the public to a fair trial by an impartial jury.

3. To protect that right to a fair trial, it is necessary for this Court to take limited steps to restrain all parties from making statements to the press and media.
4. The limited protective order contained herein is expected to ensure a fair trial, and measures less restrictive than this order would not be expected to achieve that result.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. This order is binding on the Defendant, all attorneys for the Defendant and the State, and on all employees, representatives, or agents of such attorneys. It shall remain in force until the conclusion of this case or until further order of this Court.
2. No person covered by this order shall make or issue any extrajudicial statement, written or oral, concerning this case for dissemination by means of public communication.
3. Counsel are reminded of their ethical duties and obligations as set forth in the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 3.6, Trial Publicity.
4. No person covered by this order shall avoid or circumvent its effect by actions that indirectly, but deliberately, bring about a violation of this order.
5. If any person believes that events have occurred that should result in a modification of this order, such person may seek relief from the court.

6. The prohibition on making extrajudicial statements applies to the reposting or republication of any statements made prior to the entry of this order that would now constitute a violation of this order.
7. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit any rights of the media or the public pursuant to the First Amendment or to limit public access to court proceedings as allowed by statute, rule, or court order.

It is so ordered this 14 day of October, 2015.

Judge Barry G. Williams
Judge's Signature appears on the
original document

BALTIMORE CITY

Clerk, please mail copies to the following:
Gary Proctor, Attorney for William Porter
Janice Bledsoe, Deputy State's Attorney, Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore
City