

STATE OF MARYLAND,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADNAN SYED,

Defendant.

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IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
FOR
BALTIMORE CITY
Case Nos.: 199103042, 43, 44, 45 & 46

MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER

In order to ensure a fair trial in this case, and to preserve the dignity of the Court while accommodating the interests of the public and the media and in order to cause minimal disruption of and to maintain a safe and secure environment for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and its neighbors, it is this 17th day of September, 2022, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The hearing in the above captioned case is scheduled to be conducted in Courtroom 556 (“the Courtroom”), of the Cummings Courthouse, located at 111 N. Calvert St, Baltimore, MD 21202 (“the Courthouse”). The presiding trial judge shall be the Honorable Melissa M. Phinn.
2. Public Information Officer, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs, State of Maryland Judiciary, shall be designated as the Court’s Media Liaison for purposes of this Order and can be reached at 410-260-1488, email address: Bradley.tanner@mdcourts.gov; terri.charles@mdcourts.gov. Bradley Tanner can be reached directly at: 410-218-7418.
3. All media inquiries shall be directed to the Court’s Media Liaison.
4. All persons within the Courthouse shall remain subject to the occupancy limits and security measures established by Sheriff John Anderson, Sheriff of the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office (“Sheriff”), who can be reached at 410-396-1155, email address:

John.Anderson@baltimorecity.gov, and Chief Fire Marshall for Baltimore City (“Fire Marshall”), who can be reached at 410-396-5752, email address: FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov.

5. All persons entering the Courthouse shall: adhere to the security procedures as directed by the Sheriff; pass through electronic security devices; submit their equipment and other effects to search procedures at the discretion of the Sheriff’s Deputies; and show a valid media credential to security personnel when requested. To expedite entry, all persons are requested to refrain from bringing excess bags or backpacks into the Courthouse.

6. No audio or video recording equipment, including media cameras, or transmitting equipment shall be permitted in the Courthouse, except as provided in this Order. Pursuant to Md. Rule 16-208, no person may use an electronic device to take screen captures, screenshots, photographs, videos, audio recordings or make other electronic recordings within the Courthouse, and no person may transmit, publish, or otherwise disseminate any such electronic audio or video recording, except as provided in this Order.

7. All electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, and tablets, must be turned off (not in silent or sleep modes) while inside the Courtroom, unless express permission is given by the Court, or as provided in this Order. Pursuant to Md. Rule 16-208(b)(3)(A), attorneys and their agents representing parties in the proceedings may make reasonable and lawful use of an electronic device in connection with the proceedings.

8. Electronic devices and equipment sought to be used or employed by members of the media must comply with the operational requirements established under Md. Rule 16-607, unless approved by the Court.

9. Limited seating will be available in the gallery of the Courtroom, as determined by the Court, the Sheriff, and the Fire Marshall. The Court may apportion the available seating. Where

necessary, the Court shall make overflow seating arrangements in another space within the Courthouse, to view the proceedings via video live feed. All persons within any space designated for overflow seating are subject to the same prohibitions on electronic audio or video recordings, and the same prohibitions on publication of electronic audio or video recordings, except as provided in this Order. Courtroom 523 Cummings Courthouse is designated as the overflow courtroom.

10. There shall be limited, reserved seating for members of the media in the Courtroom. Members of the media may indicate their desire for a seat within the Courtroom by contacting the Court's Media Liaison. The Court's Media Liaison may allocate seats based on requests received and shall communicate to the Sheriff's Office the names of media members allotted seats reserved for media. The remaining seats shall be made available to members of the public on a first-come/first-served basis.

11. The Sheriff will establish procedures to govern orderly entry to the Courthouse and to the Courtroom and exit therefrom. Only those members of the media whom have been granted and possess a media credential identification card from the Sheriff's Office shall be permitted in the Courtroom during the proceedings. Persons who leave the Courtroom during these proceedings shall not be readmitted until the next recess, except as permitted by the Court.

12. Sheriff's Deputies may inspect any electronic device at any time for misuse, and, if necessary, confiscate the device if it appears to be in use or operated in violation of this Order. Sheriff's Deputies and other court personnel are not liable for any damage or loss of electronic devices confiscated pursuant to this Order. *See* Md. Rule 16-208(b)(1). Authorized members of the media are permitted to use such electronic equipment in the overflow seating spaces. Such devices cannot be used for audio or video recording or still photography in any location in the

Courthouse.

13. Members of the media shall not use cellular telephones within one-hundred (100) feet of the Courtroom during the course of the proceedings. Unless authorized by the Court, all electronic devices shall be turned off during court proceedings. The Court's Media Liaison shall be permitted to have electronic equipment for any important messages or emergencies that may arise.

14. No food or drink is permitted in the Courtroom. The use of any lighted tobacco products or electronic vaporizers is strictly prohibited within the Courthouse.

15. Court personnel shall not be interviewed regarding the above captioned matter or the proceedings.

16. Media conferences or interviews with the Court's Media Liaison shall be permitted in Courtroom 509 Cummings Courthouse. Members of the media will be advised of the designated space at the start of the proceedings by the Court's Media Liaison.

17. No media conferences or interviews with attorneys, parties, or witnesses shall be conducted within the Courthouse or within fifty (50) feet of any entrance of the Courthouse. No persons may impede foot traffic on the sidewalks in front of the Courthouse or obstruct access to the Courthouse.

18. If members of the media believe that any aspect of this Order is unworkable or inappropriate, they may request modification(s) only if such request is made in sufficient time in advance of the proceedings to permit the Court to review the proposed modification(s).

19. Any persons found to be in violation of this Order shall be subject to a revocation of all media privileges and, if appropriate, to the contempt powers of the Court. Sheriff's Deputies are hereby authorized to enforce compliance with this Order and may remove any person who fails to comply with any part of this Order.

20. Notwithstanding this Order, where any emergency circumstances arise or exist, all individuals within and around the Courthouse are subject to the designations, instructions, and restrictions established to address the circumstances.

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

/s/
The Honorable Audrey J.S. Carrión
Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Case No.: 199103042, 43, 44, 45 & 46

cc: All copies sent via electronic mail.

Hon. Melissa M. Phinn, Presiding Judge

Becky Feldman, Esquire
Counsel for the State

Eric J. Suter, Esquire
Counsel for Defendant

Media Liaison

Mr. Lionel Moore, Court Administrator

Major Spencer Giles, Circuit Court for Baltimore City Security Chief

Byron Monts, IT Manager, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Trish Trikeriotis, Court Reporter, Circuit Court for Baltimore City