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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 21, 2024  
RE: State v. Ronald Sullivan

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Ronald Sullivan, 49, of Edgewood, pled guilty to Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics and was sentenced to twenty years, suspend all but fifteen years to serve. This case also triggered a Violation of Probation in a 2011 Possession with Intent to Distribute case and Sullivan was sentenced to an additional five years to serve consecutively for a total of twenty years of active incarceration.

This case stemmed from a fatal overdose investigation on August 2, 2023. Through the investigation conducted by the Harford County Drug Taskforce, it was revealed that the victim was in contact with Sullivan the night before the overdose, exchanging messages that clearly pertained to a drug purchase. Sullivan was apprehended and found to be in possession of cocaine on his person at the time of his arrest. Following the arrest, further investigation linked another deceased victim to Sullivan, indicating they had also purchased illegal substances from him in July 2023, which ultimately led to their death.

Assistant State's Attorney Stuart Welch argued that due to the facts and circumstances surrounding this case and considering that this involved the death of two people, an upward deviation from the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines, which were calculated at four to twelve years, was warranted.

Following sentencing State's Attorney Alison M. Healey issued the following statement: "Drug distribution is not a victimless crime. Too often our community members lose loved ones to the poison that is being peddled on our streets by individuals with no regard for human life or the laws by which we are required to live. Overdose cases can be incredibly challenging, and I am proud of Assistant State's Attorney Welch and his efforts to ensure that the families of these two victims received closure in their loss. We will continue to aggressively pursue the maximum charges allowable by law to ensure that a strong message is sent to anyone that is considering dealing drugs in our community." State's Attorney Healey also thanks the members of Harford County Drug Taskforce for all their hard work investigating overdose cases and for aggressively pursuing drug dealers in Harford County. The work they do each and every day is invaluable in assuring the public safety of our community.

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