

2016 FEB 16 A 11: 53

STATE OF MARYLAND

ORIGINAL DIVISION IN THE

v.

\*

CIRCUIT COURT

EDWARD NERO

\*

FOR BALTIMORE CITY

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Case No.: 115141033

\* \* \* \* \*

**SECURITY/MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER (TRIAL PROCEEDINGS)**

Trial of this case is scheduled to begin on February 22, 2016. 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 all trial proceedings other than selection of a jury, including motions hearings.

Accordingly, it is this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,

**ORDERED** as follows:

1. Trial will be conducted in Courtroom 234, Courthouse East, 111 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. Electronic devices that are permitted inside the Courthouse may not be used for purposes prohibited by Maryland Rule 16-109, including taking, recording or transmitting a photograph, video or other visual image.
6. All electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops and tablets, must be turned off inside Courtroom 234, unless express permission is given by Judge Williams. No

cell phones may be used in the public areas on the second floor of Courthouse East while proceedings are being conducted on the days of the hearing. 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.

7. Sheriff's deputies will control visitor movement on the second floor of Courthouse East on the days of the hearings, including any waiting areas for admission to Courtroom 234. No person shall be permitted to loiter in the second floor corridor. No person shall be permitted to sit on the ledges in the second floor corridor.
8. Seating will be made available in the gallery of Courtroom 234 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. Media representatives who registered for the Porter trial do not need to register again for the Nero trial. Members of the media may indicate their desire for a 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 proceedings.
9. The remaining seats will be made available to members of the public on a first-

come/first-served basis. The Sheriff will establish procedures to govern orderly entry to the Courthouse and to the courtroom and exit therefrom.

10. If demand for seating exceeds the capacity of Courtroom 234, overflow seating may be made available to members of the media and the public in the gallery of another courtroom on the second floor of Courthouse East based on the courtroom capacity as determined by the court. A live video/audio feed from Courtroom 234 will be furnished to this Courtroom. Seats in the overflow courtroom will be allotted pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this order. All electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops and tablets, must be turned off inside the overflow courtroom, unless express permission is given by Judge Williams.
11. 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.
12. After court adjourns each day, trial exhibits will be made available for viewing by media representatives, for a maximum of 60 minutes in the courtroom, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The exhibits shall be available only one time for the purposes of access by members of the media.
13. The courtroom clerks assigned to the Court for these proceedings shall serve as coordinator of the viewing of trial exhibits and as custodian of same. Sheriff's deputies shall be present during the viewing of the exhibits.
14. No video or still photography of the exhibits will be permitted. Certain trial exhibits

shall be handled by court-approved technicians or specialists only.

15. Neither members of the media nor any other person shall contact, photograph, or interview jurors during the course of these proceedings.
16. Members of the media shall not photograph or video vehicles transporting jurors by any means, including aerial surveillance.
17. The deputy sheriffs shall escort the members of the jury to and from the Courthouse on each day of trial proceedings. The deputy sheriffs shall apprehend anyone attempting to interfere with the members of the jury and refer them to the court for appropriate sanctions.
18. No one shall be permitted to enter Courtroom 234 or remain therein during these proceedings who is wearing any item on his or her person or exhibiting any sign which, in the opinion of the Court, may tend to influence any juror or affect the orderly administration of these proceedings.
19. Members of the Circuit Court staff shall not be photographed or interviewed regarding this case.
20. A designated room in Courthouse East (Room 235) 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. No food or drink is permitted in the media room. Photography, videography, and audio or video transmitting and recording is prohibited in the media room.
21. No media conferences or interviews with attorneys, parties, or witnesses shall be conducted in the Courthouse or at the front entrance of the Courthouse. Members

of the media nor or other person may not impede foot traffic on the sidewalks in front of Courthouse East or obstruct access to the Courthouse. Parking restrictions will be strictly enforced.

22. 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.
23. This Order is subject to modification by the Court at any time.

**Judge W. Michel Pierson**

Judge's Signature appears on the  
original document

W. Michel Pierson  
Administrative Judge