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<u>MEDIA RELEASE</u>

DATE:August 31, 2021RE:Conviction of Damian Walton

Albert J. Peisinger, Jr., State's Attorney for Harford County, announced today the conviction of Damian Walton, 31, Edgewood, Maryland, for possession of a regulated firearm by a prohibited person and the wearing, carrying and transport of a firearm.

On August 12, 2020, Deputy Robert Witt of the Harford County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to 1714 Crimson Tree Way in Edgewood, Maryland for a report of a gunshot. Upon arrival, Deputy Witt observed a man later identified as Damian Walton and woman later identified as Cindy Newton standing by a car. As Deputy Witt exited his patrol vehicle, Mr. Walton bent down toward the left front tire area. Due to the nature of the call, Deputy Witt ordered Mr. Walton to walk towards him and looked at the car Mr. Walton was standing near, where he discovered a .40 caliber handgun on the tire. A .40 caliber shell casing was also discovered near the scene. It was further discovered that Mr. Walton had a lengthy criminal history including previous convictions for firearms and felony narcotics, which prohibited him from possessing or handling a handgun.

Following a bench trial before the Honorable Yolanda L. Curtin, on August 25, 2021, Damian Walton was found guilty of possession of a regulated firearm by a prohibited person and the wearing, carrying and transport of a firearm. Judge Curtin then sentenced Mr. Walton to 15 years, suspend all but seven years incarceration with five years of supervised probation upon release. The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Charles Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Peisinger thanked Deputy Witt, the Harford County Sheriff's Office and Assistant State's Attorney Charles Fitzpatrick for their outstanding work and dedication in the investigation and prosecution that resulted in the conviction of Mr. Walton.