

**Upper Marlboro, MD  
District Court Trial Session  
December 9, 2022**

This morning, there were 16 trial cases in Room 262B. 8 were nolle prossed, 2 continued, 2 indicted, 1 stet, 1 guilty plea, 1 bench warrant, 1 moved to domestic violence court. Samuel Curry was the PD and Alexandra Perona the Prosecutor/ASA. The judge was Lakeecia Allen.

The one case I'll mention today is that of a promising young man, Mr. K, who was stopped last June by four PG County police officers for "not wearing a seat belt." This became "we smell marijuana" and a search of Mr. K and his car. He had a loaded handgun in his jacket pocket. Mr. K, 24 years old, was a "special police officer" and worked as a security guard for CVS and other places. He is studying to be a nurse. His gun was licensed and he had completed a handgun license program. He was on the way to a gun range. The sole reason for arresting him is that this gun was not in the "lockbox" in the car that Maryland law requires. Mr. K had had no other contacts with the law.

Because of this charge, he lost his job as a security guard, and the matter is held against him when he applies for others. His mother pleaded for him in court, saying that he has been outstanding in working hard and doing well all of his life. The prosecutor was prepared to indict him anyway (!) so he pleaded guilty today. The hardhearted request from the state was 3 years in jail, 18 months of supervised probation, and a \$500 fine. Mr. K's defense attorney talked to the arresting officer, Hamilton, who agreed to drop the demand for jail time (why do officers even get to weigh in on these matters?!), so the prosecutor agreed to suspend the 3 years. The defense attorney then asked for probation before judgment (PBJ), but the state and judge refused. So, **it's 18 months of probation and a \$500 fine for Mr. K.** At the end of the 18 months, he can ask for a PBJ, the judge said. I learned that this charge will continue to be held over Mr. K's head when he applies for jobs for the next 18 months.

When the case was over, the four heavily armed police officers who showed up today just to make sure Mr. K was prosecuted strolled out of the courtroom seemingly without a thought of the harm they had created.