



# Commonwealth's Attorney City of Hampton



Anton A. Bell  
Commonwealth's Attorney

**Chief Deputy**  
Karen A. Rucker

**Director, Victim/Witness Services**  
Karla C. Reaves

July 29, 2022

Georgette C. Phillips  
Commonwealth's Attorney  
Isle of Wight County  
17000 Josiah Parker Circle  
Isle of Wight, Virginia 23397

Re: Special Prosecution Former Officer Raymond Gutierrez

Dear Attorney Phillips:

As per your request, I was designated Special Prosecutor in the above matter to see if any violations of state law occurred on December 5, 2020. As a result of the designation, I have conducted an investigation led by the Virginia State Police. During the investigation, I have reviewed the Virginia State investigative report, reviewed videos of the contested event, and discussed the investigation with the Virginia State Police Special Agents. Moreover, I have completed an exhaustive review of Virginia State law in forming my opinion as to whether charges are warranted in this matter. As such, taking all facts and law into consideration, I have concluded that I have found no violation of state law occurred on the date in question.

I specifically base the above decision on the fact that the traffic stop alone was not a violation in law. The issue was the manner in which Gutierrez conducted the traffic stop – including the use and/or manner of force deployed to remove 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Caron Nazario from his vehicle. Although I find the video very disturbing and frankly unsettling, Gutierrez's use of force to remove Nazario did not violate state law as he had given multiple commands for Nazario to exit the vehicle. The problematic issue, however, were Gutierrez's statements throughout the entire ordeal, which would lead a reasonable person to wonder whether underlying bias was at the root of how and why Nazario was treated in like manner. As such, I have reached out to the United States Attorney Office for the Eastern District of Virginia to formerly request the office open an investigation to see whether Gutierrez violated the civil rights of Lt. Nazario. Specifically, I have requested the U.S. Attorney to determine whether Title 18, §242 (Color of Law) was violated by Gutierrez. Nonetheless, at this juncture, I am concluding my involvement in this matter and closing this investigation by my office.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at (757) 728-3059.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, I remain,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anton A. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Anton A. Bell