In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Illinois
Criminal Division

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
ex rel. Plaintiff,

-vs-

SEAN GRAYSON

Defendant,

No. 2024 CF 000909

FILED
JUL 18 2024
5
Joseph B. Vocal Clerk of the Circuit Court

ARREST WARRANT

TO ALL PEACE OFFICERS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Whereas, complainant in writing, under oath has been this day entered before the undersigned, a Judge within and for said County, by, that a criminal offense, to-wit: FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M AGGRAVATED BATTERY W/ FIREARM 720 5/12-3.05(e)(1) Class X OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT 720 5/33-3(A)(2) Class 3

has been committed in said State, and that said complainant, , has just and reasonable grounds to suspect that SEAN GRAYSON is guilty of said offense as shown above.

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7/17/24
(DATE)

(JUDGE)

D.O.B.: June 07, 1994
Height: 6'03
Race: WHITE
Sex: M
Weight: 228
Hair: BROWN
Eyes: GREEN
Distinguishing Marks:
Alias:
2nd Address:
Social Security Number:
Police Report #: S24

Geographic Limits
- [X] No Limitations
- [ ] State of Illinois
- [ ] Within the State of Illinois that is both South of Interstate 80 and North of Interstate 64
- [ ] Sangamon, Logan, Menard, Morgan, Macoupin, Christian, Macon, Cass and Montgomery Counties
- [ ] Sangamon County

ASA: JOHN MILHISER

FEES

Service $
Mileage $
Other $

Served by:
Served date:
Recalled by:

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For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
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Criminal Division

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
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Served date:
Recalled by:

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Illinois
Criminal Division

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
ex rel. Plaintiff,

-vs-

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FILED
JUL 18 2024
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In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Illinois
Criminal Division

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
ex rel. Plaintiff,

-vs-

SEAN GRAYSON

Defendant,

No. 2024 CF 000909

FILED
JUL 18 2024
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ASA: JOHN MILHISER

FEES

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Mileage $
Other $

Served by:
Served date:
Recalled by:

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE AND YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO REPORT TO COURT FOR:

	First Appearance
	Plea Hearing
	Preliminary Hearing
X	Pre-Trial
	Trial
	Sentencing Hearing
	Status Hearing
	Petition To Revoke Hearing
	Juvenile
	Other:

FILED
JUL 18 2024
26
Joseph B. Rocco Clerk of the Circuit Court

HAS BEEN SET FOR 8-26-24 (date) AT 9am (time) CADAGIN (courtroom/Judge)

NAME: SEAN GRAYSON ☐ DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY

CASE: 2024-CF-000909

OTHER CASES:

YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON. FAILURE TO APPEAR MAY RESULT IN A BENCH WARRANT BEING ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST OR OTHER SANCTIONS.

NO ONE EXCEPT A JUDGE MAY CONTINUE YOUR CASE. THIS CASE IS ASSIGNED TO JUDGE: CADAGIN

YOUR ATTORNEY IS: _____ CLERK: _____

I acknowledge these conditions of release and affirm that I will comply with each condition. I understand that failure to comply with the conditions of release could result in sanctions and/or revocation of my pretrial release. I further understand that I am required to notify the clerk of the court of any change of address within 24 hours.

_____
Defendant's Signature

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE IN PERSON ON _____

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, _____ TO DEFENDANT AT _____

_____.

FILED

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUL 18 2024

26

Joseph B. Rocal Clerk of the Circuit Court

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Sean Grayson

Defendant.

Case No.: 24CF909

PRETRIAL DETENTION ORDER

☐ INITIAL ☐ SUBSEQUENT

The defendant being charged with a detainable offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a), the State filing a verified Petition to Detain, and after hearing the State's Petition to Detain, the Court finding probable cause finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

☐ **WILLFUL FLIGHT STANDARD**

(1) The proof is evident or the presumption great that the defendant committed a qualifying offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(8); **AND**

(2) The defendant has a high likelihood of willful flight to avoid prosecution; **AND**

(3) No condition(s) set forth in 725 ILCS 5/110-10(b) can mitigate risk of defendant's willful flight.

☒ **DANGEROUSNESS STANDARD**

(1) The proof is evident or the presumption great that the defendant committed a detainable offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1)-(7) OR any felony offense other than a Class 4 is charged, and defendant has a high likelihood of willful flight to avoid prosecution; **AND**

(2) No condition(s) set forth in 725 ILCS 5/110-10(b) can mitigate the real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, for offenses listed in paragraphs (a)(1) - (7); **AND**

(3) For offenses under §407(b) of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act that are subject to paragraph (1)(a), no condition(s) set forth in §110-10(b) can mitigate the real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, and the defendant poses a serious risk to not appear in court as required.

(4) Defendant's pretrial release poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, by conduct which may include, but is not limited to, a forcible felony, the obstruction of justice, intimidation, injury or abuse as defined by §103(1) of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986; or, in the case of (aggravated) stalking, of a victim of the alleged offense, and denial of release is necessary to prevent fulfillment of the threat upon which the charge is based.

(5) The Court's findings that defendant committed a detainable offense are briefly summarized as follows, but are not intended to be an exhaustive list:

The Defendant personally discharged a firearm killing Sonya Massey in her home after Massey had called 911 for help. Victim was unarmed while the Defendant was a sworn officer responding to a call with another officer.

(6) **The Court's reason(s) for concluding the defendant should be denied pretrial release, as no condition or combination of conditions set forth in subsection (b) of 725 ILCS 5/110-10 can mitigate either (i) the real and present threat of safety of any person or persons or the community or (ii) the defendant's willful flight, are based on the following:** *(Check all boxes that apply and delineate additional reasons on the next page)*

☒ Nature and circumstances of the offense(s) charged.

Defendant was a sworn officer with training and was accompanied by another officer. Defendant was aware or should have been aware he was being video recorded. Despite these safeguards and supervision from law enforcement, the Defendant still discharged his firearm against an unarmed woman. He was in violation of his oath as a sworn officer, which is evidence he is not a good candidate to be in compliance with his conditions. He directed law enforcement not to render aid, which is counter to basic norms of public safety. Defendant was not using his body camera until after the shooting. Not being in compliance with body camera requirements is further evidence that points to him not being able to comply with conditions. Defendant's characterizations of the victim after the shooting, as contained in the video in People's Ex. A, are such a departure from the basic expectations of civil society that they are evidence of the Defendant's dangerousness and also that he could not comply with conditions.

☐ Defendant's prior criminal history is indicative of violent, abusive or assaultive behavior. _____

☐ Defendant's psychological, psychiatric or other social history indicates a violent, abusive or assaultive nature. _____

☐ The identity of any person(s) to whose safety the defendant is believed to pose a threat, and the nature of the threat.

☐ Any statement(s) made by, or attributed to the defendant, together with circumstances surrounding them. _____

☐ The age and/or physical condition of the defendant. _____

☒ The age and/or physical conditions of any victim or complaining witness. The victim was a slight woman who weighed 110 lbs and was not a physical threat to the Defendant.

☒ Defendant is known to possess or have access to weapons. A firearm was used in this case.

☐ At the time of the current offense(s)/arrest, defendant was on probation, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release or other release from custody pending trial, sentencing, appeal or completion of sentence. _____

☐ _____

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: *(Check all boxes that apply)*

☒ Defendant shall be committed to the custody of the Sangamon County Sheriff for confinement in the county jail pending trial. While in custody, the defendant shall be given a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with counsel and for communication with others of their choice by visitation, mail and telephone (unless otherwise prohibited).

☐ Defendant shall have no contact directly or indirectly with: _____

☐ **Defendant notified of the right to file a motion for relief of the Court's Order and at each subsequent court appearance the detention conditions will be reviewed regardless of whether a motion is filed.**

NEXT COURT APPEARANCE:
Defendant shall appear on 8/26/24 at 9:00 AM/PM, in Courtroom 7C

7/18/24
DATE

Lynn M. Luft
JUDGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

FILED
JUL 18 2024
Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case No.: 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

THE PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION
TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney in and for the County of Sangamon, Illinois, by First Assistant State's Attorney, Mary E. Rodgers, and pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1, petition this Honorable Court to deny the above-named defendant pretrial release. In support thereof, the People state as follows:

1. In the above captioned matter, the defendant has been charged with **First Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and Official Misconduct.**

2. The defendant is charged with a forcible felony, or any other felony which involves the threat of or infliction of great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement and the defendant's pretrial release poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or persons or the community. See 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1.5).

3. Additional grounds upon which the defendant should be denied pretrial release are as follows:

   a. Defendant has ample access to firearms, the instrument of murder in this case.

4. Factual basis in support of Pretrial Detention:

   Please reference People's Exhibit A (subject to protective order), recording of deputies' body worn camera depicting the events regarding Ms. Sonya Massey on July 6, 2024.

   On July 6, 2024 Defendant responded to 2868 Hoover St. in his capacity as a Sangamon County Deputy to investigate a call for service in reference to a prowler. Defendant and another deputy made contact with the 911 caller, Sonya Massey who indicated she needed assistance. Ms. Massey appeared to be calm, perhaps unwell, not aggressive, and was approximately 110 pounds.

Deputies entered Ms. Massey's home to gather further information, and ensure the residence was safe. At no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Defendant noticed a pot on the stove, and approved of Ms. Massey removing the pot to prevent any accidental fires. The pot was located in another room of the home, separated by a large counter.

During this time, the other deputy was clearing the house, and nothing dangerous was noted. Defendant then made a comment about the pot, which apparently contained heated water. Ms. Massey responded verbally and set the pot of water down on a counter in the kitchen. During this time, Defendant was still in the living room area of the home.

Despite his distance and relative cover, Defendant drew his 9mm firearm, not the less than lethal TASER located on his duty vest, and threatened to shoot Ms. Massey in the face. Seeing the drawn weapon, Ms. Massey put her hands in the air and stated, "I'm sorry," while ducking for cover behind the counter that separated her and Defendant.

Defendant, with his firearm still drawn, proceeded to close the significant gap between him and Ms. Massey. Defendant then aggressively yelled at Ms. Massey to put the pot down.

Defendant then fired his duty weapon three times in the direction of Ms. Massey, striking her in the face one time. Only at this time did Defendant activate his body worn camera. (please note, the body worn camera of the other deputy was activated when he first arrived on scene, and remained on during the entirety of the events).

After this, the other deputy announced he was going to retrieve a medical kit from his vehicle, to which Defendant instructed him not to, because of the severity of the injury. The other deputy still rendered aid, and stayed with Ms. Massey until medical help arrived. Defendant at no time attempted to render aid to Ms. Massey.

An independent investigation of Defendant's actions was performed by the Illinois State Police. An expert in the field of "use of force" reviewed the recording made by body worn camera of both deputies. (Please see People's Exhibit B subject to a protective order) The expert concluded that Defendant was NOT justified in his use of deadly force. He likened the scenario to an officer intentionally and unnecessarily putting himself in front of a moving vehicle and then justifying use of force because of fear of being struck.

Defendant's disregard of his training as a law enforcement officer, and his disregard for human life, shows by clear and convincing evidence that he is a danger to persons in the community. He has ample access to firearms, and has shown a willingness to use lethal force, despite the availability of non-deadly alternatives, when there is little to no threat to his bodily safety.

5. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, and based upon the proffer the People request to make during the hearing on this petition pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(f)(2), the People pray that this Honorable Court deny the defendant pretrial release.

Respectfully submitted,
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
John C. Milhiser
Sangamon County State's Attorney

By: _____
Mary E. Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney

VERIFICATION BY CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies, as authorized by 735 ILCS 5/1-109, that the undersigned has read the contents of the foregoing document, has knowledge of the matters recited, and that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that the undersigned verily believes the same to be true.

Respectfully submitted,
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
John C. Milhiser
Sangamon County State's Attorney

By:_____
Mary E. Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney

John C. Milhiser
State's Attorney for
Sangamon County, Illinois
200 South Ninth Street
Room 402, County Complex
Springfield, Illinois 62701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED
JUL 18 2024
Joseph B. Polsak Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, **Plaintiff**	)	
-vs-	)	**NO. 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON, **Defendant**	)	

PROTECTIVE ORDER CONCERING BODY WORN CAMERA RECORDINGS AND EXPERT REPORT EXHIBITS TO BE IMPOUNDED

By agreement of both the People and the Defendant, IT IS SO ORDERED:

1. The People shall provide copies of the recordings of body worn camera depicting the events inside 2860 Hoover St., Springfield IL on July 6, 2024.

2. The People shall provide a copy of a Use of Force Report from the Illinois State Police.

3. Defendant shall securely keep the copy of the recordings and report at all times.

4. No copies shall be made of the recordings or report and they shall be played only for Defendant and for any person employed by Defendant to assist in preparing the defense.

5. The aforementioned documents and exhibits shall be impounded by the Clerk of the Court until further order of this court, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 8.

Date: 7/18/24 Judge: _____

FILED
JUL 18 2024
Josh B. Read Clerk of the Circuit Court

34

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

Media Coordinator's Notice of Request(s) for
Extended Media Coverage of Trial/Proceeding

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

NOW COMES, Newschannel20, who states as follows:

1. Certain representatives of the news media want to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

   ✓ Photographic equipment ✓ Television cameras ✓ Electronic sound recording equipment

2. The trial or proceeding to be covered by extended media techniques is scheduled for the 18th day Of July, 2024 at 2 a.m. (p.m.) at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield, Illinois. The request(s) for extended media coverage includes every part of such proceeding and any subsequent proceedings caused by a delay/continuance.

3. The extended media coverage requests the following number of personnel/equipment:
   1 Video Camera 1 Still Camera(s) 1 Live Blogging

4. This notice of request(s) for extended media coverage is filed:
   - ☐ At least 14 days in advance of the proceeding for which extended media coverage is sought: or
   - ☒ This notice cannot be filed within 14 days of the proceeding for the reasons set forth in the attached document.

5. A copy of this Notice is being provided to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit, the Presiding Judge, and the Court Administrator for which extended media coverage is being requested as follows:

WHEREFORE, the media coordinator provides notice of request for extended coverage.

Media Coordinator

7/18/24
Date

Dear Judge,

NewsChannel 20 is requesting permission to be in your courtroom today, Thursday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m. for the hearing in case #24-CF-909.

We apologize for this request being made on short notice; the hearing was set late yesterday afternoon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelsey Evans Mullins

Media Coordinator

7th Judicial Circuit

FILED

JUL 18 2024

Joseph B. Rosal Clerk of the Circuit Court

7

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Illinois,
Plaintiff,

v.

Sean Grayson,
Defendant.

Case No: 24 CF-909

MEDIA COVERAGE ORDER BENCH HEARINGS

Media Coverage Requester: News Channel 20

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT:

The request(s) for media coverage in the above case, hearing or trial scheduled for the 18th day of July, 2024 at 2:00 AM/PM at the Sangamon County Courthouse in Springfield, Illinois has been ☐ Approved ☒ Denied

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following in the courtroom for media coverage of the above case.

☐ **Photography:** Single Shot (no rapid auto shoot) - Ambient Light Photographic Equipment – No Flash - All Cameras in Approved Locations Only – No Live Streaming. **Number Allowed:**_____ (No more than 2 still photographers per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Television Coverage:** – Single Video "Pool" Camera in approved location only with single operator – Recorded Video Only No Live Steaming. (Not more than 2 television cameras and not more than one camera person per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Web or Television Pool Camera(s):**- for live streaming specifically: PTZ Ambient Light – Noiseless movement or Standalone Ambient Light Cameras All Cameras in approved locations only. **Number Allowed:**_____ (Not more than 2 per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Audio/Electronic Sound Recording Equipment:** – Only one audio system for broadcast shall be permitted in a proceeding. No Live Broadcast, Record Only. Microphones can be used in only approved locations or in conjunction with supplied signal mult box. **Number Allowed:**_____

Live Blogging on the Internet Live Streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform IS NOT allowed

Cell Phone use is STRICTLY PROHIBITED due to the difficulty of verifying live broadcast.

If extended media coverage is needed, the media must submit a new request for each day.

No equipment or clothing of media coverage personnel shall bear any insignia or identification of the individual medium or network involved in the media coverage.

All media equipment and personnel shall be in place at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time of commencement of the proceedings. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

Audio or visual equipment authorized by this Order shall not be operated during a recess in the court proceeding. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

The Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for the enforcement of this Order.

The Court may refuse, limit amend or terminate photographic or electronic media coverage at any time during the proceedings in the event the judge finds the provisions established under the media policy have been violated, or that substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by the manner of coverage if it is allowed to continue; or if necessary to guarantee the safety of the courtroom, including any party, witness, juror or attendee of the proceeding.

The Courts retain the right to remove one or all of the media if any section of the media coverage policy is breached.

A decision by a judge to deny, limit or terminate media coverage is not appealable.

Courts Technology Liaison is responsible for equipment review and placement.

☐ **Notice.** The request for media coverage was made at least 14 days in advance of the proceedings and a statement that appropriate notice was given to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the trial court administrator and the judge, along with the names of each, has been done. (Check if this has been done) (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

☐ **Objections.** No objections were received by those entitled to receive notice.

Date: 7/18/24

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit

EFILED
7/18/2024 10:05 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Illinois
Criminal Division

Received
JUL 18 2024
Sheriff's Office
Records Section

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
ex rel. Plaintiff,

-vs-

SEAN GRAYSON

Defendant,

No. 2024 CF 000909

FILED
JUL 17 2024
Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

5

ARREST WARRANT

TO ALL PEACE OFFICERS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Whereas, complainant in writing, under oath has been this day entered before the undersigned, a Judge within and for said County, by, that a criminal offense, to-wit: FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M FIRST DEGREE MURDER 720 5/9-1(a)(1) Class M AGGRAVATED BATTERY W/ FIREARM 720 5/12-3.05(e)(1) Class X OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT 720 5/33-3(A)(2) Class 3

has been committed in said State, and that said complainant, , has just and reasonable grounds to suspect that SEAN GRAYSON is guilty of said offense as shown above.

We, therefore, hereby command you, forthwith to arrest the said SEAN GRAYSON, 109 S 3RD RIVERTON, IL 62561 , and bring him/her before the Circuit Court, Sangamon County, or in case of my absence or inability to act, before any other Judge in said County, to answer to the People of the State of Illinois, said charge and abide such further order as may be made. And fail not, at your peril, to make due service and return hereof. **DEFENDANT IS ORDERED TO BE HELD, WITHOUT RELEASE, TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THIS COURT.**

7/17/24
(DATE)

(JUDGE)

D.O.B.:	June 07, 1994
Height:	6'03
Race:	WHITE
Sex:	M
Weight:	228
Hair:	BROWN
Eyes:	GREEN
Distinguishing Marks:	
Alias:	
2nd Address:	
Social Security Number:	
Police Report #:	S24

Geographic Limits
- [X] No Limitations
- [ ] State of Illinois
- [ ] Within the State of Illinois that is both South of Interstate 80 and North of Interstate 64
- [ ] Sangamon, Logan, Menard, Morgan, Macoupin, Christian, Macon, Cass and Montgomery Counties
- [ ] Sangamon County

ASA: JOHN MILHISER

FEES

Service $
Mileage $
Other $

Served by: A. Bell Smith
Served date: 7-17-24 @ 1330
Recalled by:

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit Of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois

People Of The State Of Illinois,
Plaintiff,

vs.

SEAN GRAYSON

Case No: **2024-CF-000909**

FILED
JUL 18 2024
Joseph B. Rocco Clerk of the Circuit Court
26

PRE-TRIAL DISCOVERY ORDER

Pursuant to motion of above-named defendant, the People shall within 30 days hereof disclose to defendant's attorney:

1. A list of the names and last know addresses of persons the state intends to call as witnesses.
2. The composition and date of any line-up including names of those present and whether or not the defendant was identified and, if so, by whom.
3. A copy of any search warrant.
4. Whether or not prior convictions will be used to impeach the defendant should he choose to testify.
5. All other matters and things provided in Supreme Court Rule 412.

Pursuant to motion of the People, the defendant shall disclose to the State's Attorney within 21 days after disclosure by the People all matters and things provided in Supreme Court Rule 413.

Failure of any party to comply with this order shall not be grounds for sanctions as provided in Supreme Court Rule 425 (g) if such failure is not brought to the Court's attention in writing 10 days after the expiration of the period provided herein for compliance.

The duty to disclose newly acquired information is continuing for all parties.

Parties are ordered to file pre-trial motions within 14 days from this date. Pre-trial motions may be filed subsequent to that time only after leave of court has first been obtained. All motions shall be set for hearing by the party filing said motion at the time of filing. A copy of each motion filed shall be delivered by the party filing said motion to the judge hearing the matter at the time of filing of the motion.

Circuit Judge

EFILED
7/19/2024 2:49 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN P. GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

NOW COMES Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, by its representative, Daniel L. Fultz, an attorney licensed and in good standing in the State of Illinois, and hereby enters its appearance in this proceeding on behalf of Defendant, SEAN P. GRAYSON. All future notices and pleadings concerning this matter should be forwarded to the address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

By: /s/ Daniel L. Fultz

Daniel L. Fultz
ARDC# 6282911
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
217-544-8491
217-241-1333 (Facsimile)
Email: dfultz@bhslaw.com
cc: jsisson@bhslaw.com

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served by enclosing same in (an) envelope(s) properly addressed with postage fully prepaid, and by depositing said envelope(s) in a U.S. Post Office Mailbox in Springfield, Illinois, on the 19th day of July, 2024; service was made in this manner upon the following person(s) at the accompanying address(es):

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street, Room 402
Springfield, IL 62701

Sean P. Grayson
Sangamon County Jail
#1 Sheriff's Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

/s/ Judy A. Sisson

Daniel L. Fultz
ARDC# 6282911
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
217-544-8491
217-241-1333 (Facsimile)
Email: dfultz@bhslaw.com
cc: jsisson@bhslaw.com

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

FILED

JUL 24 2024

Josh B. Rossol Clerk of the Circuit Court

21

Media Coordinator's Notice of Request(s) for Extended Media Coverage of Trial/Proceeding

ILLINOIS
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24CF 909
Case No.

NOW COMES, NewsChannel20, who states as follows:

1. Certain representatives of the news media want to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

   ✓ Photographic equipment ✓ Television cameras ✓ Electronic sound recording equipment

2. The trial or proceeding to be covered by extended media techniques is scheduled for the 26th day Of August, 20___ at 9 a.m./p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield, Illinois. The request(s) for extended media coverage includes every part of such proceeding and any subsequent proceedings caused by a delay/continuance.

3. The extended media coverage requests the following number of personnel/equipment:
   1 Video Camera 1 Still Camera(s) 1 Live Blogging

4. This notice of request(s) for extended media coverage is filed:
   - ☒ At least 14 days in advance of the proceeding for which extended media coverage is sought: or
   - ☐ This notice cannot be filed within 14 days of the proceeding for the reasons set forth in the attached document.

5. A copy of this Notice is being provided to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit, the Presiding Judge, and the Court Administrator for which extended media coverage is being requested as follows:

WHEREFORE, the media coordinator provides notice of request for extended coverage.

Media Coordinator

7/19/24
Date

FILED

JUL 24 2024

Joan D. Reed Clerk of the Circuit Court

5

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Illinois,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Case No: 24-CF-909
)
Sean Grayson,)
)
Defendant.)

MEDIA COVERAGE ORDER BENCH HEARINGS

Media Coverage Requester: News Channel 20

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT:

The request(s) for media coverage in the above case, hearing or trial scheduled for the 26th day of August, 2024 at 9:00 (AM)/PM, at the Sangamon County Courthouse in Springfield, Illinois has been ☐ Approved ☒ Denied

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following in the courtroom for media coverage of the above case.

☐ **Photography:** Single Shot (no rapid auto shoot) - Ambient Light Photographic Equipment – No Flash - All Cameras in Approved Locations Only – No Live Streaming. **Number Allowed:**_____ (No more than 2 still photographers per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Television Coverage:** – Single Video "Pool" Camera in approved location only with single operator – Recorded Video Only No Live Steaming. (Not more than 2 television cameras and not more than one camera person per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Web or Television Pool Camera(s):**- for live streaming specifically: PTZ Ambient Light – Noiseless movement or Standalone Ambient Light Cameras All Cameras in approved locations only. **Number Allowed:**_____ (Not more than 2 per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Audio/Electronic Sound Recording Equipment:** – Only one audio system for broadcast shall be permitted in a proceeding. No Live Broadcast, Record Only. Microphones can be used in only approved locations or in conjunction with supplied signal mult box. **Number Allowed:**_____

Live Blogging on the Internet Live Streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform IS NOT allowed

Cell Phone use is STRICTLY PROHIBITED due to the difficulty of verifying live broadcast.

If extended media coverage is needed, the media must submit a new request for each day.

No equipment or clothing of media coverage personnel shall bear any insignia or identification of the individual medium or network involved in the media coverage.

All media equipment and personnel shall be in place at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time of commencement of the proceedings. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

Audio or visual equipment authorized by this Order shall not be operated during a recess in the court proceeding. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

The Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for the enforcement of this Order.

The Court may refuse, limit amend or terminate photographic or electronic media coverage at any time during the proceedings in the event the judge finds the provisions established under the media policy have been violated, or that substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by the manner of coverage if it is allowed to continue; or if necessary to guarantee the safety of the courtroom, including any party, witness, juror or attendee of the proceeding.

The Courts retain the right to remove one or all of the media if any section of the media coverage policy is breached.

A decision by a judge to deny, limit or terminate media coverage is not appealable.

Courts Technology Liaison is responsible for equipment review and placement.

☐ **Notice.** The request for media coverage was made at least 14 days in advance of the proceedings and a statement that appropriate notice was given to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the trial court administrator and the judge, along with the names of each, has been done. (Check if this has been done) (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

☐ **Objections.** No objections were received by those entitled to receive notice.

Date: 7/24/24

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit

EFILED
7/24/2024 4:47 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
DEAN P. GRAYSON, Defendant.	)	

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

NOW COMES, the Law Office of Brian Sexton, by its' representative, **BRIAN SEXTON**, an attorney licensed and in good standing in the State of Illinois, and hereby enters its' Appearance in this proceeding on behalf of the defendant, **SEAN P. GRAYSON**. All future notices and pleadings concerning this matter should be forwarded to the address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Brian Sexton

Brian T. Sexton, ARDC #6196536
Law Offices Brian T. Sexton
1770 Park Street, Suite 205
Naperville, Illinois 60563
Tel. 630/388-0600
brsextonlaw@gmail.com

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served by enclosing same in (an) envelope(s) properly addressed with postage fully prepaid, and by depositing said envelope(s) in a U.S. Post Office Mailbox on the 24th day of July, 2024; Service was made in this manner upon the following person(s) at the accompanying address(es):

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street, Room 402
Springfield, IL 62701

Sean P. Grayson
Sangamon County Jail
#1 Sheriff's Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

/s/ Brian Sexton

Brian Sexton
ARDC # 6196536
Law Office of Brian Sexton
1770 Park Street, Ste 205
Naperville, IL 60536
630-388-0600
brsextonlaw@gmail.com

EFILED
7/24/2024 5:03 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN P. GRAYSON, Defendant.	)	

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

NOW COMES, the Law Office of Brian Sexton, by its' representative, **BRIAN SEXTON**, an attorney licensed and in good standing in the State of Illinois, and hereby enters its' Appearance in this proceeding on behalf of the defendant, **SEAN P. GRAYSON**. All future notices and pleadings concerning this matter should be forwarded to the address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Brian Sexton

Brian T. Sexton, ARDC #6196536
Law Offices Brian T. Sexton
1770 Park Street, Suite 205
Naperville, Illinois 60563
Tel. 630/388-0600
brsextonlaw@gmail.com

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served by enclosing same in (an) envelope(s) properly addressed with postage fully prepaid, and by depositing said envelope(s) in a U.S. Post Office Mailbox on the 24th day of July, 2024; Service was made in this manner upon the following person(s) at the accompanying address(es):

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street, Room 402
Springfield, IL 62701

Sean P. Grayson
Sangamon County Jail
#1 Sheriff's Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

/s/ Brian Sexton

Brian Sexton
ARDC # 6196536
Law Office of Brian Sexton
1770 Park Street, Ste 205
Naperville, IL 60536
630-388-0600
brsextonlaw@gmail.com

EFILED
8/5/2024 10:10 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

MOTION FOR SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL

NOW COME Attorney Brian T. Sexton and Attorney Mark K. Wykoff, Sr. and hereby request this Honorable Court to allow Brian T. Sexton to withdraw as counsel of record for Defendant, SEAN GRAYSON, and to allow Mark K. Wykoff, Sr. to enter his appearance for said Defendant.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

By: /s/ *Brian T. Sexton*

Brian T. Sexton
Attorney for Defendant
Law Offices of Brian T. Sexton & Associates
1770 Park Street, Suite 205
Naperville, Illinois 60563-1245
Telephone: (630) 388-0600
Fax: (630) 388-0299
E-mail: brsextonlaw@gmail.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 5, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ODYSSEY EfileIL system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Daniel L. Fultz, Esq.
Brown, Hay, & Stephens, LLP
205 South Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

By: /s/ *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

By: /s/ *Brian T. Sexton*

Brian T. Sexton
Attorney for Defendant
Law Offices of Brian T. Sexton & Associates
1770 Park Street, Suite 205
Naperville, Illinois 60563-1245
Telephone: (630) 388-0600
Fax: (630) 388-0299
E-mail: brsextonlaw@gmail.com

EFILED
8/8/2024 1:36 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

MOTION FOR RELIEF PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 604(h)

NOW COMES the Defendant, SEAN GRAYSON, through his attorneys, Daniel L. Fultz of Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, and Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr. of the Wykoff Law Office LLC, and moves this Honorable Court to hold a hearing pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h) to reconsider the ordering of pretrial detention in the above-captioned cause, and in support thereof states as follows, that:

Procedural Background

1. The Defendant was arrested and charged in the above-captioned cause on or about July 17, 2024.

2. The State filed a verified petition to deny Defendant's pretrial release on or about July 18, 2024, pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1.

3. The Court granted the State's petition the same day following a detention hearing.

4. A transcript of the detention hearing is attached hereto as Defendant's Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Governing Law – Appellate Review

5. Appeals from orders denying pretrial release are taken under 725 ILCS 5/110-6.6, which itself gives authority to the Illinois Supreme Court to establish rules governing appeals.

6. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h) states that defendants may appeal orders denying pretrial release, but that as a prerequisite to such an appeal, the defendant must "first present to the trial court a written motion requesting the same relief to be sought on appeal and the grounds for such relief."

7. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h) further states that "[t]he trial court shall promptly hear and decide the motion for relief."

8. Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h), Defendant now respectfully moves this Honorable Court for such relief.

Bases for "Meaningful" Appellate Review

9. The Court which denied Defendant pretrial release erred in finding that no condition or combination of conditions could reasonably mitigate any danger Defendant may pose to any person, persons, or the community.

10. Specifically, the Court erred in so finding due to the State's failure to present clear and convincing evidence that the proposed pretrial release conditions – conditions which included, but were not limited to, placement upon home confinement with GPS location monitoring and removal of firearms from the home – would be insufficient to mitigate such threat.

11. Instead, the State relied almost exclusively on its factual proffer concerning the elements of the allegations, which did nothing to establish that no combination of conditions could mitigate the threat. *People v. Stock*, 2023 IL App (1st) 231753, ¶19, --N.E.3d--, 2023 WL 8713613 (2023), see also *People v. Atterberry*, 2023 IL App (4th) 231028, ¶¶ 18–19, --N.E.3d--, 2023 WL 8539770 (2023), and *People v. Jones*, 2024 IL App (2d) 230535-U, ¶ 23, 2024 WL 399526 (2024).

12. Section 110-6.1(e) of the Code (725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(e) (West 2022)) provides that all criminal defendants are presumed eligible for pretrial release. However, a defendant may be

denied release if, upon verified petition, the State proves by clear and convincing evidence at a detention hearing that (1) the proof is evident or the presumption great the defendant committed a detainable offense, (2) the defendant poses a real or present threat to the safety of any person or persons or the community, and (3) no condition or combination of the conditions can mitigate this threat. *Id.* (Emphasis added.)

13. "Courts have defined 'clear and convincing' evidence most often as the quantum of proof that leaves no reasonable doubt in the mind of the fact finder as to the truth of the proposition in question." *Bazydlo v. Volant*, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). "Although stated in terms of reasonable doubt, courts consider clear and convincing evidence to be more than a preponderance while not quite approaching the degree of proof necessary to convict a person of a criminal offense." *Id.*

14. Section 110-6.1(g) of the Code (id. § 110-6.1(g)) provides that the trial court is to consider a non-exhaustive list of factors in determining whether the defendant poses a real or present threat to the safety of the community, including (1) the nature and circumstances of the charged offense, including whether the offense involves violence or the use of a weapon or is a sex offense; (2) the history and characteristics of the defendant; (3) the identity of any person whose safety the defendant is believed to pose a threat; (4) any statements made by or attributed to the defendant; (5) the age and physical condition of the defendant; (6) the age and physical condition of the victim or complaining witness; (7) whether the defendant is known to possess or have access to weapons; (8) whether, at the time of the charged offense or any other offense or arrest, the defendant was on probation parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release, or any other release from custody pending, trial, sentencing, appeal, or completion of a sentence; and

(9) any other factor deemed by the court to reasonably bear on the defendant's propensity or violent, abusive, or assaultive behavior.

15. Even if, *arguendo*, the State had established Defendant posed a real and present threat to the safety of the community, the State failed to prove that no condition or combination of conditions of pretrial release could mitigate such a threat. "[T]he fact that a person is charged with a detainable offense is not enough to order detention, nor is it enough that the defendant poses a threat to public safety." *People v. Atterberry*, 2023 IL App (4th) 231028, ¶ 18. (Emphasis added.)

16. Rather, "the trial court must determine, based on the specific facts of the case and the defendant's individual background and characteristics, whether any combination of conditions can mitigate the threat and allow the defendant's release." *Id.*

17. While proof of the basic elements of the charged offense may be part of the proof that no conditions could mitigate the threat posed by defendant, more is required. *People v. Stock*, 2023 IL App (1st) 231753, ¶ 18.

History and Characteristics of the Defendant

18. Defendant is a resident of Sangamon County and has lived in Central Illinois most of his life.

19. Should this Honorable Court allow Defendant's pretrial release, he would continue to reside with his fiancé at their home in Riverton, IL.

20. Defendant is a veteran who was generally discharged from the United States Army, under honorable conditions.

21. Prior to his arrest, Defendant served as a deputy sheriff in Sangamon County for over a year.

22. Defendant is engaged to be married in October of this year.

23. Defendant recently had a significant medical procedure and is still under a course of care for the same. The Menard County Jail, where the Defendant is currently incarcerated, does not have the medical staff with the capacity to provide necessary care for the Defendant. The specifics of the procedure and care will be provided by way of separate exhibit (Defendant's Exhibit B), which will be tendered in open court and then require impoundment.

24. All firearms and other weapons have been removed from Defendant's home.

25. Defendant was released from his duties as a deputy sheriff, meaning he will no longer have access to weapons through his employment.

26. Further, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board has suspended Defendant's certification as a police officer.

27. There is no reason to believe that Defendant will have contact with the victim's family or will engage in violence upon release.

28. Finally, the Defendant scored a 3 on the 14-point scale set forth in the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment.

Summary

29. The proffer of evidence outlined above (and previous) dispels the State's speculative belief that Defendant would not be compliant with pretrial release conditions.

30. The State's proffer at the detention hearing presented little more than evidence of the basic elements of the charged offenses, and the evidence it presented concerning the nature and circumstances of the offenses was insufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no combination of conditions could mitigate any threat defendant posed to the safety of the community.

31. Moreover, a combination of conditions which could include the placement of the Defendant on house arrest with electronic monitoring, and/or authorization to leave his home only for specific and necessary reasons, would reasonably mitigate any threat Defendant may pose while on pretrial release, would be less restrictive than detention, and justifies Defendant's release on pretrial release conditions.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, SEAN GRAYSON respectfully prays that this Honorable Court grant this motion for relief, grant him pretrial release, and hold a hearing to determine appropriate pretrial conditions in the above-captioned cause.

Respectfully Submitted,

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
Brown, Hay, & Stephens, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 544-8491
Fax: (217) 544-9609
E-mail: dfultz@bhslaw.com

WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 8, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ODYSSEY EfileIL system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non-ODYSSEY EfileIL participants:

Sean Grayson
c/o Sangamon County Jail
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

By:

BROWN, HAY, & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
Brown, Hay, & Stephens, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 544-8491
Fax: (217) 544-9609
E-mail: dfultz@bhslaw.com

WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CRIMINAL DIVISION
vs.	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION
TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS of the hearing held before the Honorable RYAN M. CADAGIN on the 18th day of July, 2024.

APPEARANCES:

HONORABLE JOHN MILHISER,
State's Attorney of Sangamon County by,

MS. MARY BETH RODGERS,
First Assistant State's Attorney
representing the People of the State of Illinois.

MR. DANIEL FULTZ,
Attorney on behalf of the Defendant.

Marybeth Evans, CSR
Official Court Reporter
200 S. Ninth - Room 724
Springfield, IL 62701
(217)753-6653
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EXHIBIT A

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: 2024-CF-909, People versus Sean Grayson.

Good afternoon, Mr. Grayson.

He appears in custody here with his attorney, Mr. Fultz. First Assistant State's Attorney Mary Beth Rodgers appears on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois.

Cause comes on for both an arraignment and a People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release.

Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The Grand Jury did convene yesterday and returned a True Bill on a five-count Indictment against this Defendant for three counts of First Degree Murder, one count of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and one count of Official Misconduct. I have provided a copy of the Indictment to counsel.

THE COURT: Mr. Fultz.

MR. FULTZ: Your Honor, we are in receipt of the five-count Indictment. I would waive formal reading.

I would just note that the parties are in agreement that the penalties on Counts I through III are the standard 20 to 60 years on First Degree Murder with

the 100 percent Truth-in-Sentencing with a 25-year to life enhancement for use of a firearm making the sentencing range on Counts I through III 45 years to life.

I would enter pleas of not guilty and ask that the matter be set on the Court's pretrial docket for August 26th, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well.

We'll show waiver of the formal reading of the Indictment, enter a plea of not guilty for you today, Mr. Grayson. We will show the agreement -- the sentencing range as outlined by Mr. Fultz. I'll enter a Pretrial Discovery Order, and I have been assigned to this case, and we will set it on the pretrial call of August 26th at 9:00 in the morning.

The next matter to take up is the People's Verified Petition to Deny the Defendant's Pretrial Release.

I have read the petition. I have reviewed -- the parties agree that People's Exhibit "A" would be submitted under Protective Order. I have reviewed that. I am giving that to the clerk under Protective Order as well, and, Ms. Rodgers, do you want to speak to your petition?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The facts in the petition, I believe, are the relevant facts that this Court should be considering when deciding, one, if this Defendant committed a detention-eligible offense, two, if this Defendant does pose a risk to a person or persons or the community in general, and then, three, if there is any condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the risk posed by this Defendant.

Your Honor, as to the first assessment this Court must consider is whether or not this Defendant has committed a -- or is charged with a detention-eligible offense, and the answer is yes.

The Grand Jury did return that Indictment that included three counts of First Degree Murder which is very clearly laid out in the Pretrial Fairness Act as an offense that is eligible for detention, and, Your Honor, there is clear and convincing evidence not just that he is charged with this but that he has committed this offense.

The relevant facts -- and I will keep it kind of high level, I know that the Court has reviewed People's Exhibit "A", are that Ms. Massey called 9-1-1. She needed help, and this Defendant and another deputy

responded to her home, and in ascertaining if there was a crime having been committed outside of her home as reported from dispatch, they determined, no, there was not a crime, and at no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Nevertheless, this Defendant and the other deputy did enter Ms. Massey's home. It was noticed that there was a pot on a stove in a separate room of the home boiling or at least over an open flame on the stove. This Defendant did notice that. He was fine with Ms. Massey going into the other room to turn off the stove, remove the pot so there wasn't any accidental fires.

The other deputy during this time was doing a protective sweep of the house to make sure that there was no one else there, to make sure that there wasn't anything else dangerous, and there was no danger noted in the home by that other deputy.

After Ms. Massey removed the pot of water, she made a statement that this Defendant took to be concerning. His response to that statement was not to ask her to put the pot down. His response to that statement was to scream at her to put the pot down and threatened to shoot her. She did put the pot down, however, he did remove his firearm from its holster and

pointed it at Ms. Massey.

After a firearm was pointed at her, Ms. Massey put her hands up in the air and ducked behind the counter that was already separating her and the Defendant. There was quite a distance between this Defendant and any real or perceived threat, and instead of utilizing that distance, this Defendant instead closed the gap between him and Ms. Massey.

At this time and as seen in People's Exhibit "A", he then yells at her again and fires three times. One of those rounds did strike her in the face and she did die as a result of that gunshot wound.

This Defendant had a lot of options in those moments, the last moments of Ms. Massey's life. He did have less than lethal force on his duty belt. On his vest, he did have a taser. He chose specifically not to utilize that.

After the death of Ms. Massey, the Illinois State Police investigated the officer-involved shooting at the request of the State's Attorney's Office. An independent expert in the use of lethal force was consulted, and they did provide a report that is People's Exhibit "B", and in that report and as has been echoed by the Indictment given by the Grand Jury, this

Defendant was not justified in his use of deadly force.

He likened the scenario to an officer putting himself unnecessarily in front of a moving car and then being afraid that the car is going to hit him and using lethal force. This Defendant put himself in not even harm's way, in the perception of harm's way, and then decided purposefully to utilize lethal force.

The Defendant clearly disregarded his training as a law enforcement officer, and there is no condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the threat that this Defendant poses to the community.

I admit that he scored only a three on the Pretrial Risk Assessment. That puts him in the low category, however, this is just one tool that the Court has to consider.

The Court also has to consider the Defendant's own actions, in particularly, not just the actions of this Defendant choosing purposefully to use lethal force, but the actions this Defendant then took afterwards. At no point did this Defendant render aid to Ms. Massey. The other deputy did. At no point did this Defendant show anything but callousness towards the human life.

The Defendant's lack of judgment which is so

far outside of societal norms demonstrates that there is no condition or combination of conditions that can protect the community. These are based on the articulable facts of the case before the Court today.

So, not only is there clear and convincing evidence that he has committed a detention-eligible offense, there is clear and convincing evidence that he is a risk to the community and that is set forth in the factors that this Court is to consider that there is a firearm involved, that a life was taken, the age and physical characteristics of the Defendant. He is over six feet tall, over 200 pounds. Ms. Massey was much smaller in size.

So, taken as a whole, the articulable facts of this case, this Court should grant the People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release and order this Defendant detained pending trial.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Rodgers.

Mr. Fultz, on behalf of Mr. Grayson.

MR. FULTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

With regard to what the Court must consider, I want to start with the legal framework that the Court is required to consider when making their decision.

As the Court is aware under what we commonly call the Pretrial Fairness Act, every Defendant is presumed eligible for release, and under that presumption, it can only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence by the State that, one, proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant committed a detainable offense, which we would stipulate First Degree Murder is an enumerated detainable offense under the statute, so, they have met that burden, and, two, the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or community based on the specific articulable facts of the case, and, three, even if Number 2 is met, no combination of conditions can mitigate against the threat the Defendant poses to the safety of any person or the community.

You have before you a 30-year-old Defendant. He has owned his own home for the last four years. He lives there with his fiancee. They are set to be married in October.

Mr. Grayson graduated from North Mac in 2013 at which time he enrolled in the Army and was in the Army for three years before he was honorably discharged as a Private First Class.

His law enforcement career includes a year of

service to Virden and Pawnee, another year of service to the community of Auburn, a year at the Logan County Sheriff's Department, and currently one-and-a-half years at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office. That service ended yesterday when Sheriff Campbell terminated him.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson -- and, Judge, I want to make a record that Mr. Grayson has waived any HIPPA concerns for me to discuss these matters with you.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer. In November of 2023 as a result of that cancer, he was hospitalized for approximately a month-and-a half at St. John's Hospital at which time a colostomy was performed. He currently has an ostomy bag and that ostomy bag is set to be removed by surgery within the next next couple of months.

I would note that overnight, Mr. Grayson while in custody did have a medical incident that required calling in someone to assist with his ostomy bag which had burst, and I would submit to the Court that this case may take some time to resolve, and that would be a significant burden on the county jail wherever he is held in terms of trying to ensure the safety of the jail and also assure his medical concerns are attended to.

We firmly believe that there are a number of conditions that the Court can put in place that would certainly meet the criteria that the Court must find in Paragraph 3 in terms of the State not being able to meet their burden by clear and convincing evidence. That combination of conditions would be shall not possess any firearm or other dangerous weapons. Those have already been removed from his home. Shall not use any intoxicating or controlled substances, shall refrain from the use of alcohol, shall undergo a mental health evaluation and complete all treatment, sign any necessary releases so the pretrial services can confirm his compliance, and, lastly, submit to 24-hour seven-day a week electronic monitoring.

I am aware, Your Honor, that the Court was instructed by a recent appellate case, People versus Romine, 2024 IL App. (4th) 240321. Your Honor, I think this case is easily distinguished from Mr. Romine's case in that in that particular case, after the incident occurred, Mr. Romine did everything to hide and obstruct the fact that the incident had occurred, starting with leaving his mother deceased in the home, disappearing.

At some point after family and friends called wondering where -- why they hadn't heard from his

mother, the police performed a welfare check. They called the Defendant. The Defendant told them that she was alive and well and they should knock on a particular window and she would answer. Of course, that was not true. The police did that. They called him again. They said he couldn't get to the scene because he was intoxicated. He also refused assistance to get there, and then he tried to destroy his phone.

The police entered the house, found his mother deceased, and tracked his car to an address in Springfield where they tried to stop him. He didn't immediately stop and instead through an assault rifle out of the truck.

Your Honor, this incident happened on July 6, 2024, 11 days ago, 12 days ago now. He was arrested yesterday. In that 11-day period, he made no attempt to flee the jurisdiction. He did nothing other than remain in his home for 11 days until the arrest warrant was issued yesterday. He was notified the Indictment had been returned and the arrest warrant had been issued, and he surrendered to the Sangamon County Jail in less than a half-an-hour of his own volition.

I submit to the Court that the State has not met its burden by clear and convincing evidence that

there is no set of conditions that would ensure the safety of the community.

Your Honor, I would say in finishing up my arguments, I understand that this is a difficult case, and I understand that there is a extreme public interest in this case, but, Your Honor, this is the framework that the General Assembly gave us to work with as of September of 2023. We may not like it, but that's the framework we are required to decide detention or release within, and I submit the State simply has not met their burden.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Fultz.

I appreciate the arguments and pleadings by counsel on both sides.

Based off of the video which was, like I say, presented by both -- counsel from both sides under the Protective Order, based off of that, based off the People's verified petition, the arguments of counsel, all of the statutory factors which I will go through here in a moment, the People's petition is granted, and the Defendant will be detained under the dangerousness standard of the act while awaiting trial.

First, the State has met its burden by clear

and convincing evidence that the proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant has committed a detainable offense.

Here, the actions described in the Indictment are on video, and the State has met its burden on that first prong.

Secondly, the State has proved by clear and convincing evidence the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the community based off specific articulable facts of this case including the Defendant is known to possess firearms as was the case in this instance.

The victim here was in her own home unarmed of a slight build meaning she was no physical threat to the Defendant. She had called 9-1-1 asking for help. The Defendant arrives as a trained and sworn officer with an additional law enforcement officer, and he had a weapon. Despite his level of control, the impulsivity of the Defendant led to the charges in this case.

Based on review of the video, this was such a departure from the basic expectation of a civil society and societal norms regarding the safety of others that the State has met its burden to demonstrate he is a real and present threat to the community.

Lastly, the State has shown that no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate this threat.

Here, the Defendant is a sworn officer who took an oath to protect the community. He knew or should have known that he was being recorded, was standing next to a Sheriff's deputy, and still fired a weapon at an unarmed woman from across the room. If a police officer being right next to you recording you and having gone through personally hours of training and taking an oath cannot prevent the Defendant from acting in such a way, I can think of no conditions or set of conditions that would sufficiently mitigate the threat.

Furthermore, the Defendant's comments about the victim before and after the shooting including directing an officer not to give aid and disparaging remarks made about the victim are so out of bounds of societal norms that it suggests that there's no condition that would be sufficient. Simply no longer working as a police officer or home confinement or electronic monitoring or any other conditions that are oftentimes used cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way.

People's petition is granted. Defendant is to remain detained.

Cause remains set for August 26th -- no, no, no. No, no, no. No outbursts in any direction.

Anything further today, Mr. Fultz?

MR. FULTZ: No.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything further, Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: No, Your Honor.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

(Conclusion of today's proceedings.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I, Marybeth Evans, an Official Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had on the hearing in the above-entitled cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before RYAN M. CADAGIN, Judge of said proceedings.

Marybeth Evans

Marybeth Evans

Official Court Reporter

Dated this 23rd day

of July, 2024.

Exhibit B

Medical Information Impounded

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 08, 2024

Entry on Defendant's Motion for Relief

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

JOHN MILHISER

On the following date: 08/08/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above: Yes

Sent by electronic mail:

To the following e-mail address:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: LH

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Open Report: Open

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	MARK WYKOFF

08/08/2024 Entry on Defendant's Motion for Relief
Motion or Petition Hearing on Aug 9, 2024 at 3:30 PM in Courtroom 7D
The Court is in receipt of Defendant's Motion for Relief pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 604(h). A hearing on this matter is hereby set for Friday, August 9, 2024 at 3:30pm in Courtroom 7d. At request of defense counsel, and with agreement of the Defendant, the Defendant will appear remotely by Zoom. Further, the Court is in receipt of Defendant's Motion for Substitution of Counsel. The State has no objection. Therefore, the motion is granted. Attorney Brian Sexton is terminated as co-counsel of record and Defendant's co-counsel of record are now Daniel Fultz and Mark Wykoff.
Judge: CADAGIN Clerk: PD

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 08, 2024

Entry on Defendant's Motion for Relief

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

MARK WYKOFF
919 SOUTH 8TH ST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

On the following date: 08/08/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above:

Sent by electronic mail: Yes

To the following e-mail address: wykofflawoffice@aol.com

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: LH

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Open Report: Open

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	MARK WYKOFF

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Judge: CADAGIN Clerk: PD

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE AND YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO REPORT TO COURT FOR:

	First Appearance
	Plea Hearing
	Preliminary Hearing
X	Pre-Trial
	Trial
	Sentencing Hearing
	Status Hearing
	Petition To Revoke Hearing
	Juvenile
	Other:

FILED
AUG 09 2024
26
Joseph B. Rocsol Clerk of the Circuit Court

HAS BEEN SET FOR 8/26/24 (date) AT 9AM (time) CADAGIN (courtroom Judge)

NAME: SEAN GRAYSON ☒ DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY

CASE: 2024-CF-000909

OTHER CASES:

YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON. FAILURE TO APPEAR MAY RESULT IN A BENCH WARRANT BEING ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST OR OTHER SANCTIONS.

NO ONE EXCEPT A JUDGE MAY CONTINUE YOUR CASE. THIS CASE IS ASSIGNED TO JUDGE: CADAGIN

YOUR ATTORNEY IS: MARK WYKOFF CLERK: PD

I acknowledge these conditions of release and affirm that I will comply with each condition. I understand that failure to comply with the conditions of release could result in sanctions and/or revocation of my pretrial release. I further understand that I am required to notify the clerk of the court of any change of address within 24 hours.

_____
Defendant's Signature

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE IN PERSON ON _____

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, _____ TO DEFENDANT AT _____

_____.

VIRGINIA PRETRIAL RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT - (VPRAI)

Instruction Manual – Version 4.3

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

4/2/2018 Amended

EXHIBIT C

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Table of Contents

Determining Eligibility 3
The Jail Admission Event (JAE) Module 5
Screening Tab 5
VPRAI (Step 1) Tab 7
Research Factors 7
Risk Factors 9
Scoring and Risk Level 12
VPRAI (Step 2) Tab 14
Praxis Recommendation 14
Staff Recommendation 15
Officer and Recommendation Date 16
VPRAI (Step 3) Tab 16
Conditions of Release 17
Additional Conditions of Release 17
Mitigating / Aggravating Considerations 17
Create VPRAI 17
VPRAI (Step 4) Tab 19
Court Decision 19
JAE Outcome 21
The Pretrial Placement Module 23
Step 1: Setup / Intake 23
Step 2: Placement Submodule 24
Step 3: VPRAI 25
Research Factors 25
Risk Factors 26
Praxis 26
Praxis – Supervision Levels 26
Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (Sample) 29
VPRAI – Manual Scoring Sheet 31

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Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) Instruction Manual

Determining Eligibility

A Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) examines a defendant's status at the time of the arrest related to any active community criminal justice supervision, current charges, pending charges, criminal history, history of failure to appear, history of violent convictions, employment, and history of drug abuse. For this reason, the instrument is primarily intended to be completed after arrest and presented at the first court appearance. Completing the instrument soon after arrest increases the likelihood of capturing the most accurate information as it relates to the defendant's status at the time of arrest. This instrument is also used to determine the supervision level for those defendants placed on pretrial supervision. This is discussed in more detail in the Pretrial Placement Module Section, beginning on page 21 of this manual.

A pretrial investigation must be conducted prior to completing the VPRAI. A VPRAI is required for all eligible defendants and should be completed by using the instructions provided in this manual. Defendants who do not meet all of the criteria listed below are not eligible for instrument completion as part of the pretrial investigation.

1. The defendant must be an adult – 18 years or older or a juvenile previously certified as an adult by the court.

2. The defendant must not be incarcerated for unrelated charges at the time of the arrest or when the new warrants were served.

3. The defendant must have been arrested for one or more jailable offense(s) – Class 1 and 2 misdemeanors (M1 and M2), unclassified misdemeanors (M9) that carry a penalty of jail time, or any felony. Class 3 misdemeanors, Class 4 misdemeanors, and Class 9 misdemeanors, which carry a maximum penalty of a fine, are not eligible for instrument completion.

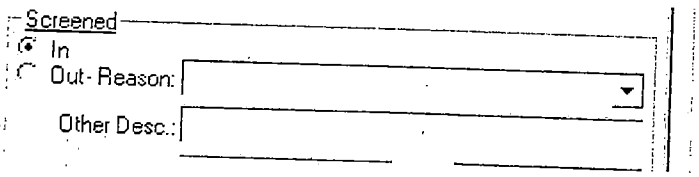
4. The defendant must have been arrested for a criminal offense (includes criminal traffic charges but NOT traffic infractions). Defendants charged solely with the following are not eligible:
   - ✓ Civil offense
   - ✓ FTA or capias due to an underlying charge from a civil court
   - ✓ Fugitive warrant/warrant of extradition

The VPRAI is automated and contained in the Pretrial and Community Corrections Case Management System (PTCC). The appendix contains a sample of a completed instrument created using sample data. The VPRAI can only be created after completing the Screening, VPRAI (Step 1), VPRAI (Step 2), and VPRAI (Step 3) tabs contained in the Jail Admission Event Module (JAE) of PTCC.

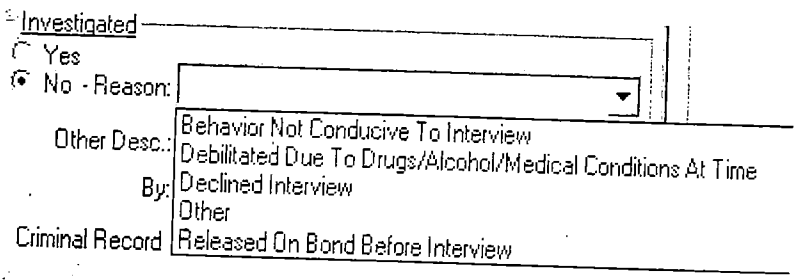
The Jail Admission Event (JAE) Module

Screening Tab

This tab will be completed to determine whether a defendant will be investigated. Based on the information gathered, the defendant will be "screened in" or "screened out."



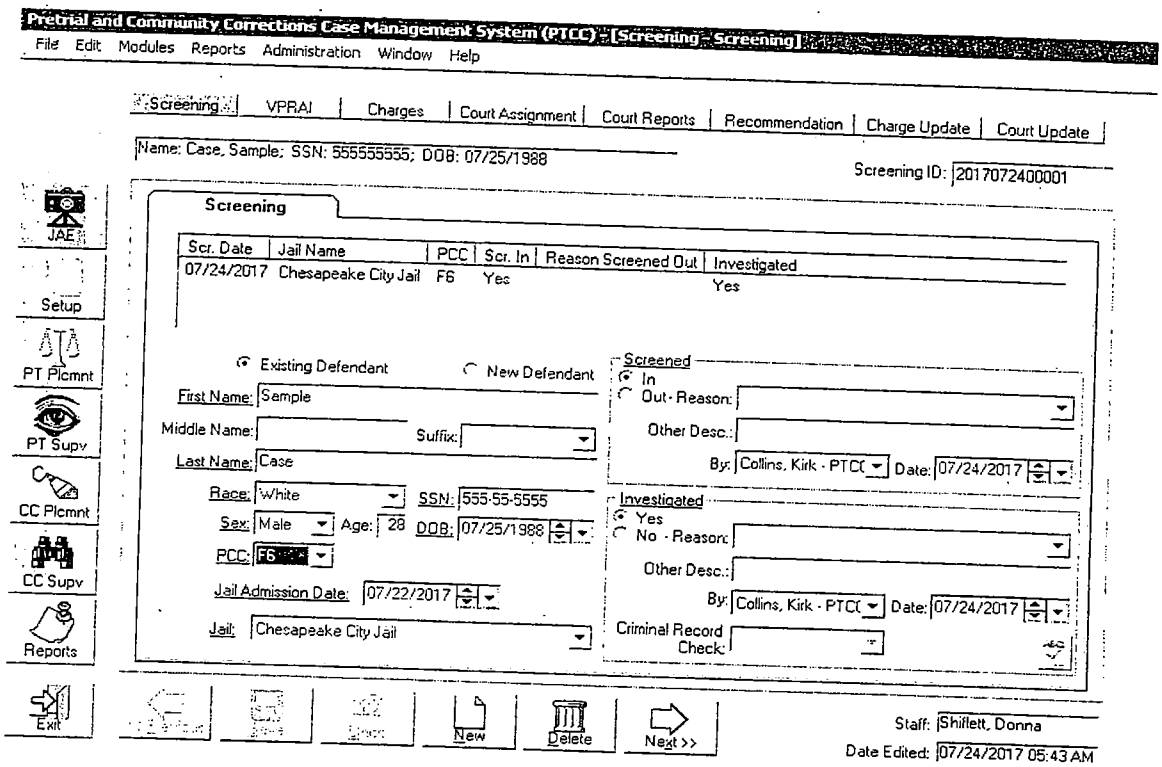
Selecting "screened out" indicates the defendant is not eligible for a VPRAI for one of the following reasons: Detainer(s), Drunk in Public, Federal / U.S. Marshall's Office Hold(s), J&DR Court Juvenile Defendant, Parole Violation, or PB-15. Selecting "screened in" indicates the defendant is awaiting bail and eligible for a VPRAI. For any defendant who is eligible but is NOT investigated, select a reason from the dropdown. If "Other" is selected, enter a description in the appropriate field.



In the Screening tab, the following information is required for the VPRAI: First Name, Last Name, Race, Social Security Number (SSN), Sex, Date of Birth (DOB), Primary Charge Classification (PCC), Jail Admission Date, Jail, Screened, and Investigated (see Figure 1).

The defendant is eligible for a VPRAI when "Screened" = "in" and "Investigated" = "yes." If "yes" is selected, a VPRAI must be completed.

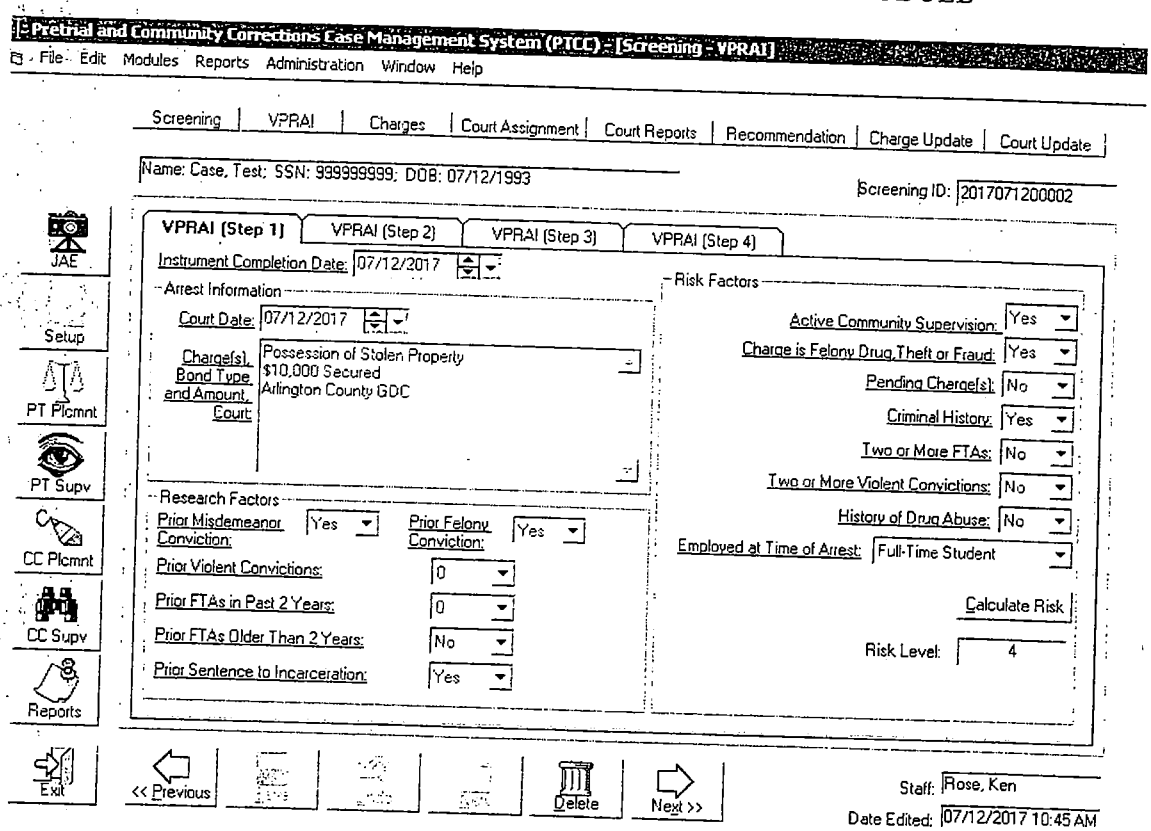
FIGURE 1. SCREENING TAB IN JAIL ADMISSION EVENT MODULE (JAE)



VPRAI (Step 1) Tab

All of the information on VPRAI (Step 1) tab is required: Instrument Completion Date, Arrest Information, Research Factors, and Risk Factors (see Figure 2). The Risk Level is a calculated field, which resides on this tab.

FIGURE 2. VPRAI (STEP 1) TAB IN THE JAE MODULE



Research Factors

Research factors are collected for ongoing VPRAI validation and research. Responses to these research factors are entered in the appropriate sections on the VPRAI (Step 1) Tab (see Figure 2) in the JAE Module. Guidance for selecting accurate responses to the factors is provided below.

1. Prior Misdemeanor Conviction
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has at least one adult misdemeanor conviction in the past.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant has no misdemeanor conviction in the past.

2. Prior Felony Conviction
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has at least one adult felony conviction in the past.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant has no felony conviction in the past

3. Prior Violent Convictions – Enter the number of adult convictions of violent offenses (count each conviction). For the purpose of the VPRAI, an act of violence is defined by §19.2-297.1 and includes any act that causes or intends to cause physical injury to another person. The type of violent offenses include, but are not limited to, Murder, Manslaughter, Mob related felonies, Kidnapping, Abduction, Malicious Wounding, Robbery, Carjacking, Arson, Assault, or Sex Offenses (Rape, Sexual Assault / Battery, Carnal Knowledge of a Child, Forcible Sodomy). Violent convictions for the purpose of the VPRAI also include misdemeanor charges of Simple Assault or Assault and Battery and Violation of Protective Orders.

   A conviction for **attempt** or being an **accessory *before* the fact** to commit any of the offenses listed above **is** counted. A conviction for **conspiring** or being an **accessory *after* the fact** to commit any of the offenses listed above is **not** counted.
   - ✓ Select "0"
   - ✓ Select "1"
   - ✓ Select "2"
   - ✓ Select "3"
   - ✓ Select "More"

4. Prior Failure to Appear in Past 2 Years – Enter the number of Failures to Appear, as an adult, within the past two years of the current arrest date. See the definition for failure to appear on page 10.
   - ✓ Select "0"
   - ✓ Select "1"
   - ✓ Select "2"
   - ✓ Select "3"
   - ✓ Select "More"

5. Prior Failure to Appear Older than 2 Years
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has a Failure to Appear, as an adult, from two or more years from the current arrest date.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant does not have a Failure to Appear, as an adult, from two or more years from the current arrest date.

6. Prior Sentence to Incarceration as an Adult
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant was sentenced to an active period of incarceration prior to the current arrest date.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant has not been previously sentenced to an active period of incarceration.

Risk Factors

The VPRAI calculates a defendant's level of risk based on eight (8) risk factors listed below. Responses to these risk factors are entered in the appropriate sections on the VPRAI (Step 1) Tab (see Figure 2) in JAE Module. Note that there are verifications for data accuracy on this screen. Responses entered for the research factors - Prior Misdemeanor or Felony Conviction, Prior Violent Convictions, and Prior Failure to Appear Pretrial in Past 2 Years and Older than 2 Years - are repeated in the corresponding risk factors - Criminal History, Two or More Failures to Appear and Two or More Violent Convictions. Guidance for selecting accurate responses to the risk factors is provided below.

1. Active Community Criminal Justice Supervision
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant was under any active community criminal justice supervision including state or local probation, parole, pretrial services, the alcohol safety action program (ASAP), drug court, day reporting, or any other form of active criminal justice supervision at the time of the arrest. Active supervision does NOT include unsupervised probation, a term of good behavior, or release on bail without pretrial supervision.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant was not on active community criminal justice supervision at the time of the arrest.

2. The charge is a felony drug, theft or fraud
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if any of the current charges are in any of the following felony categories: drug, theft or fraud.
   - ✓ Select "No" for all other felony and misdemeanor charges.

3. Pending Charge(s) – The defendant has a pending charge(s) when there is an open criminal case that carries the possibility of a period of incarceration, and the pending charge has an offense date that is before the offense date of the current charge. (A charge with a disposition of "deferred" is NOT counted as a pending charge.)

   EXCEPTION: If the current arrest is solely for a failure to appear, the underlying charge related to the failure to appear does not constitute a pending charge. In addition, if a defendant is arrested, remains incarcerated pending trial, and is served with new warrants, this does not constitute a pending charge.

- ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant had one or more charges for jailable offenses pending in a criminal or traffic (not civil) court at the time of arrest.
- ✓ Select "No" if the defendant had no pending charge(s) at the time of arrest.

4. Criminal History – A conviction for a criminal offense that carries the possibility of incarceration is counted as a prior criminal history. NOTE: A charge with a disposition of "deferred" is NOT counted as a conviction.
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has at least one adult misdemeanor or felony conviction in the past.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant has no misdemeanor or felony conviction in the past.

5. Two or More Failures to Appear – For the purposes of scoring the VPRAI, a failure to appear means any prior failure to appear for a criminal charge that (a) carries the possibility of incarceration, and (b) as a result of the failure to appear, the court issued a capias or equivalent. A failure to appear for a single court appearance is counted once regardless of the number of failure to appear charges related to the one court appearance. A failure to appear is not counted if there is confirmation that the defendant was in custody (jail or prison) when the failure to appear occurred. NOTE: FTA is counted regardless of the disposition.
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has failed to appear in court two or more times as an adult.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant has not failed to appear two or more times as an adult.

6. Two or More Violent Convictions – For the purpose of the VPRAI, an act of violence is defined by §19.2-297.1 and includes any act that causes or intends to cause physical injury to another person. This includes, but is not limited to, Murder, Manslaughter, Mob related felonies, Kidnapping, Abduction, Malicious Wounding, Robbery, Carjacking, Arson, Assault, or Sex Offenses (Rape, Sexual Assault / Battery, Carnal Knowledge of a Child, Forcible Sodomy). Violent convictions for the purpose of the VPRAI also include misdemeanor charges of Simple Assault or Assault and Battery and Violation of Protective Orders.

   A conviction for attempt or being an accessory *before* the fact to commit any of the offenses above **is** counted. A conviction for conspiring or being an accessory *after* the fact to commit any of the offenses is **not** counted.
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the defendant has two or more prior violent convictions as an adult.

- ✓ Select "No" if the defendant does not have two or more prior violent convictions.

7. Employed at the Time of Arrest – Enter the employment status at the time of arrest. *Employment* includes part- or full-time as long as the defendant worked regularly and consistently for a minimum of 20 hours per week. A defendant who is not employed but is enrolled in high school or is attending college fulltime is considered a *student*. A defendant who is not employed but is considered a *primary caregiver* if he or she is responsible for, and consistently cares for, at least one dependent child (under the age of 18) or disabled or elderly family member, living with the defendant at the time of arrest. A defendant who is not employed but is receiving retirement benefits or retirement savings is considered *retired*.

   Select the appropriate status from the following dropdown items:
   - ✓ Employed
   - ✓ Full-time Student
   - ✓ Primary Caregiver
   - ✓ Retired
   - ✓ None

8. History of Drug Abuse – For the purpose of the risk assessment, drug abuse includes any illegal or prescription drugs and does not include alcohol. Consideration should be given to the information provided by the defendant, criminal history, information contained in supervision records, and any information provided by references regarding drug abuse (**excluding alcohol**).

   Examples: Indications of history of drug abuse could include (a) previously used illegal substance(s) repeatedly, distinguishing from short-term experimental use; (b) admits to previously abusing illegal or prescription drugs; (c) the criminal history contains drug related convictions; and (d) the defendant received drug treatment in the past.

   Any one or a combination of the factors above can be used to determine whether or not the defendant has a history of drug abuse.
   - ✓ Select "Yes" to indicate the defendant has a history of drug abuse.
   - ✓ Select "No" if the defendant does not have a history of drug abuse.

Scoring and Risk Level

After selecting responses to the eight risk factors, the risk level will be automatically calculated in PTCC by selecting the *Calculate Risk* button. The defendant's Risk Level is identified as one of the following six levels: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. See Figure 3 below.

FIGURE 3. VPRAI (STEP 1) TAB IN THE JAE MODULE: CALCULATE RISK

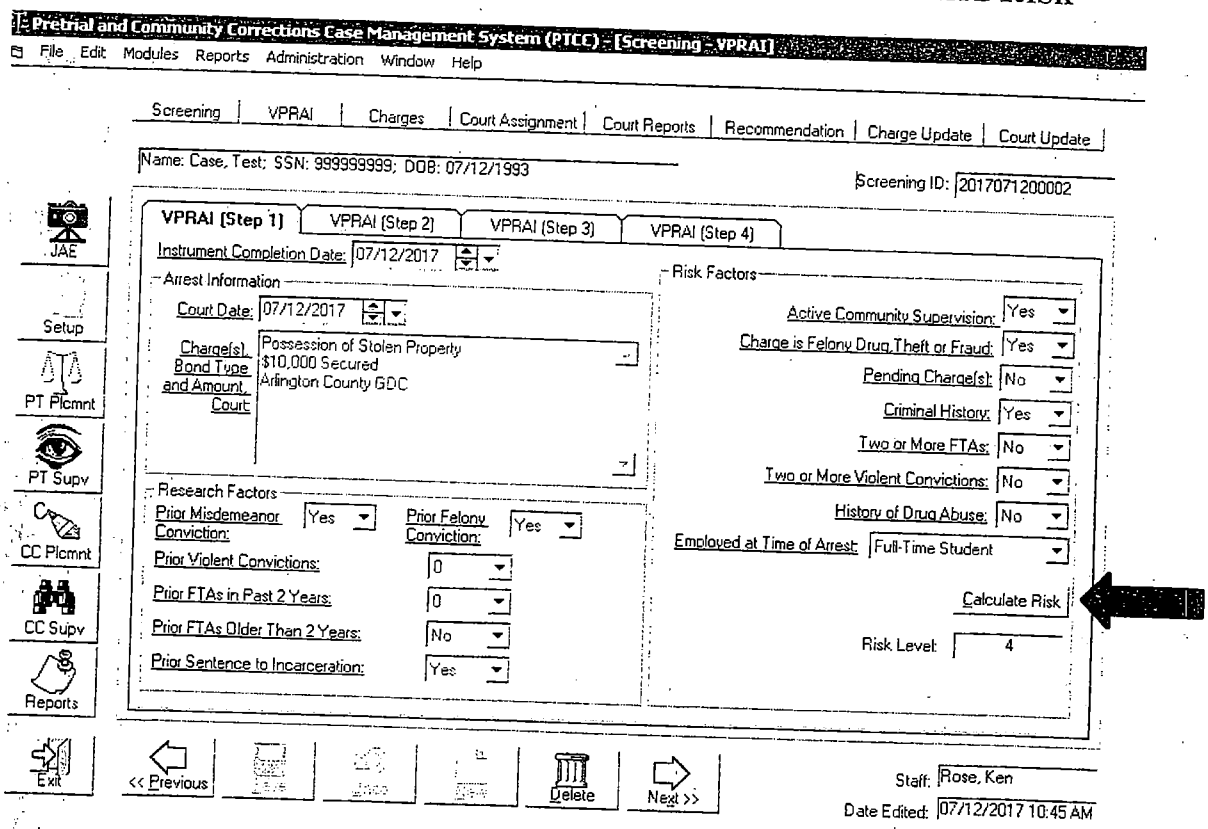


TABLE 1. VPRAI: WEIGHTED RISK FACTORS

Based on the odds ratio of each risk factor's ability to independently predict the likelihood of any pretrial failure, each risk factor has been weighed to maximize predictive value of the VPRAI.

Risk Factor	Points
Active community criminal justice supervision	2
Charge is felony drug, felony theft, or felony fraud	3
Pending charge(s)	2
Criminal history	2
Two or more failure to appear	1
Two or more violent convictions	1
Unemployed at time of arrest	1
History of drug abuse	2
Total Possible Score	**14**

TABLE 2. VPRAI: RISK LEVEL BASED ON CALCULATED SCORE

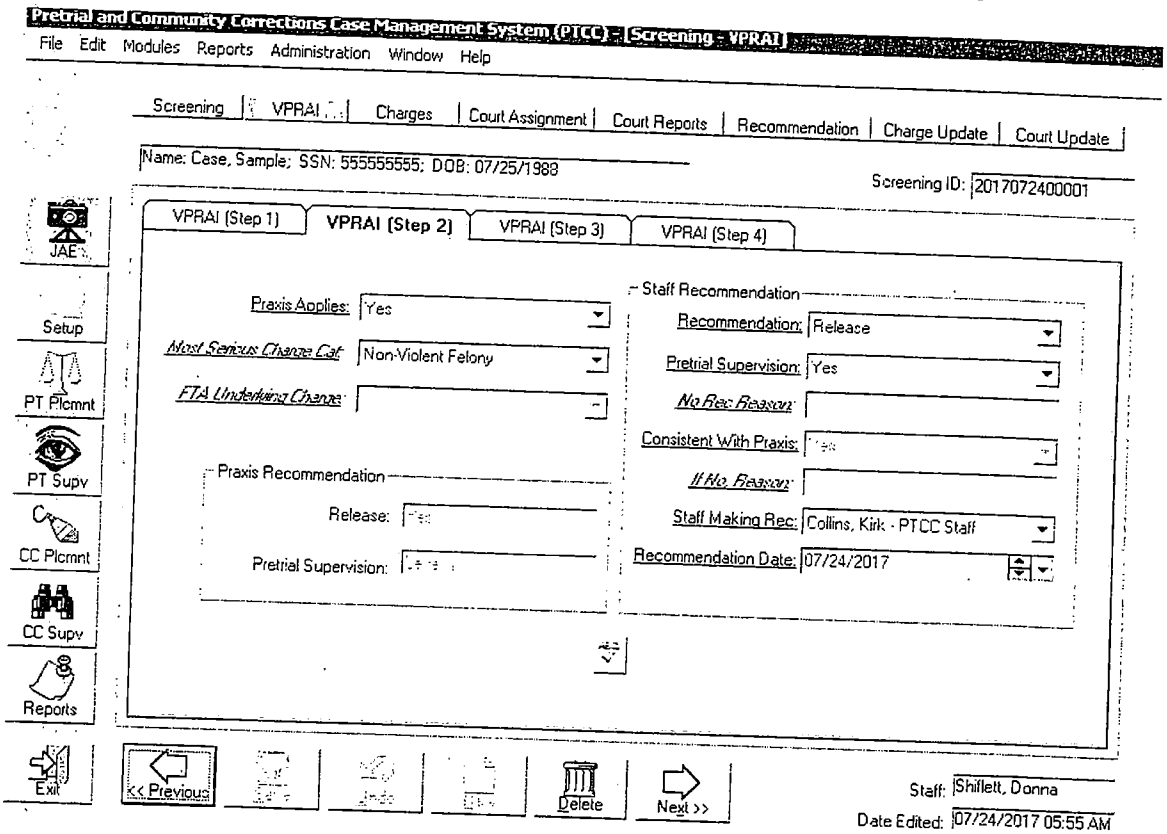
The defendant's total score on the VPRAI will identify their level of risk.

VPRAI-R Score	Risk Level
0 - 2	Level 1
3 – 4	Level 2
5 – 6	Level 3
7 – 8	Level 4
9 – 10	Level 5
11 - 14	Level 6

VPRAI (Step 2) Tab

The following information, described below, will be entered in the VPRAI (Step 2) tab to apply the pretrial decision-making matrix, the Praxis. See Figure 4 below.

FIGURE 4. VPRAI (STEP 2) TAB IN THE JAE MODULE



Praxis Recommendation

Section 1

The defendant's current charge(s) will determine whether the Praxis applies. The Praxis applies to the following charge categories: Violent Felony or Firearm, Violent Misdemeanor, Non-Violent Felony, Driving under the Influence, and Non-Violent Misdemeanor. It does not apply to Murder, Homicide, Manslaughter or an attempt to commit any of these crimes. Other charges that are not Praxis eligible are Probation Violation, Contempt of Court, and Escape.

- ✓ Select "Yes" if the Praxis does apply.
- ✓ Select "No" if the Praxis does not apply.

If the Praxis does apply, determine the most serious charge category and select from the following dropdown options:

- ✓ Violent Felony / Firearm[1]
- ✓ Violent Misdemeanor
- ✓ Non-Violent Felony
- ✓ Driving Under the Influence
- ✓ Non-Violent Misdemeanor
- ✓ Failure To Appear[2] – If selected, indicate the primary charge category for the underlying charge:
  - o Violent Felony / Firearm
  - o Violent Misdemeanor
  - o Non-Violent Felony
  - o Driving Under the Influence
  - o Non-Violent Misdemeanor

Section 2

The Praxis Recommendation will automatically fill based on the pretrial decision-making matrix. Based on the information entered into PTCC, a recommendation about release and pretrial supervision will be auto-filled. The recommendation in the "Release" field is either "yes" or "no." If release is recommended, the appropriate level of supervision will be displayed in the "Pretrial Supervision" field. If release is not recommended, the "Pretrial Supervision" field is "no."

Staff Recommendation

After a review of this information, complete this section by selecting on of the following options:

- ✓ Release
- ✓ Detain
- ✓ No Recommendation

If "Release" is recommended, select whether pretrial supervision is recommended. If the value in the dropdown "no recommendation" is selected, list the reason(s) in the "No Rec Reason" field.

"Consistent with Praxis" is an automatic fill (yes or no) based on whether the Praxis Recommendation and the Staff Recommendation are in agreement. If the answer is "no," enter the reason for the override to the Praxis.

Note that the Praxis recommendation concurrence rate for each agency must be 85% or higher.

---

[1] Firearm offenses include any charge relating to possession, use, or manufacturing a firearm. Examples include shooting at a vehicle, discharging a weapon in a public place, brandishing, illegally carrying a concealed weapon, or removing or altering the serial number or other identification number on a firearm.

[2] If "Failure to Appear" is selected, identify the primary charge category for the underlying charge, and increase the preliminary risk level by one risk level.

Officer and Recommendation Date

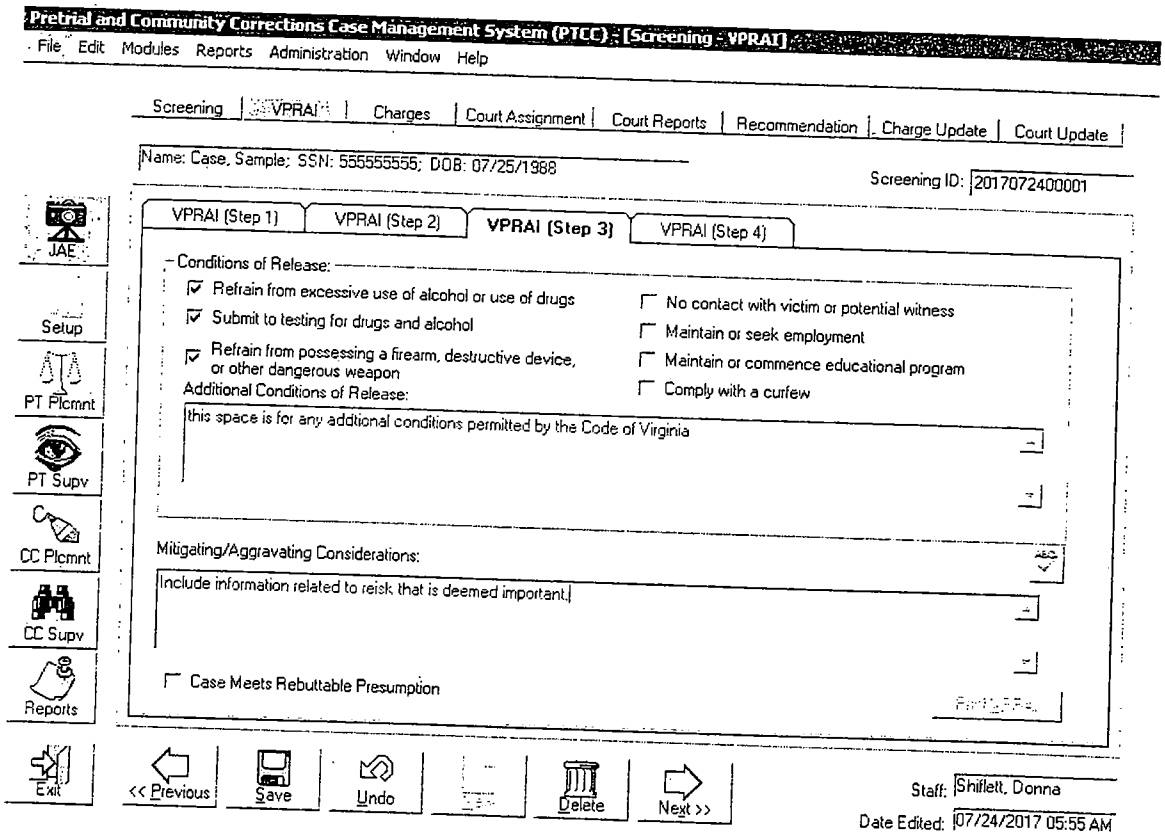
After completing this tab and making a recommendation. The officer will:

1. Select their name from the dropdown list.
2. Enter the date the recommendation was made.

VPRAI (Step 3) Tab

The VPRAI (Step 3) tab provides a list of seven (7) common conditions of release. This screen contains a text box to enter other conditions as permitted by §19.2-123 of the *Code of Virginia*, and a text box to enter information relevant to the staff recommendation. See Figure 5 below.

FIGURE 5. VPRAI (STEP 3) TAB IN THE JAE MODULE



Conditions of Release

Conditions of release can be recommended if the bail recommendation entered in the Staff Recommendation section is Release with or without pretrial supervision. There are seven (7) common conditions that can be recommended by selecting the box next to recommended condition (see Figure 5: VPRAI (Step 3) Tab in Jail Admission Event Module). The seven (7) common conditions include:

- ✓ Refrain from excessive use of alcohol or use of drugs;
- ✓ Submit to testing for drugs and alcohol;
- ✓ Refrain from possessing a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon;
- ✓ No contact with victim or potential witness;
- ✓ Maintain or seek employment;
- ✓ Maintain or commence educational program; and
- ✓ Comply with a curfew.

Additional Conditions of Release

Other conditions of release permitted by the *Code of Virginia* can be entered in this section of the VPRAI (Step 2) tab. These other conditions should be written with detailed specificity.

Mitigating / Aggravating Considerations

Include additional information related to risk that is deemed as important and should be considered by the judicial officer when making the bail decision is entered in the "Mitigating / Aggravating Considerations" section of this tab. Comments entered are intended to focus on risk, making note of any mitigating or aggravating factors that may not be reflected in the risk factors. Mitigating factors would be any information that may lessen the seriousness of any of the eight (8) primary risk factors that were identified for the defendant and any positive factors that are relevant to the bail decision. For example: "Although the defendant has a criminal history, it was 20 years ago." Aggravating factors would be any additional information identified during the pretrial investigation that may increase the level of risk and was not accounted for in the eight (8) primary risk factors. For example: "Although the defendant does not have a history of drug abuse, he has a long history of alcohol abuse."

Create VPRAI

The VPRAI Report is created by the PTCC software and uses information entered into the four tabs contained in the Jail Admission Event module of PTCC including the Screening, VPRAI (Step 1), VPRAI (Step 2), and VPRAI (Step 3) tabs. Select the "Print VPRAI" button to view and print the VPRAI Report.

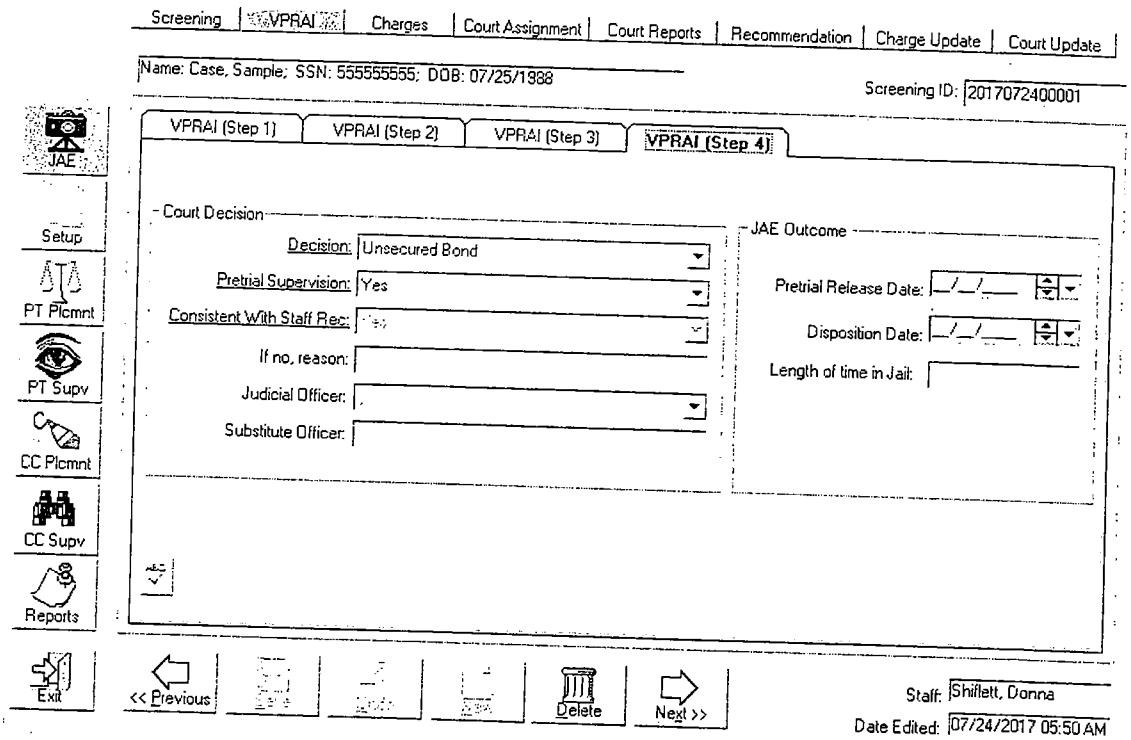
TABLE 3. PRETRIAL PRAXIS (MANUAL VERSION)

Risk Level	Recommendation	VPRAI: Charge Category				
		Non-Violent Misd.	Driving Under the Influence	Non-Violent Felony	Violent Misd.	Violent Felony or Firearm
Level 1	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
	Pretrial Supervision	No	No	No	No	Level II
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	No	As Needed
Level 2	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
	Pretrial Supervision	No	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Level III
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	No	As Needed
Level 3	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Monitor	Monitor	Level I	Level I	No
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	As Needed	N/A
Level 4	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Level I	Level I	Level II	Level II	No
	Special Conditions	No	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed	N/A
Level 5	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Detain	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Level II	Level II	Level III	No	No
	Special Conditions	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed	N/A	N/A
Level 6	Bail Status	Detain	Detain	Detain	Detain	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	No	No	No	No	No
	Special Conditions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VPRAI (Step 4) Tab

Details about the court decision are entered in the VPRAI (Step 4) tab. See Figure 6 below.

FIGURE 6. VPRAI (STEP 4) TAB IN THE JAE MODULE



Court Decision

Select from the options provided in the dropdown:

1. Decision – Select one from the following dropdown options:
   - ✓ Recognizance
   - ✓ Unsecured Bond
   - ✓ Secured Bond
   - ✓ Denied Bail
   - ✓ Bonded Out After Investigation, but Before Court
   - ✓ Case Disposed

2. Pretrial Supervision – Select one from the following dropdown options:
   - ✓ Select "Yes" if the judicial officer ordered pretrial supervision.
   - ✓ Select "No" if pretrial supervision is not ordered.

3. The field "Consistent with Staff Recommendation" is auto-filled based on the staff recommendation entered in VPRAI Step 2 and the Court Decision entered on this tab. See Table 4 for details on how it is determined whether the court decision is consistent with the staff recommendation.
   - ✓ If the field "Consistent with Staff Recommendation" is "no," enter the reason the judge did not follow the recommendation in the following field: "If no, reason."

TABLE 4. GRID FOR "CONSISTENT WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATION"

Consistent with Staff Recommendation Chart			
Staff Recommendation	Court Decision		Consistent with Staff Recommendation
	Decision	PTS	
Release without PTS	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	No	Yes
Release without PTS	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	Yes	No
Release without PTS	Denied Bail	N/A	No
Release with PTS	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	No	No
Release with PTS	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	Yes	Yes
Release with PTS	Denied Bail	N/A	No
Detain	Denied Bail	N/A	Yes
Detain	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	No	No
Detain	Recognizance, Unsecured, or Secured	Yes	No

4. Select the name of the Judicial Officer from the dropdown or

5. List the name of the Substitute Judicial Officer.

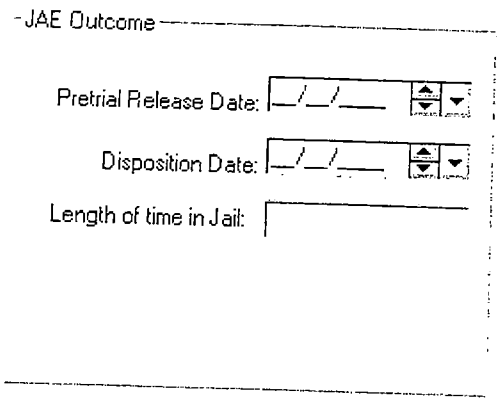
JAE Outcome

Information contained in the JAE Outcome section of this tab is for the purpose of tracking the outcome of the case. Following is an overview for completing these fields:

1. If the defendant was released from jail before trial, enter the release date.

2. If the defendant remained in jail until trial, enter the disposition date.

3. The "Length of Time in Jail" field will auto-fill based on the jail admission date entered on the Screening tab and the release date or disposition date entered on this tab.



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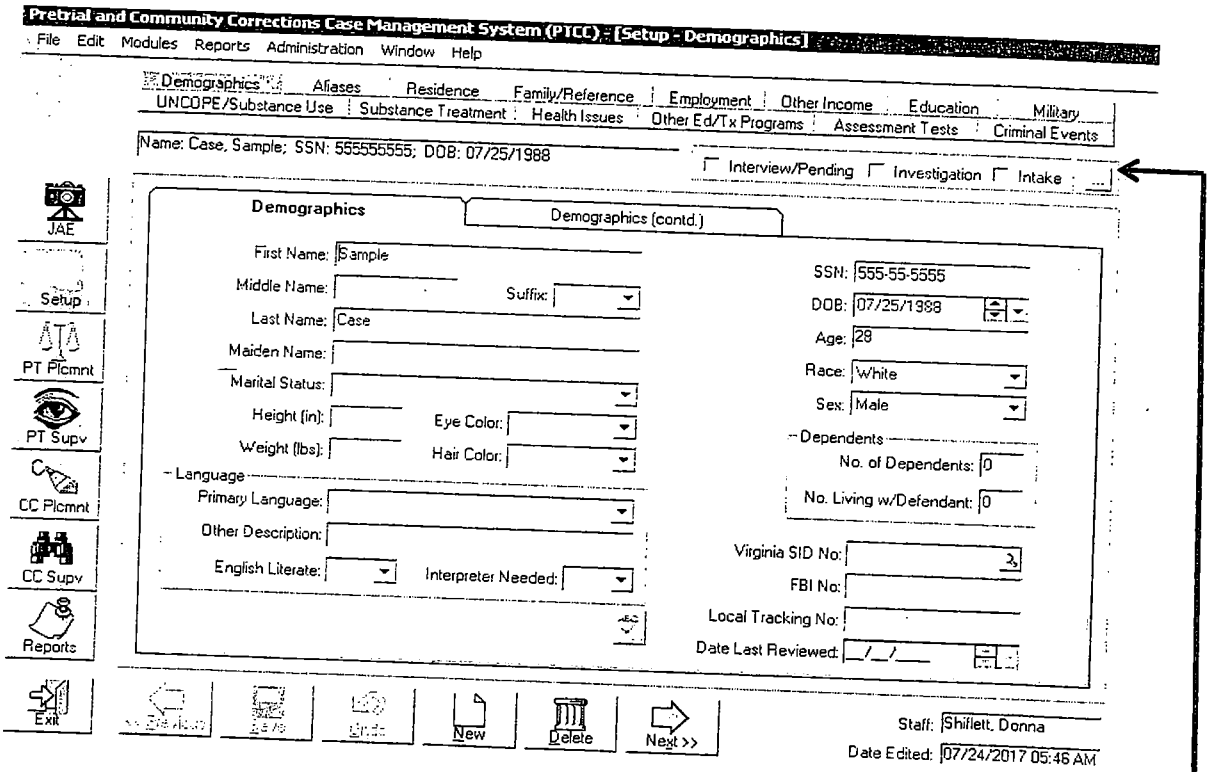
The Pretrial Placement Module

Information is entered in the Pretrial Placement Module for defendants ordered to pretrial supervision. If a risk assessment was not completed prior to the placement, a risk assessment must be completed under the VPRAI tab located in the Pretrial Placement Module.

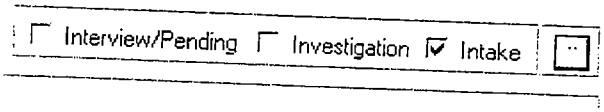
Step 1: Setup / Intake

Once a defendant is ordered to pretrial supervision, an intake must be completed in the Setup Module in PTCC. All information must be entered under each tab in the Setup Module before a placement is made "active." See Figure 7 below for the tabs included in the Setup Module.

FIGURE 7. SETUP MODULE



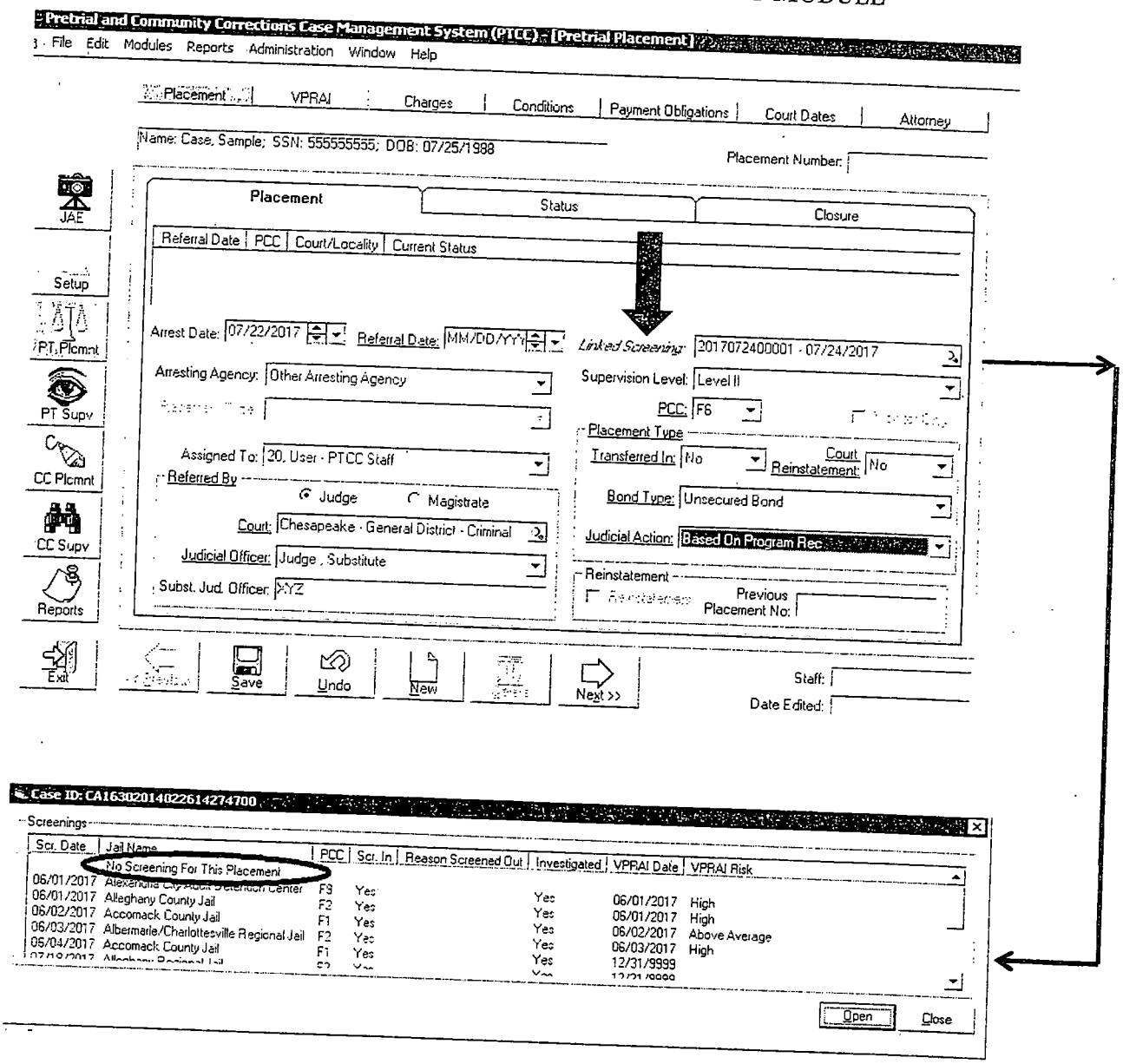
Check the "Intake" box if you are completing an intake.



Step 2: Placement Submodule

Information about the referral is entered under the Placement Tab in the Pretrial Placement Module. If a screening for this placement was previously completed, link the completed VPRAI to the corresponding screening by selecting it from the pop up box. If there is no screening related to this placement, select "no screening for this placement" from the pop up box. See Figure 8 below.

FIGURE 8. PLACEMENT TAB IN PT PLACEMENT MODULE

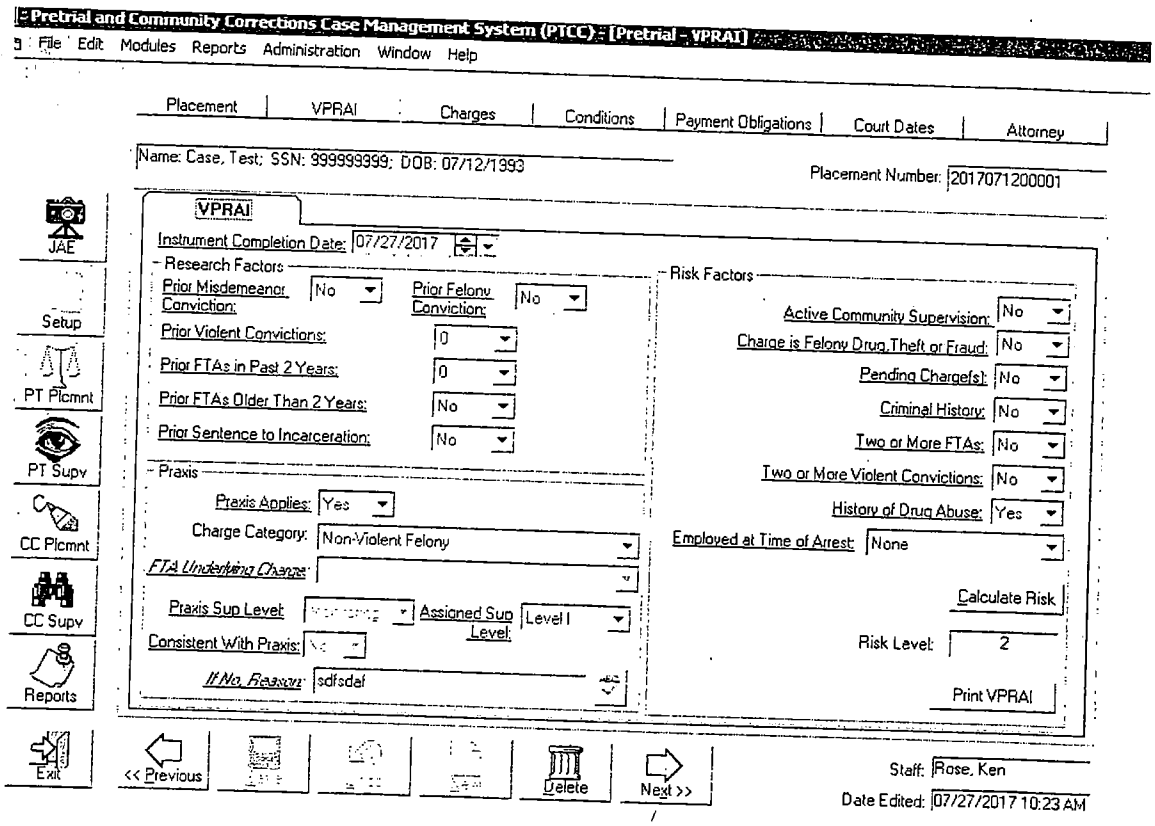


Step 3: VPRAI

If a risk assessment was not completed prior to the placement, it must be completed under the VPRAI tab located in the Pretrial Placement Module. See Figure 9 below. Completion of the risk assessment for all defendants placed on pretrial supervision is required. The VPRAI provides important information related to risk level and the appropriate level of supervision.

Do not enter any information in the Jail Admission Event Module for direct placements.

FIGURE 9. VPRAI TAB IN PT PLACEMENT MODULE



Research Factors

For further explanation on completing these fields, see the research factors under the Jail Admission Event Module section found on pages 7 - 9 of this manual.

Risk Factors

For further explanation on completing these fields, see the risk factors under the Jail Admission Event Module section found on pages 9 - 11 of this manual.

Praxis

The purpose of this section is to identify the supervision level for those defendants ordered to pretrial supervision. To determine whether the Praxis applies and an explanation on selecting the charge category, see the "Praxis Recommendation" section on pages 14 - 15 of this manual.

After selecting the charge category, the "Praxis Supervision Level" field will auto-fill with the supervision level. The officer will then select the "Assigned Supervision Level" from the following dropdown:

- ✓ Level I
- ✓ Level II
- ✓ Level III
- ✓ Monitoring

After selecting the "Assigned Supervision Level" the "Consistent with Praxis" field will auto-fill with a "yes" or "no" based on the officer selection and the displayed "Praxis Supervision Level." If the assigned supervision level is different than the Praxis supervision level, enter the justification for the override in the "If no, reason" field. Note that the Praxis supervision concurrence rate for each agency must be 85% or higher. In addition, the supervision level must not be adjusted up or down by more than one level. For example, a Praxis Level I could only be overridden to Monitoring or Supervision Level II.

Praxis – Supervision Levels

The defendant's calculated risk level and the current most serious charge category will determine the level of supervision for those ordered to pretrial supervision. Using the risk level identified by the VPRAI and selecting the current most serious charge category, defendants released with pretrial supervision will be assigned to one of four levels of supervision: Pretrial Monitoring, Level I, Level II, or Level III. See Table 5.

TABLE 5. PRETRIAL PRAXIS – SUPERVISION LEVELS (MANUAL VERSION)

Risk Level	Recommendation	VPRAI: Charge Category				
		Non-Violent Misd.	Driving Under the Influence	Non-Violent Felony	Violent Misd.	Violent Felony or Firearm
Level 1	Pretrial Supervision Level	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Level II
Level 2	Pretrial Supervision Level	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Level III
Level 3	Pretrial Supervision Level	Monitor	Monitor	Level I	Level I	Level III
Level 4	Pretrial Supervision Level	Level I	Level I	Level II	Level II	Level III
Level 5	Pretrial Supervision Level	Level II	Level II	Level III	Level III	Level III
Level 6	Pretrial Supervision Level	Level III	Level III	Level III	Level III	Level III

Based on the pretrial supervision level identified by the Praxis, defendants will be assigned to one of the following differential supervision strategies. See Table 6.

TABLE 6. DIFFERENTIAL SUPERVISION LEVEL OF THE PRAXIS

Level	Supervision Strategy
Pretrial Monitoring	✓ Court date reminder for every court date ✓ Criminal history check before court date
Pretrial Supervision Level I	✓ Court date reminder for every court date ✓ Criminal history check before court date ✓ Face-to-face contact once a month ✓ Special conditions compliance verification
Pretrial Supervision Level II	✓ Court date reminder for every court date ✓ Criminal history check before court date ✓ Face-to-face contact every other week ✓ Special conditions compliance verification
Pretrial Supervision Level III	✓ Court date reminder for every court date ✓ Criminal history check before court date ✓ Face-to-face contact every week ✓ Special condition compliance verification

Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument

Instrument Completion Date: 04/03/2018

First Name: John **Last Name:** Test **Court Date:** 04/03/2018

SSN: 568-15-2469 **Sex:** Male **Race:** White

DOB: 06/30/1972

Charge(s): Grand Larceny, Possession of Cocaine
$5,000 Secured Bond
General District Court

Recommendation	Primary Charge Category	Risk Level
Release With Pretrial Supervision	Non-Violent Felony	5

Pretrial services recommendation is consistent with the Praxis

Conditions of Release

- Refrain from excessive use of alcohol or use of drugs
- Submit to testing for drugs and alcohol
- Maintain or seek employment

Risk Assessment

- The defendant was on active criminal justice supervision at the time of arrest.
- The defendant has a current charge of felony drug, theft or fraud.
- The defendant did not have pending charges at the time of arrest.
- The defendant has prior criminal convictions.
- The defendant does not have 2 or more failure to appears.
- The defendant does not have 2 or more violent convictions.
- The defendant has a history of drug abuse.
- The defendant did not meet employment stability requirements at the time of arrest.

Mitigating/Aggravating Considerations

Although the defendant was not employed at the time of arrest, he will begin employment next week at American Auto Repair as a mechanic. This information was verified by the owner of American Auto Repair, John Sullivan.

Confidential - Further disclosure prohibited by law pursuant to §2.2-3706 and §19.2-152.4:3 of the Code of Virginia.

This recommendation is based on information available to the pretrial officer at the time this report was compiled. The Court may have additional information available to it when a bail/bond hearing is held, such as the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense, the number of charges that are pending, any juvenile criminal history, or the potential risk the defendant may pose to the alleged victim(s) or community.

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VPRAI – Manual Scoring Sheet

Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (Manual Scoring Sheet)

Instrument completion Date: _____ *Court Date:* _____
First Name: _____ *Last Name:* _____
SSN: _____ *DOB:* _____ *Race:* _____ *Sex:* _____

Charge(s): _____
_____

Research Factors:

1. Prior Adult Misdemeanor Conviction: ☐Yes ☐No
2. Prior Adult Felony Conviction: ☐Yes ☐No
3. Prior Violent Conviction: ☐0 ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 or ☐More
4. Prior Failures to Appear in Past 2 Years: ☐0 ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 or ☐More
5. Prior Failures to Appear Older than 2 Years: ☐Yes ☐No
6. Prior Sentence to Incarceration: ☐Yes ☐No

Risk Factors:

#	Risk Factors	# Points	Yes √	No √	Score
1	Active Community Criminal Justice Supervision	2 points			
2	Current Charge is Felony Drug, Felony Theft or Felony Fraud	3 points			
3	Pending Charge at Time of Arrest	2 points			
4	One or More Adult Criminal Convictions	2 points			
5	Two or more Failures to Appear	1 point			
6	Two or more Violent Convictions	1 point			
7	Unemployed at the Time of Arrest	1 point			
8	History of Drug Abuse	2 points			
	Total Score				

Score	0 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10	11 - 14
Risk Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6

The pretrial risk assessment identifies the defendant's risk level as _____

Praxis Recommendation:

1. Does the Praxis apply: ☐Yes ☐No
2. If yes, determine the most serious charge category:
   - ☐Violent Felony / Firearm
   - ☐Violent Misdemeanor
   - ☐Non-Violent Felony
   - ☐Driving Under the Influence
   - ☐Non-Violent Misdemeanor
   - ☐Failure to Appear (If selected, choose the primary charge category for the underlying charge)
     - ☐Violent Felony / Firearm (If selected, Risk Level = Current Risk Level – 1)
     - ☐Violent Misdemeanor (If selected, Risk Level = Current Risk Level – 1)
     - ☐Non-Violent Felony (If selected, Risk Level = Current Risk Level – 1)
     - ☐Driving under the Influence (If selected, Risk Level = Current Risk Level – 1)
     - ☐Non-Violent Misdemeanor (If selected, Risk Level = Current Risk Level – 1)

Risk Level	Recommendation	VPRAI: Charge Category				
		Non-Violent Misdemeanor	Driving Under the Influence	Non-Violent Felony	Violent Misdemeanor	Violent Felony or Firearm
Level 1	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
	Pretrial Supervision	No	No	No	No	Level II
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	No	As Needed
Level 2	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Release
	Pretrial Supervision	No	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Level III
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	No	As Needed
Level 3	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Monitor	Monitor	Level I	Level I	No
	Special Conditions	No	No	No	As Needed	N/A
Level 4	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Release	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Level I	Level I	Level II	Level II	No
	Special Conditions	No	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed	N/A
Level 5	Bail Status	Release	Release	Release	Detain	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	Level II	Level II	Level III	No	No
	Special Conditions	As Needed	As Needed	As Needed	N/A	N/A
Level 6	Bail Status	Detain	Detain	Detain	Detain	Detain
	Pretrial Supervision	No	No	No	No	No
	Special Conditions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Recommendation: √ the box below to indicate your recommendation

☐ Release without Pretrial Supervision	☐ Release with Pretrial Supervision	☐ Detain	☐ No Recommendation

Conditions of Release:

- _____
- _____

Mitigating / Aggravating Considerations:

_____

_____

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED
AUG 09 2024
Joseph B. Rocco Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, *Plaintiff*,	)	
v.	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON, *Defendant*.	)	

THE STATE'S RESPONSE TO THE DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR RELIEF PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 604(h)

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney in and for the County of Sangamon, Illinois, by First Assistant State's Attorney, Mary E. Rodgers, and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan T. Harding, and ask this court to deny Defendant's Motion for Relief and in support state the following:

BACKGROUND

A. The Criminal Charges and the State's Petition to Detain

On July 18, 2024, the Grand Jury indicted Sean Grayson (hereafter, "Defendant") with: three counts of First Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and Official Misconduct.

That same day, the State filed its Verified Petition to Deny Defendant Pretrial Release (hereafter, "petition"). *See* Ex. I. The State requested that "based upon the proffer the People request to make during the hearing on this petition pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(f)(2), the People pray that this Honorable Court deny the defendant pretrial release." *Id.* ¶ 5.

B. The Hearing on the State's Petition to Detain

On the afternoon of July 18, 2024, the Court conducted a hearing on the State's petition. *See* Ex. II, 2:2-10. The Court stated it had reviewed the petition and the body camera footage of the shooting. *Id.* at 3:19-22. The Court directed the parties to argue. *Id.* at 3:19-24.

First, the State argued the Defendant committed the detainable offense of First Degree Murder for shooting an unarmed Ms. Massey. *Id.* at 4:10-17. The State argued that the Defendant could have used less-than-lethal force such as the taser on his duty belt. *Id.* at 6:13-17. The State also cited to an Illinois State Police investigation wherein an independent expert concluded that the use of lethal force was not justified. *Id.* at 6:18-7:7.

As to dangerousness, the State argued "there is clear and convincing evidence that he is a risk to the community" because "there is a firearm involved, that a life was taken, the age and physical characteristics of the Defendant. He is over six feet tall, over 200 pounds. Ms. Massey was much smaller in size." *Id.* at 8:7-13.

Finally, as to whether any condition or combination of conditions could mitigate this dangerousness, the State emphasized that "[a]t no point did this Defendant render aid to Ms. Massey. The other deputy did. At no point did this Defendant show anything but callousness towards [a] human life." *Id.* at 7:20-23. Further, he "clearly disregarded his training as a law enforcement officer." *Id.* at 7:8-9. The State noted the relatively low risk score on his pretrial risk assessment, but argued "this is just one tool that the Court has to consider." *Id.* at 7:12-15. Ultimately, the State argued that his "lack of judgment which is so far outside the societal norms demonstrates that there is no condition or combination of conditions that can protect the community." *Id.* at 7:24-8:3.

In response, defense counsel noted that the Defendant owns a home; graduated college; previously served in the military; previously worked as a law enforcement officer; and had been

diagnosed with colon cancer. *Id.* at 9:16-10:16. Defense counsel argued "there are a number of conditions that the Court can put in place" such as not possessing any dangerous weapons, not consuming any intoxicating or controlled substances, undergoing a mental health evaluation, and "24-hour seven-day a week electronic monitoring." *Id.* at 11:1-14.

Following argument, the Court granted the petition. *Id.* at 13:16-23. Based upon the factual proffer and the video evidence, the Court found that the State had proven by clear and convincing evidence that the Defendant committed a detainable offense. *Id.* at 14:4-6. Second, that the Defendant was a threat to the community "based off specific articulable facts of this case including [that] the Defendant is known to possess firearms as was the case in this instance." *Id.* at 14:7-12. The Court emphasized that Ms. Massey was unarmed in her home and was no physical threat to the Defendant. *Id.* at 14:13-19. The Court found "this was such a departure from the basic expectation of a civil society and societal norms regarding the safety of others that the State has met its burden to demonstrate he is a real and present threat to the community." *Id.* at 14:20-24.

Lastly, the Court found that no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate his dangerousness. *Id.* at 15:1-2. The Court reasoned that "[i]f a police officer being right next to you recording you and having gone through personally hours of training and taking an oath cannot prevent the Defendant from acting in such a way, I can think of no conditions or set of conditions that would sufficiently mitigate the threat." *Id.* at 15:7-12. The Court further found that the Defendant's disparaging remarks about Ms. Massey and his failure to render medical care "are so out of bounds of society norms that it suggests that there's no condition that would be sufficient. Simply no longer working as a police officer or home confinement or electronic monitoring or any other conditions that are oftentimes used cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way." *Id.* at 15:13-22.

As such, the Court granted the petition. *Id.* at 15:23-24. Thereafter, a written Pretrial Detention Order was entered wherein the Court made the following factual findings:

> Defendant was a sworn officer with training and was accompanied by another officer. Defendant was aware or should have been aware he was being video recorded. Despite these safeguards and supervision from law enforcement, the Defendant still discharged his firearm against an unarmed woman. *He was in violation of his oath as a sworn officer, which is evidence he is not a good candidate to be in compliance with [any] conditions [of pretrial release].* He directed [a] law enforcement officer not to render aid, *which is counter to basic norms of public safety*. Defendant was not using his body camera until after the shooting. *Not being in compliance with body camera requirements is further evidence that points to him not being able to comply with conditions*. Defendant's characterizations of the victim after the shooting … are such a departure from the basic expectations of civil society that they are evidence of the Defendant's dangerousness and also that he could not comply with conditions [of pretrial release].

Ex. III, p. 2.

C. The Defendant's Motion for Relief

On August 8, 2024, the Defendant filed a motion for relief. In relevant part, defense counsel notes that his client would reside with his fiancé in Riverton, Illinois; he was "generally discharged" from the military; he previously served as a deputy sheriff; the Defendant had a significant medical procedure with a need for follow up care; all firearms have been removed from his home; he will not have access to firearms at work because he was terminated as a deputy sheriff; he would have no contact with the Massey family or otherwise commit criminal offenses; and he only scored a 3 on a 14 point scale on the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment. Mot., ¶¶ 15-28. Defense counsel argues that "a combination of conditions which could include the placement of the Defendant on house arrest with electronic monitoring, and/or authorization to leave his home only for specific productive reasons with curfew, would reasonably mitigate any threat Defendant may pose while on pretrial release, [which] would be less restrictive than detention, and justifies Defendant's release on pretrial release conditions." *Id.* ¶ 31.

D. New Evidence of Defendant's Criminal History

The Defendant was previously convicted of driving while intoxicated in 2015-DT-117 in Macoupin County. *See* Ex. IV. As a result of this conviction, the following evidence was returned to the Defendant: "All personal items including but not limited to firearms." *See* Ex. V. The firearms could be returned to the Defendant "upon showing of [a] valid FOID." *Id.*

The Defendant was subsequently convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol in 2016-DT-118 in Macoupin County. *See* Ex. VI.

APPLICABLE LAW

Pursuant to Section 110-6.1(a) of the Pretrial Fairness Act ("Act"), the State may file a verified petition to deny a defendant pretrial release. *See* 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a). "At the detention hearing, the State [bears] the burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that (1) 'the proof is evident or the presumption great that the defendant has committed' a detainable offense, (2) 'the defendant poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or persons or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case,' and (3) 'no condition or combination of conditions … can mitigate' that threat." *People v. Atterberry*, 2023 IL App (4th) 231028, ¶ 14 (quoting 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(e)).

ARGUMENT

The Court did not err when it granted the State's petition. As explained below, the proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant committed a detainable offense, the Defendant is a danger to the safety of the community, and no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate that threat.

1. The Defendant Committed the Detainable Offense of First Degree Murder

First degree murder is a detainable offense. *See* 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1.5); *People v. Russell*, 2024 IL App (1st) 240535-U, ¶ 59 ("First degree murder is a forcible felony and eligible

for pretrial detention"). The Defendant does not argue that the Court erred by finding that the proof is evident or the presumption great that he committed this detainable offense.

2. The Defendant is a Threat to the Safety of the Community

Second, the Defendant is a threat to the safety of the community. When determining dangerousness, the Court may consider a non-exhaustive list of factors, and a number of them apply to this defendant:

(1) The nature and circumstances of any offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence, involving a weapon, or a sex offense.

…

(4) Any statements made by, or attributed to the defendant, together with the circumstances surrounding them

(5) The age and physical condition of the defendant.

(6) The age and physical condition of any victim or complaining witness.

(7) Whether the defendant is known to possess or have access to any weapon or weapons.

725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(g) (emphasis added).

Here, the nature and circumstances of the case weigh heavily against release. The Court considered that Ms. Massey only weighed 110 pounds, while the Defendant is an able bodied police officer. The Court also considered that the Defendant is known to possess or have access to firearms. The Court noted, but did not necessarily attribute to these factors, statements made by the Defendant. The State argues that the statements made by the Defendant during this offense (profane remarks and offense comments regarding the victim) also demonstrate his dangerousness.

In his motion, the Defendant does not directly challenge this Court's finding on dangerousness. *See* Mot., ¶¶ 14-15. To the extent the issue is preserved, based upon the factors mentioned above, the Court did not abuse its discretion in finding that the Defendant is a danger to the community.

3. No Condition or Combination of Conditions can Mitigate this Threat

The Defendant argues that there were conditions of release that would mitigate his dangerousness. However, this argument is without merit because: (a) electronic monitoring, home confinement, and any other condition is not appropriate; (b) the Defendant' access to firearms is not dispositive; (c) the Defendant's medical condition is not critical; (d) the Defendant's Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment score is not controlling; and (e) the Defendant's reliance upon *Stock* and its progeny is misplaced.

a. *Electronic Monitoring and Home Confinement or any Other Conditions are Insufficient*

The Defendant argues that "a combination of conditions which include the placement of the Defendant on house arrest with electronic monitoring, and/or authorization to leave his home only for specific productive reasons with a curfew, would reasonably mitigate any threat." Mot., ¶ 31. However, these conditions are insufficient.

For example, in *People v. Thomas*, the defendant argued that home confinement with electronic monitoring would be sufficient to mitigate any threat. 2024 IL App (4th) 240248, ¶ 25. The Fourth District rejected this argument, reasoning as follows:

> Defendant treats electronic monitoring as a condition which is sufficient until proven otherwise; we see no support for that specific proposition in the law.
>
> Where available, electronic monitoring may well be a useful tool to guard against misconduct by a defendant who is released on conditions, *but this does not mean that electronic monitoring addresses every defendant's potential dangerousness in every case*. Electronic monitoring that is not linked to a geographic limitation provides extremely limited information: just the defendant's location. When coupled with a geographic limitation such as home confinement, electronic monitoring can help alert pretrial officers to a potential violation of that geographic limitation. *But any condition of release must be appropriately measured to meet the danger presented in each case*. Knowing that electronic monitoring might detect a failure to comply with conditions of release does not diminish concerns that a particular defendant appears to present a greater risk of noncompliance, especially if the consequences of noncompliance may be grave.

2024 IL App (4th) 240248, ¶¶ 25-26 (emphasis added).

In this case, the Court found that the Defendant's conduct was "so out of bounds of society norms that it suggests that there's no condition that would be sufficient. … *[H]ome confinement or electronic monitoring … cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way*." Ex. II, at 15:13-22 (emphasis added).

Further, the Court correctly found that the Defendant would be unable to abide by any conditions of release. "[A] defendant's release on conditions depends on the court having confidence that the defendant will *comply* with those conditions. *People v. Morgan*, 2024 IL App (4th) 240103, ¶ 40 (emphasis in original). The Defendant's inability to follow his oath of office and body camera training is evidence of his inability to abide by conditions of release. For example, in *People v. Patrick*, the defendant was charged with domestic battery while he was on mandatory supervised release. 2024 IL App (4th) 231146-U, ¶ 4. The State filed a petition to detain. *Id.* The defense attorney argued there were less restrictive conditions because his client "would comply with a no-contact condition of pretrial release." *Id.* ¶ 7. The trial court rejected this argument. *Id.* ¶ 8. On appeal, the defendant argued there were less restrictive conditions because "[a] no contact order with the victim, her residence, and work was enough to mitigate any safety concerns.." *Id.* ¶ 15. The Fourth District rejected this argument, reasoning that the "staying power of this willingness could be reasonably questioned." *Id.* ¶ 13. The appellate court further reasoned that "[b]ecause defendant demonstrated an inability to comply with the easy condition, the circuit court could reasonably conclude that he was unable to comply with the harder condition." *Id.*

Similar to *Patrick*, the Court found that the Defendant "was in violation of his oath as a sworn officer, which is evidence he is not a good candidate to be incompliance with [any] conditions [of pretrial release]." Likewise, the Court found that "not being in compliance with

body camera requirements is further evidence that points to him not being able to comply with conditions." The Court did not abuse its discretion in so holding. *See People v. Romine*, 2024 IL App (4th) 240321, ¶ 20 ("Ultimately, evidence of a defendant's charged conduct, even if it took place on a single occasion, may reflect such a departure from the basic expectations of civil society that it becomes difficult to predict the defendant's compliance with court orders—or even societal norms regarding the safety of others.") (emphasis added). Because the Defendant could not follow his oath of office and the body camera requirements of his department, he is likewise unable to abide by conditions of release.

The Court's finding was not an abuse of discretion, and was firmly grounded in the facts of this case. If a body camera is not sufficient to prevent this senseless crime, neither is home confinement, an ankle monitor, or any other condition.

b. *The Defendant's Access to Firearms*

The Defendant argues that "[a]ll firearms and other weapons have been removed from [his] home" and "he will no longer have access to weapons through his employment." Mot., ¶¶ 24-25. The Defendant argues that the Court erred in denying his pretrial release because home confinement with "removal of firearms from the home" would be sufficient "to mitigate such threat." *Id.* ¶ 2. Not so.

First, the Defendant does not provide any evidence that he *actually* surrendered all his firearms. Nor does he provide evidence that he surrendered his FOID card to the Illinois State Police. He does not explain whether his fiancé, the person with whom he will reside should he be released, has access to firearms. Further, as discussed above, the Defendant is unable or unwilling to abide by conditions of release. Thus, any condition that he not possess dangerous weapons is not dispositive.

Further, as seen by the "Order for Disposition of Evidence," the Defendant was in possession of a firearm when he committed the offense of driving while intoxicated. This speaks to his propensity for possessing firearms when he should not be. *See* Ex. V. Accordingly, the Court should find that the Defendant is unable or unwilling to abide by a condition that he not possess a dangerous weapon.

c. *The Defendant's Medical Condition was Appropriately Considered*

The Defendant argues he "had a significant medical procedure" and that "the Menard County Jail … does not have the medical staff with the capacity to provide necessary care for the Defendant." Mot., ¶ 23.

The Menard County Jail is more than competent to arrange follow up medical procedures and care as needed. The Defendant has not cited any evidence showing that his medical condition would suffer should he remain in pretrial confinement. In fact, there are thousands of inmates and pretrial detainees in this State with serious medical conditions that are being actively managed while incarcerated.

Regardless, the Defendant is still a danger whether or not he is undergoing treatment. This is evidenced by the commission of this crime while he was undergoing the same treatment. *See People v. Stewart*, 2024 IL App (4th) 231083-U, ¶ 21 ("Unmonitored inpatient treatment in Champaign, Illinois, would not mitigate this threat to Jacarrah, other persons, or the community.").

Lastly, the Court properly considered the Defendant's medical condition at the hearing on July 18, 2024. Ex. II, at 10:9-24. Thus, his medical condition is not pertinent.

d. *The Defendant's Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment is Not Controlling*

The Defendant's reliance upon his low score on the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment is without merit. "The court *may* utilize statewide risk-assessment tools to evaluate the likelihood of a defendant's appearances at future court proceedings or if the defendant poses a real and present

threat." *People v. Parker*, 2024 IL App (1st) 232164, ¶ 38 (emphasis added); *see* 725 ILCS 5/110-5(b) (providing that the court *may* utilize "a validated risk assessment tool"). The Court did not abuse its discretion merely because the Defendant scored a 3 on the 14-point scale set forth in the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment. *See, e.g.*, *People v. Erikkila*, 2024 IL App (4th) 231191-U, ¶ 10 (affirming denial of pretrial release for defendant who scored a 0 out of 14 on the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment). Thus, based upon the egregious facts of this case, the reliance upon the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment is without merit.

e. *The Defendant's Reliance upon Stock and its Progeny is Misplaced*

Relying upon *People v. Stock*, the Defendant argues that "the State relied almost exclusively on its factual proffer concerning the elements of the allegations, which did nothing to establish that no combination of conditions could mitigate the threat." Mot., ¶ 11. However, the reliance upon *Stock* and its progeny is misguided.

In *Stock*, the State charged the defendant with aggravated battery and filed a petition to deny pretrial release. 2023 IL App (1st) 231753, ¶ 4. The State proffered no facts nor made any legal argument as to why conditions of pretrial release would not mitigate his dangerousness. *Id.* ¶ 17. On appeal, the First District concluded the State failed to prove that no condition or combination of conditions could mitigate his threat. *Id.* ¶ 18.

Stock is factually distinguishable. Namely, in *Stock*, the prosecutor made no reference to whether conditions of release would mitigate the defendant's dangerousness. In this case, the State explicitly argued that no condition or combination of conditions could mitigate the Defendant's dangerousness due to his failure to follow his police training, his refusal to render medical care, and his "lack of judgment." This Court agreed, finding that the Defendant's failure to abide by his body camera requirements, violation of his oath as a sworn officer, and refusal to render medical

aid all demonstrated that "he could not comply with conditions." As such, the Defendant's reliance upon *Stock* is without merit.

Critically, *Stock* is of limited persuasive value because its rationale has been construed very narrowly. *Romine*, 2024 IL App (4th) 240321, ¶ 15 (agreeing with *Stock* only "to the extent that it held a bare consideration of the defendant's dangerousness, with absolutely no consideration of possible conditions of release, cannot justify pretrial detention under the Act's three-element framework."); *People v. Fugate*, 2024 IL App (4th) 240254-U, ¶ 38 ("We decline to accept any reading of *Stock* and its progeny that would conclusively prohibit a court, under the right circumstances, from relying solely on the nature of the charges to conclude that conditions of release would be inadequate to mitigate the threat posed by a defendant."); *People v. Carpenter*, 2024 IL App (1st) 240037, ¶ 14 (disagreeing with *Stock* because "[t]he nature and circumstances of the offense charged is the *prime* consideration in determining the conditions of release, if any, and in denying pretrial release, including in making the dangerousness determination.") (emphasis in original; internal citations omitted).[1]

Lastly, the Defendant relies upon *People v. Atterberry*, wherein the defendant was charged with the offense of traveling to meet a child. 2023 IL App (4th) 231028, ¶ 3. He otherwise had no criminal history. *Id.* ¶ 5. The State filed a petition to detain and focused exclusively on the alleged criminal activity. *Id.* ¶ 6. The trial court, based upon its experience with *other* sex offenders, found there were no conditions that could protect the children in the community. *Id.* ¶ 7. The trial court also believed that conditions of release were "loosely monitored" by pretrial services. *Id.* The Fourth District reversed, reasoning that a "court should not rule out pretrial release for a defendant

[1] Relying upon *Stock*, the Second District in *People v. Jones* reversed the trial court's order denying pretrial release when "the trial court's sole reason for finding that no conditions of pretrial release could mitigate the threat" was "the nature of one of the charged offenses." 2024 IL App (2d) 230535-U, ¶ 26. *Jones* is likewise distinguishable for the same reasons.

based on a general perception that conditions of release are loosely monitored." *Id.* ¶ 18. Likewise, the Fourth District emphasized that the trial court "never articulated why there is reason to believe *this particular defendant* would not comply with any conditions of release." *Id.* ¶ 19 (emphasis in original).

However, *Atterberry* is distinguishable because, in this case, the State focused on why *this* Defendant was a danger to the community and why no condition or combination of conditions could mitigate the threat. The Fourth District has also recognized that *Atterberry* is an outlier based upon the unique facts of that case. *See People v. Simpson*, 2024 IL App (4th) 240607-U, ¶ 43 (distinguishing *Atterberry* because the trial court there had "failed to, and refused to, consider and apply the proper statutory criteria").

Put simply, the rationale of *Stock* and *Atterberry* is not applicable. Neither the State nor (more importantly) this Court relied solely upon the "basic elements" of the offense. Nor did the State or the Court fail to address whether conditions of release could mitigate the Defendant's dangerousness. Instead, this Court properly considered all relevant factors when granting the State's petition.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore the State asks this Court to deny Defendant's Motion for Relief, and stand by its previous ruling granting the State's Petition to Deny Defendant's Pretrial Release.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Mary E. Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney

By: _____

Ryan T. Harding
Assistant State's Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that service of the foregoing was made to counsel of record on August 9, 2024 via electronic mail to:

Daniel L. Fultz
dfultz@bhslaw.com

Mark K. Wykoff, Sr.
mark@wykofflaw.com

By: _____

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

FILED
JUL 18 2024
Josh B. Reed
Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case No.: 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

THE PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney in and for the County of Sangamon, Illinois, by First Assistant State's Attorney, Mary E. Rodgers, and pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1, petition this Honorable Court to deny the above-named defendant pretrial release. In support thereof, the People state as follows:

1. In the above captioned matter, the defendant has been charged with **First Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and Official Misconduct.**

2. The defendant is charged with a forcible felony, or any other felony which involves the threat of or infliction of great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement and the defendant's pretrial release poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or persons or the community. See 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1.5).

3. Additional grounds upon which the defendant should be denied pretrial release are as follows:

   a. Defendant has ample access to firearms, the instrument of murder in this case.

4. Factual basis in support of Pretrial Detention:

   Please reference People's Exhibit A (subject to protective order), recording of deputies' body worn camera depicting the events regarding Ms. Sonya Massey on July 6, 2024.

   On July 6, 2024 Defendant responded to 2868 Hoover St. in his capacity as a Sangamon County Deputy to investigate a call for service in reference to a prowler. Defendant and another deputy made contact with the 911 caller, Sonya Massey who indicated she needed assistance. Ms. Massey appeared to be calm, perhaps unwell, not aggressive, and was approximately 110 pounds.

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT 1

Deputies entered Ms. Massey's home to gather further information, and ensure the residence was safe. At no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Defendant noticed a pot on the stove, and approved of Ms. Massey removing the pot to prevent any accidental fires. The pot was located in another room of the home, separated by a large counter.

During this time, the other deputy was clearing the house, and nothing dangerous was noted. Defendant then made a comment about the pot, which apparently contained heated water. Ms. Massey responded verbally and set the pot of water down on a counter in the kitchen. During this time, Defendant was still in the living room area of the home.

Despite his distance and relative cover, Defendant drew his 9mm firearm, not the less than lethal TASER located on his duty vest, and threatened to shoot Ms. Massey in the face. Seeing the drawn weapon, Ms. Massey put her hands in the air and stated, "I'm sorry," while ducking for cover behind the counter that separated her and Defendant.

Defendant, with his firearm still drawn, proceeded to close the significant gap between him and Ms. Massey. Defendant then aggressively yelled at Ms. Massey to put the pot down.

Defendant then fired his duty weapon three times in the direction of Ms. Massey, striking her in the face one time. Only at this time did Defendant activate his body worn camera. (please note, the body worn camera of the other deputy was activated when he first arrived on scene, and remained on during the entirety of the events).

After this, the other deputy announced he was going to retrieve a medical kit from his vehicle, to which Defendant instructed him not to, because of the severity of the injury. The other deputy still rendered aid, and stayed with Ms. Massey until medical help arrived. Defendant at no time attempted to render aid to Ms. Massey.

An independent investigation of Defendant's actions was performed by the Illinois State Police. An expert in the field of "use of force" reviewed the recording made by body worn camera of both deputies. (Please see People's Exhibit B subject to a protective order) The expert concluded that Defendant was NOT justified in his use of deadly force. He likened the scenario to an officer intentionally and unnecessarily putting himself in front of a moving vehicle and then justifying use of force because of fear of being struck.

Defendant's disregard of his training as a law enforcement officer, and his disregard for human life, shows by clear and convincing evidence that he is a danger to persons in the community. He has ample access to firearms, and has shown a willingness to use lethal force, despite the availability of non-deadly alternatives, when there is little to no threat to his bodily safety.

5. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, and based upon the proffer the People request to make during the hearing on this petition pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(f)(2), the People pray that this Honorable Court deny the defendant pretrial release.

Respectfully submitted,
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
John C. Milhiser
Sangamon County State's Attorney

By: _____
Mary E. Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CRIMINAL DIVISION
vs.	)	
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
Defendant.	)	

PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION
TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS of the hearing held before the Honorable RYAN M. CADAGIN on the 18th day of July, 2024.

APPEARANCES:

HONORABLE JOHN MILHISER,
State's Attorney of Sangamon County by,

MS. MARY BETH RODGERS,
First Assistant State's Attorney
representing the People of the State of Illinois.

MR. DANIEL FULTZ,
Attorney on behalf of the Defendant.

Marybeth Evans, CSR
Official Court Reporter
200 S. Ninth - Room 724
Springfield, IL 62701
(217)753-6653
License Number 084-003063

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT 2

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: 2024-CF-909, People versus Sean Grayson.

Good afternoon, Mr. Grayson.

He appears in custody here with his attorney, Mr. Fultz. First Assistant State's Attorney Mary Beth Rodgers appears on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois.

Cause comes on for both an arraignment and a People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release.

Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The Grand Jury did convene yesterday and returned a True Bill on a five-count Indictment against this Defendant for three counts of First Degree Murder, one count of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and one count of Official Misconduct. I have provided a copy of the Indictment to counsel.

THE COURT: Mr. Fultz.

MR. FULTZ: Your Honor, we are in receipt of the five-count Indictment. I would waive formal reading.

I would just note that the parties are in agreement that the penalties on Counts I through III are the standard 20 to 60 years on First Degree Murder with

the 100 percent Truth-in-Sentencing with a 25-year to life enhancement for use of a firearm making the sentencing range on Counts I through III 45 years to life.

I would enter pleas of not guilty and ask that the matter be set on the Court's pretrial docket for August 26th, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well.

We'll show waiver of the formal reading of the Indictment, enter a plea of not guilty for you today, Mr. Grayson. We will show the agreement -- the sentencing range as outlined by Mr. Fultz. I'll enter a Pretrial Discovery Order, and I have been assigned to this case, and we will set it on the pretrial call of August 26th at 9:00 in the morning.

The next matter to take up is the People's Verified Petition to Deny the Defendant's Pretrial Release.

I have read the petition. I have reviewed -- the parties agree that People's Exhibit "A" would be submitted under Protective Order. I have reviewed that. I am giving that to the clerk under Protective Order as well, and, Ms. Rodgers, do you want to speak to your petition?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The facts in the petition, I believe, are the relevant facts that this Court should be considering when deciding, one, if this Defendant committed a detention-eligible offense, two, if this Defendant does pose a risk to a person or persons or the community in general, and then, three, if there is any condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the risk posed by this Defendant.

Your Honor, as to the first assessment this Court must consider is whether or not this Defendant has committed a -- or is charged with a detention-eligible offense, and the answer is yes.

The Grand Jury did return that Indictment that included three counts of First Degree Murder which is very clearly laid out in the Pretrial Fairness Act as an offense that is eligible for detention, and, Your Honor, there is clear and convincing evidence not just that he is charged with this but that he has committed this offense.

The relevant facts -- and I will keep it kind of high level, I know that the Court has reviewed People's Exhibit "A", are that Ms. Massey called 9-1-1. She needed help, and this Defendant and another deputy

responded to her home, and in ascertaining if there was a crime having been committed outside of her home as reported from dispatch, they determined, no, there was not a crime, and at no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Nevertheless, this Defendant and the other deputy did enter Ms. Massey's home. It was noticed that there was a pot on a stove in a separate room of the home boiling or at least over an open flame on the stove. This Defendant did notice that. He was fine with Ms. Massey going into the other room to turn off the stove, remove the pot so there wasn't any accidental fires.

The other deputy during this time was doing a protective sweep of the house to make sure that there was no one else there, to make sure that there wasn't anything else dangerous, and there was no danger noted in the home by that other deputy.

After Ms. Massey removed the pot of water, she made a statement that this Defendant took to be concerning. His response to that statement was not to ask her to put the pot down. His response to that statement was to scream at her to put the pot down and threatened to shoot her. She did put the pot down, however, he did remove his firearm from its holster and

pointed it at Ms. Massey.

After a firearm was pointed at her, Ms. Massey put her hands up in the air and ducked behind the counter that was already separating her and the Defendant. There was quite a distance between this Defendant and any real or perceived threat, and instead of utilizing that distance, this Defendant instead closed the gap between him and Ms. Massey.

At this time and as seen in People's Exhibit "A", he then yells at her again and fires three times. One of those rounds did strike her in the face and she did die as a result of that gunshot wound.

This Defendant had a lot of options in those moments, the last moments of Ms. Massey's life. He did have less than lethal force on his duty belt. On his vest, he did have a taser. He chose specifically not to utilize that.

After the death of Ms. Massey, the Illinois State Police investigated the officer-involved shooting at the request of the State's Attorney's Office. An independent expert in the use of lethal force was consulted, and they did provide a report that is People's Exhibit "B", and in that report and as has been echoed by the Indictment given by the Grand Jury, this

Defendant was not justified in his use of deadly force.

He likened the scenario to an officer putting himself unnecessarily in front of a moving car and then being afraid that the car is going to hit him and using lethal force. This Defendant put himself in not even harm's way, in the perception of harm's way, and then decided purposefully to utilize lethal force.

The Defendant clearly disregarded his training as a law enforcement officer, and there is no condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the threat that this Defendant poses to the community.

I admit that he scored only a three on the Pretrial Risk Assessment. That puts him in the low category, however, this is just one tool that the Court has to consider.

The Court also has to consider the Defendant's own actions, in particularly, not just the actions of this Defendant choosing purposefully to use lethal force, but the actions this Defendant then took afterwards. At no point did this Defendant render aid to Ms. Massey. The other deputy did. At no point did this Defendant show anything but callousness towards the human life.

The Defendant's lack of judgment which is so

far outside of societal norms demonstrates that there is no condition or combination of conditions that can protect the community. These are based on the articulable facts of the case before the Court today.

So, not only is there clear and convincing evidence that he has committed a detention-eligible offense, there is clear and convincing evidence that he is a risk to the community and that is set forth in the factors that this Court is to consider that there is a firearm involved, that a life was taken, the age and physical characteristics of the Defendant. He is over six feet tall, over 200 pounds. Ms. Massey was much smaller in size.

So, taken as a whole, the articulable facts of this case, this Court should grant the People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release and order this Defendant detained pending trial.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Rodgers.

Mr. Fultz, on behalf of Mr. Grayson.

MR. FULTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

With regard to what the Court must consider, I want to start with the legal framework that the Court is required to consider when making their decision.

As the Court is aware under what we commonly call the Pretrial Fairness Act, every Defendant is presumed eligible for release, and under that presumption, it can only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence by the State that, one, proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant committed a detainable offense, which we would stipulate First Degree Murder is an enumerated detainable offense under the statute, so, they have met that burden, and, two, the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or community based on the specific articulable facts of the case, and, three, even if Number 2 is met, no combination of conditions can mitigate against the threat the Defendant poses to the safety of any person or the community.

You have before you a 30-year-old Defendant. He has owned his own home for the last four years. He lives there with his fiancee. They are set to be married in October.

Mr. Grayson graduated from North Mac in 2013 at which time he enrolled in the Army and was in the Army for three years before he was honorably discharged as a Private First Class.

His law enforcement career includes a year of

service to Virden and Pawnee, another year of service to the community of Auburn, a year at the Logan County Sheriff's Department, and currently one-and-a-half years at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office. That service ended yesterday when Sheriff Campbell terminated him.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson -- and, Judge, I want to make a record that Mr. Grayson has waived any HIPAA concerns for me to discuss these matters with you.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer. In November of 2023 as a result of that cancer, he was hospitalized for approximately a month-and-a half at St. John's Hospital at which time a colostomy was performed. He currently has an ostomy bag and that ostomy bag is set to be removed by surgery within the next next couple of months.

I would note that overnight, Mr. Grayson while in custody did have a medical incident that required calling in someone to assist with his ostomy bag which had burst, and I would submit to the Court that this case may take some time to resolve, and that would be a significant burden on the county jail wherever he is held in terms of trying to ensure the safety of the jail and also assure his medical concerns are attended to.

We firmly believe that there are a number of conditions that the Court can put in place that would certainly meet the criteria that the Court must find in Paragraph 3 in terms of the State not being able to meet their burden by clear and convincing evidence. That combination of conditions would be shall not possess any firearm or other dangerous weapons. Those have already been removed from his home. Shall not use any intoxicating or controlled substances, shall refrain from the use of alcohol, shall undergo a mental health evaluation and complete all treatment, sign any necessary releases so the pretrial services can confirm his compliance, and, lastly, submit to 24-hour seven-day a week electronic monitoring.

I am aware, Your Honor, that the Court was instructed by a recent appellate case, People versus Romine, 2024 IL App. (4th) 240321. Your Honor, I think this case is easily distinguished from Mr. Romine's case in that in that particular case, after the incident occurred, Mr. Romine did everything to hide and obstruct the fact that the incident had occurred, starting with leaving his mother deceased in the home, disappearing.

At some point after family and friends called wondering where -- why they hadn't heard from his

mother, the police performed a welfare check. They called the Defendant. The Defendant told them that she was alive and well and they should knock on a particular window and she would answer. Of course, that was not true. The police did that. They called him again. They said he couldn't get to the scene because he was intoxicated. He also refused assistance to get there, and then he tried to destroy his phone.

The police entered the house, found his mother deceased, and tracked his car to an address in Springfield where they tried to stop him. He didn't immediately stop and instead through an assault rifle out of the truck.

Your Honor, this incident happened on July 6, 2024, 11 days ago, 12 days ago now. He was arrested yesterday. In that 11-day period, he made no attempt to flee the jurisdiction. He did nothing other than remain in his home for 11 days until the arrest warrant was issued yesterday. He was notified the Indictment had been returned and the arrest warrant had been issued, and he surrendered to the Sangamon County Jail in less than a half-an-hour of his own volition.

I submit to the Court that the State has not met its burden by clear and convincing evidence that

there is no set of conditions that would ensure the safety of the community.

Your Honor, I would say in finishing up my arguments, I understand that this is a difficult case, and I understand that there is a extreme public interest in this case, but, Your Honor, this is the framework that the General Assembly gave us to work with as of September of 2023. We may not like it, but that's the framework we are required to decide detention or release within, and I submit the State simply has not met their burden.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Fultz.

I appreciate the arguments and pleadings by counsel on both sides.

Based off of the video which was, like I say, presented by both -- counsel from both sides under the Protective Order, based off of that, based off the People's verified petition, the arguments of counsel, all of the statutory factors which I will go through here in a moment, the People's petition is granted, and the Defendant will be detained under the dangerousness standard of the act while awaiting trial.

First, the State has met its burden by clear

and convincing evidence that the proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant has committed a detainable offense.

Here, the actions described in the Indictment are on video, and the State has met its burden on that first prong.

Secondly, the State has proved by clear and convincing evidence the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the community based off specific articulable facts of this case including the Defendant is known to possess firearms as was the case in this instance.

The victim here was in her own home unarmed of a slight build meaning she was no physical threat to the Defendant. She had called 9-1-1 asking for help. The Defendant arrives as a trained and sworn officer with an additional law enforcement officer, and he had a weapon. Despite his level of control, the impulsivity of the Defendant led to the charges in this case.

Based on review of the video, this was such a departure from the basic expectation of a civil society and societal norms regarding the safety of others that the State has met its burden to demonstrate he is a real and present threat to the community.

Lastly, the State has shown that no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate this threat.

Here, the Defendant is a sworn officer who took an oath to protect the community. He knew or should have known that he was being recorded, was standing next to a Sheriff's deputy, and still fired a weapon at an unarmed woman from across the room. If a police officer being right next to you recording you and having gone through personally hours of training and taking an oath cannot prevent the Defendant from acting in such a way, I can think of no conditions or set of conditions that would sufficiently mitigate the threat.

Furthermore, the Defendant's comments about the victim before and after the shooting including directing an officer not to give aid and disparaging remarks made about the victim are so out of bounds of societal norms that it suggests that there's no condition that would be sufficient. Simply no longer working as a police officer or home confinement or electronic monitoring or any other conditions that are oftentimes used cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way.

People's petition is granted. Defendant is to remain detained.

Cause remains set for August 26th -- no, no, no. No, no, no. No outbursts in any direction.

Anything further today, Mr. Fultz?

MR. FULTZ: No.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything further, Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: No, Your Honor.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

(Conclusion of today's proceedings.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I, Marybeth Evans, an Official Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had on the hearing in the above-entitled cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before RYAN M. CADAGIN, Judge of said proceedings.

Marybeth Evans

Marybeth Evans

Official Court Reporter

Dated this 30th day

of July, 2024.

FILED

JUL 18 2024

Joseph B. Reed Clerk of the Circuit Court

26

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Sean Grayson

Defendant.

Case No.: 24CF909

PRETRIAL DETENTION ORDER

☐ INITIAL ☐ SUBSEQUENT

The defendant being charged with a detainable offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a), the State filing a verified Petition to Detain, and after hearing the State's Petition to Detain, the Court finding probable cause finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

☐ **WILLFUL FLIGHT STANDARD**

(1) The proof is evident or the presumption great that the defendant committed a qualifying offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(8); **AND**

(2) The defendant has a high likelihood of willful flight to avoid prosecution; **AND**

(3) No condition(s) set forth in 725 ILCS 5/110-10(b) can mitigate risk of defendant's willful flight.

☒ **DANGEROUSNESS STANDARD**

(1) The proof is evident or the presumption great that the defendant committed a detainable offense pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1)-(7) OR any felony offense other than a Class 4 is charged, and defendant has a high likelihood of willful flight to avoid prosecution; **AND**

(2) No condition(s) set forth in 725 ILCS 5/110-10(b) can mitigate the real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, for offenses listed in paragraphs (a)(1) - (7); **AND**

(3) For offenses under §407(b) of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act that are subject to paragraph (1)(a), no condition(s) set forth in §110-10(b) can mitigate the real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, and the defendant poses a serious risk to not appear in court as required.

(4) Defendant's pretrial release poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person(s) or the community, based on the specific articulable facts of the case, by conduct which may include, but is not limited to, a forcible felony, the obstruction of justice, intimidation, injury or abuse as defined by §103(1) of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986; or, in the case of (aggravated) stalking, of a victim of the alleged offense, and denial of release is necessary to prevent fulfillment of the threat upon which the charge is based.

(5) The Court's findings that defendant committed a detainable offense are briefly summarized as follows, but are not intended to be an exhaustive list:

The Defendant personally discharged a firearm killing Sonya Massey in her home after Massey had called 911 for help. Victim was unarmed while the Defendant was a sworn officer responding to a call with another officer.

(6) **The Court's reason(s) for concluding the defendant should be denied pretrial release, as no condition or combination of conditions set forth in subsection (b) of 725 ILCS 5/110-10 can mitigate either (i) the real and present threat of safety of any person or persons or the community or (ii) the defendant's willful flight, are based on the following:** *(Check all boxes that apply and delineate additional reasons on the next page)*

☒ Nature and circumstances of the offense(s) charged.

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT
CASE NO.

Defendant was a sworn officer with training and was accompanied by another officer. Defendant was aware or should have been aware he was being video recorded. Despite these safeguards and supervision from law enforcement, the Defendant still discharged his firearm against an unarmed woman. He was in violation of his oath as a sworn officer, which is evidence he is not a good candidate to be in compliance with his conditions. He directed law enforcement not to render aid, which is counter to basic norms of public safety. Defendant was not using his body camera until after the shooting. Not being in compliance with body camera requirements is further evidence that points to him not being able to comply with conditions. Defendant's characterizations of the victim after the shooting, as contained in the video in People's Ex. A, are such a departure from the basic expectations of civil society that they are evidence of the Defendant's dangerousness and also that he could not comply with conditions.

☐ Defendant's prior criminal history is indicative of violent, abusive or assaultive behavior. _____

☐ Defendant's psychological, psychiatric or other social history indicates a violent, abusive or assaultive nature. _____

☐ The identity of any person(s) to whose safety the defendant is believed to pose a threat, and the nature of the threat.

☐ Any statement(s) made by, or attributed to the defendant, together with circumstances surrounding them. _____

☐ The age and/or physical condition of the defendant. _____

☒ The age and/or physical conditions of any victim or complaining witness. The victim was a slight woman who weighed 110 lbs and was not a physical threat to the Defendant.

☒ Defendant is known to possess or have access to weapons. A firearm was used in this case.

☐ At the time of the current offense(s)/arrest, defendant was on probation, parole, aftercare release, mandatory supervised release or other release from custody pending trial, sentencing, appeal or completion of sentence. _____

☐ _____

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: *(Check all boxes that apply)*

☒ Defendant shall be committed to the custody of the Sangamon County Sheriff for confinement in the county jail pending trial. While in custody, the defendant shall be given a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with counsel and for communication with others of their choice by visitation, mail and telephone (unless otherwise prohibited).

☐ Defendant shall have no contact directly or indirectly with: _____

☐ **Defendant notified of the right to file a motion for relief of the Court's Order and at each subsequent court appearance the detention conditions will be reviewed regardless of whether a motion is filed.**

NEXT COURT APPEARANCE:
Defendant shall appear on 8/26/24 at 9:00 AM/PM, in Courtroom 7C

7/18/24
DATE

Lynn M. Luft
JUDGE

CASE NUMBER	NAME / ADDRESS	FILED / WARRANT	CLOSED / ARREST	DOB	DL NUMBER	STATE	SEX	RACE
2015DT000117	D 001 GRAYSON, SEAN P II WARRANT/ARREST: 414 WEST VINE JUNCTION CITY KS 66441-0000	8/10/2015	5/02/2016 8/06/2015	6/07/1994			M	

ARRESTING AGENCY: Virden
ARRESTING OFFICER: MALDONADO, GINO
PROSECUTING ATTY: WATSON, JENNIFER
DEFENSE ATTY: TIMONEY, PATRICK

DUE DATE:
TOTAL DUE: 1,796.00
TOTAL CREDITS: .00
TOTAL PAID: 1,796.00
BALANCE: .00

				CHARGE/PLEA/DISPOSITION/SENTENCE		CLASS MIN Y-M-D	MAX Y-M-D	HOURS	TICKET
CHG	1	1		DRVG UNDER INFLU OF ALCOHOL 0625 ILCS 5.0/11-501(a)(2)	8/06/2015	A DT			9217
PLEA				Guilty					
DSP	1	1	1	Withhold Judgment/Supervision	5/02/2016				
SNT	1	1	1	1 Supervision In force	5/02/2016	00-00-007			
SNT	1	1	1	2 Fine In force	5/02/2016				
SNT	1	1	1	3 DUI School In force	5/02/2016				
CHG	2	1		DRVG UNDER INFLU/BAC 0.08 0625 ILCS 5.0/11-501(a)(1)	8/06/2015	A DT			9218
PLEA				No Plea					
DSP	2	1	1	Dismiss/State Motion	5/02/2016				

I do hereby certify the above document to be a true copy of the original on file and of record in my office.

7/25/24

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT LEE ROSS
COUNTY OF Macoupin

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT 4

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MACOUPIN COUNTY

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

vs. No. 15DT 117

Sean Grayson

ORDER FOR DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE

FILED

APR - 7 2017

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Macoupin County, Illinois

PURSUANT TO:

(X) agreement of parties

( ) finding of this court

THE FOLLOWING EVIDENCE in the above referenced cause, described as:

All personal items including but not limited to

firearms

SHALL BE

( ) destroyed according to law

( ) become the property of _____, who shall keep, transfer, sell, or otherwise dispose of said property as they wish.

(X) other Returned to Sean Grayson upon showing of valid FOID

ENTERED: April 7, 2017.

JUDGE

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT 5

CASE NUMBER	NAME / ADDRESS	FILED / WARRANT	CLOSED / ARREST	DOB DL NUMBER	STATE SEX RACE
2016DT000118D 001	GRAYSON, SEAN P WARRANT/ARREST: 109 W MILL ST GIRARD IL 62640-0000	7/26/2016	4/07/2017 7/23/2016	6/07/1994	M

ARRESTING AGENCY: County Traffic
ARRESTING OFFICER: TRANTER, MATT
PROSECUTING ATTY: WATSON, JENNIFER
DEFENSE ATTY: TIMONEY, PATRICK

DUE DATE:
TOTAL DUE: 2,779.00
TOTAL CREDITS: .00
TOTAL PAID: 2,779.00
BALANCE: .00

		CHARGE/PLEA/DISPOSITION/SENTENCE		CLASS MIN Y-M-D	MAX Y-M-D	HOURS	TICKET
CHG	1 1	DRVG UNDER INFLU OF ALCOHOL 0625 ILCS 5.0/11-501(a)(2)	7/23/2016	A	DT		14726
PLEA		Guilty					
DSP	1 1 1	Guilty	4/07/2017				
SNT	1 1 1 1	Fine In force	4/07/2017				

I do hereby certify the above document to be a true copy of the original on file and of record in my office.

7/25/24

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT LEE ROSS
COUNTY OF Macoupin

PEOPLE'S EXHIBIT 10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

FILED
AUG 19 2024
Joseph B. Kocsal Clerk of the Circuit Court
61

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 24-CF-909
	)	
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

ORDER

The Court, having heard Defendant's Motion for Relief from this Court's previous Order of Pretrial Detention pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1 filed by Defendant in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 604(h) on August 8, 2024, rules as follows:

1. Motion for Relief is DENIED.

2. For the reasons stated in this Court's July 18, 2024 oral ruling and written order, as well as the reasons stated in open court on August 9, 2024, the Court's Order of Pretrial Detention remains the order of this Court.

3. This is a final and appealable order.

ENTER:

8/19/24
Date

Judge

EFILED
8/21/2024 9:07 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Sangamon **COUNTY**
_SEVENTH_____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

-vs-

No. 2024-CF-909

SEAN GRAYSON,
Defendant-Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM PRETRIAL DETENTION OR RELEASE ORDER PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 604(h)

(Defendant as Appellant)

Court from which appeal is taken:

Circuit Court of Sangamon County.

The Judge who entered the order on the motion for relief under Rule 604(h)(2): RYAN M. CADAGIN

Date of Order on Motion for Relief*: 08/19/2024

***Without an Order on a Motion for Relief, this notice of appeal is prohibited by Rule 604(h)(2).**

Date(s) of Hearing(s) Regarding Pretrial Release: 08/09/2024

Court to which appeal is taken:

Appellate Court of Illinois, Fourth Judicial District

Name of Defendant and address to which notices shall be sent (if Defendant has no attorney):

Defendant's Name: SEAN GRAYSON
Defendant's Address: c/o Menard Co. Jail, 315 S. 6th St., Petersburg, IL 62675
Defendant's E-mail: n/a
Defendant's Phone: n/a

If Defendant is indigent and has no attorney, does he or she want one appointed? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Name of Defendant's attorney on appeal (if any):

Attorney's Name: OFFICE OF THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER
Attorney's Address: 203 N. LaSalle St., 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601
Attorney's E-mail: PFA@osad.state.il.us
Attorney's Phone: 312-814-5472

Name of Defendant's trial attorney (if any):

Attorney's Name: Mark K. Wykoff, Sr. & Daniel L. Fultz
Attorney's Address: 919 S. 8th St., Springfield, IL 62703
Attorney's E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com & dfultz@bhslaw.com
Attorney's Phone: 217-522-3319 & 217-544-8491
Is the trial attorney a public defender? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Nature of Order Appealed (check only one):

☑ Denying pretrial release
☐ Revoking pretrial release
☐ Imposing conditions of pretrial release

Are there currently pending any other appeals in this matter by the same party under the Pretrial Fairness Act? ☐ Yes* ☑ No

***If Yes, this notice of appeal is prohibited by Rule 604(h)(11).**

I certify that everything in this NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM PRETRIAL DETENTION OR RELEASE ORDER PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 604(h)is true and correct. I understand that making a false statement on this form is perjury and has penalties provided by law under 735 ILCS 5/1-109.

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Your Signature

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr. | 6292093
Printed Name | *Attorney # (if any)*

STATE OF ILLINOIS
APPELLATE COURT
FOURTH DISTRICT
201 W. MONROE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

CLERK OF THE COURT
(217) 782-2586

RESEARCH DIRECTOR
(217) 782-3528

FILED
AUG 21 2024
Joseph B. Kozal Clerk of the Circuit Court
63

August 21, 2024

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, IL 62703-2427

RE: People v. Grayson, Sean
General No.: 4-24-1100
Sangamon County
Case No.: 24CF909

A Notice of Appeal pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 604(h) has been filed.

The provisions of Supreme Court Rule 604(h) set forth due dates for the Record on Appeal. No formal docket order will issue.

Certified Report of Proceedings. Court reporting personnel shall certify and file a report of proceedings on the questions of the conditions of pretrial release, pretrial release or pretrial detention, or revocation of pretrial release had in the circuit court with the clerk of the circuit court within 21 days of the filing of the Notice of Appeal.

Record on Appeal. Within 30 days of the filing of the Notice of Appeal, the clerk of the circuit court shall file the record on appeal.

Legal Memoranda. The appellant may file, but is not required to file, a memorandum not exceeding 4500 words, within 21 days of filing of the Rule 328 supporting record. The response to the Notice of Appeal or appellant's memorandum may include a memorandum not to exceed 4500 words. The response shall be filed within 21 days of the time for filing the appellant's memorandum.

Carla Bender
Clerk of the Appellate Court

c: Daniel Lynn Fultz
John Charles Milhiser
Hon. Ryan M. Cadagin
Sangamon County Circuit Court
State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor, Pretrial Fairness Act Unit

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Notification of Appeal Filed

Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

People of the State of Illinois
vs.
SEAN GRAYSON

Court Reporter: MARYBETH EVANS

Received: 08/21/2024 Notified: 08/22/2024

Transcripts Due: 10/09/2024 Appeal Due: 10/23/2024

Hearing	Entry	Description
07/18/2024	JEARRAIGN	Arraignment Hearing

On this date, _____ volumes in the above case were received from

_____ by the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk.

Name: _____ Date: _____

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Notification of Appeal Filed

Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

People of the State of Illinois
vs.
SEAN GRAYSON

Court Reporter: RHONDA ONEAL

Received: 08/21/2024 Notified: 08/22/2024

Transcripts Due: 10/09/2024 Appeal Due: 10/23/2024

Hearing	Entry	Description
08/09/2024	JEENTRY	Entry Motion for Relief hearing

On this date, _____ volumes in the above case were received from

_____ by the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk.

Name: _____ Date: _____

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 22, 2024

Entry On Receipt of Media Request

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

MARY E. RODGERS

On the following date: 08/22/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above: Yes

Sent by electronic mail:

To the following e-mail address:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: PD

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Case on Appeal Report: Appeal

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: DANIEL FULTZ
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: MARK WYKOFF

08/22/2024 Entry On Receipt of Media Request
Court is in receipt of the 8/22/24 media request letter. Clerk directed to send a copy of the letter to all attorneys of record. Attorneys given leave to file any objections or positions to expanded media coverage within 30 days. Clerk directed to send a copy of the docket to all attorneys of record.
Judge: CADAGIN Clerk: PD

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 22, 2024

Entry On Receipt of Media Request

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

DANIEL FULTZ
205 S. 5TH ST STE 700
P.O. BOX 2459
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62705

On the following date: 08/22/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above: Yes

Sent by electronic mail:

To the following e-mail address:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: PD

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

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In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 22, 2024

Entry On Receipt of Media Request

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

JOHN MILHISER

On the following date: 08/22/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above: Yes

Sent by electronic mail:

To the following e-mail address:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: PD

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
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In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated August 22, 2024

Entry On Receipt of Media Request

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

MARK WYKOFF
919 SOUTH 8TH ST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

On the following date: 08/22/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above:

Sent by electronic mail: Yes

To the following e-mail address: wykofflawoffice@aol.com

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: PD

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Case on Appeal Report: Appeal

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: DANIEL FULTZ
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: MARK WYKOFF

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Judge: CADAGIN Clerk: PD

EFILED
8/23/2024 3:45 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case. No. 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant	)	

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, representing the People of the State of Illinois, in the above styled cause, hereby certifies that I supplied Discovery to the accused in compliance with Supreme Court Rule 412, and all Discovery Orders entered by the Court, by hand delivery/mailing postage pre-paid, said Discovery material to:

Mark Wykoff	Dan Fultz
Attorney at Law	Attorney at Law

on the 23rd day of August, 2024, said Discovery consisting of one USB Drive containing 275 consecutively numbered pages and digital media as listed:

- Interview Recordings;
- SCSO Body Worn Camera 07-06-24;
- 911 Calls;
- Autopsy Photos;
- Sangamon County Dispatch;
- SCSO Incident 2024-00021540 7-5-24 (BWC and Axon Photos);
- ISP Intel Support Unit Video Processing (Video Frames).

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Milhiser
STATE'S ATTORNEY

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
23rd day of August, 2024.

NOTARY PUBLIC

OFFICIAL SEAL
ANNETTE MARIE AGRALL
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMMISSION NO.979552
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCTOBER 16, 2027

EFILED
8/23/2024 3:45 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case No. 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

PRE-TRIAL DISCOVERY

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, Illinois, and disclose the following in compliance with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 412. Said information is contained in Exhibit "A", which is attached hereto, and by reference, made a part thereof.

Upon reasonable notice by Defense Counsel, the State will make available for inspection, copying and photographing any books, papers, documents, photographs or tangible objects which the Prosecution intends to use in a hearing or trial or which were obtained from the accused.

Upon request of Defense Counsel, the State will make a diligent good faith effort to obtain designated material or information which would be discoverable if in the possession or control of the State.

The Court is requested to enter an order requiring defense to specify within ten days from this date wherein this tendered discovery is insufficient.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Milhiser
STATE'S ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT "A"

I. Names and last known addresses of persons whom the State intends to call as witnesses: The State adopts all witnesses in the attached reports

II. The State is aware of no electronic surveillance of conversations to which the accused was a part, or of his premises, other than as may be included in the tender of discovery.

III. The State does not have within its possession or control any material or information which tend to negate the guilty of the accused as to the offense charged or would tend to reduce his punishment thereafter. The State acknowledges its ongoing duty to supplement discovery if it becomes aware of exculpatory evidence.

IV. Felony Convictions of State's Witnesses: An updated criminal history search will be conducted on the State's witnesses and tendered to the defense prior to trial.

EFILED
8/23/2024 3:45 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
GENERAL DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case No. 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

MOTION FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PROSECUTION

Now come, the People of the State of Illinois, by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, and hereby move the Court, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 413, to enter an order requiring the defendant to comply with discovery as set forth in the Supreme Court Rule. In support of said motion, the People hereby state to the Court as follows:

1. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 413(c) provides that the trial court shall, on written motion, require that the State be informed of, and permitted to inspect and copy or photograph, any reports or results, or testimony relative thereto, of physical or mental examinations or of scientific tests, experiments or comparisons, or any other reports or statements of experts which defense counsel has in his possession or control, including a statement of the qualifications of such experts, except that those portions of reports containing statements made by the defendant may be withheld if defense counsel does not intent to use any of the material contained in the report at a hearing or trial.

2. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 413(d) provides that within a reasonable time after the filing of a written motion by the State, defense counsel shall inform the State of any defenses which

he intends to make at a hearing or trial and shall furnish the State with the following material and information within his possession or control:

> (i) the names and last known addresses of persons he intends to call as witnesses, together with their relevant written or recorded statements, including memoranda reporting or summarizing their oral statements, and record of prior criminal convictions known to him; and
>
> (ii) any books, papers, documents, photographs, or tangible objects he intends to use as evidence or for impeachment at a hearing or trial;
>
> (iii) and if the defendant intends to prove an alibi, specific information as to the place where he maintains he was at the time of the alleged offense.

3. There are no constitutional limitations prohibiting the defense from complying with this motion. The People move that if the defense wishes to assert a constitutional limitation to excuse complying with this order that the defendant be required to raise that constitutional objection within 30 days of the filing of this motion.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF:

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the People pray that this honorable Court will enter an order, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 413, requiring the defendant to comply with discovery.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Milhiser
STATE'S ATTORNEY

John C. Milhiser
Sangamon County State's Attorney
200 So. Ninth Street, Room 402
Springfield, IL 62701

EFILED
8/27/2024 10:35 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	2024-CF-909
	)	
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

HEARING ON MOTION FOR RELIEF PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 604(h)

Report of Proceedings of the hearing held before the Honorable Ryan Cadagin on the 9th day of August, 2024.

APPEARANCES:

Ms. MaryBeth Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney
On behalf of the People;

Mr. Ryan Harding
Assistant State's Attorney
On behalf of the People;

Mr. Mark Wykoff
Attorney at Law
On behalf of the Defendant;

Mr. Dan Fultz
Attorney at Law
On behalf of the Defendant appearing by video.

Rhonda K. O'Neal, RPR, CSR #084-004158

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: 2024-CF-909, People versus Sean Grayson. Good afternoon, Mr. Grayson.

THE DEFENDANT: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

THE COURT: He appears via video conferencing in custody. He is through video conference. Mr. Fultz is there with him sitting next to him. Mr. Wykoff is in open court representing his interests as well. The People of the State of Illinois are represented by First Assistant State's Attorney MaryBeth Rodgers and Mr. Harding on behalf of the People.

Cause comes on for motion for relief. Mr. Wykoff, do you want to be heard as to your motion?

MR. WYKOFF: Yes, please. May it please the Court, counsel for the State, Your Honor, first and foremost, I would ask, is it acceptable to the Court if we make our arguments from the table versus from the podium?

THE COURT: Absolutely. Whatever's more comfortable.

MR. WYKOFF: And I just want to inquire whether or not Mr. Fultz and Mr. Grayson can hear me.

MR. FULTZ: We can.

MR. WYKOFF: Perfect, thank you.

Your Honor, as the Court referenced, on or about August 8 of 2024 at 1:36 in the afternoon, we filed a motion for relief pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h) which recently went into effect. For all practical purposes, Your Honor, the Supreme Court has deemed it to be a motion to reconsider the Court's initial detention determination.

I would like to call to Your Honor's attention several points arising out of that pretrial detention hearing that I believe warrant Your Honor's reconsideration of your detention ruling, and we'll be asking then that the Court order that Mr. Grayson be released.

Your Honor, I'm quite confident Your Honor is well versed on the governing law; even though the appellate rules changed on April 15, the law remained the same, the law being the law that went into effect on September 18 of last year. Detention decisions must be individualized, Your Honor. Not only individualized to the accused person and his individual and unique characteristics but individualized to the offense giving rise to the criminal charges.

Your Honor, all persons in Illinois effective September 18 of last year, all persons are presumptively entitled to pretrial relief unless the State proves by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate a threat to the community.

Your Honor, even if the evidence is compelling and strong that the accused perpetrated the offense, that's not enough to detain. Even if it's determined that the defendant poses a threat to public safety, that is not enough to detain. It's only whether any combination of conditions can mitigate against that threat.

Your Honor, Mr. Grayson is charged with first-degree murder. If defendants in Illinois were charged with first-degree murder and by virtue of the fact they committed first-degree murder they were not entitled to be released, the legislature knew how to codify this as an excluded offense on September 18 of last year.

Your Honor, they chose not to do so. Your Honor, the relief that we're asking for in this instance, his release in spite of the fact that he's charged with first-degree murder, is not novel relief,

it's not unprecedented relief. As I stand before the Court on today's date, I personally represent two persons in this county charged with the same offense as he is, first-degree murder, that are out on pretrial release. So I say that, Your Honor, it's not an excluded offense, it's not unprecedented in this county, the relief we are asking for, the relief we are seeking.

So as to the third prong -- and I'm not forfeiting or waiving the first two -- but as to the third prong, whether any combination of conditions can mitigate the threat, I submit to Your Honor, and it's embodied in Your Honor's pretrial detention order dated July 18, 2024, the Court found that the threat could not be mitigated because he was a sworn officer at the time of the offense conduct.

Your Honor, he's not a sworn officer any longer. Your Honor found that he discharged a firearm. I submit to Your Honor he discharged that firearm in his official capacity. He's no longer working in that official capacity.

Your Honor, you found his actions as a law enforcement officer to violate the norms of public safety. He's no longer working in the area or field

of public safety. So on those three findings alone, Your Honor, the threat has already been mitigated by the fact he's no longer working in his official capacity.

Your Honor found that he was not being in compliance with his body-worn camera requirements. Your Honor, he no longer wears body-worn camera; the Sangamon County Sheriff took that from him.

Your Honor, you say for these reasons, they all point to him not being able to comply with conditions. I beg to differ, Your Honor. He can now comply with conditions because he's no longer a sworn officer, he's no longer in a capacity to discharge a firearm as a sworn officer, he's no longer in a position to violate the norms of public safety, he no longer wears a body-worn camera; that in and of itself mitigates any future threat.

Finally, in the aggregate, Your Honor found that his actions depart from the basic expectations of a civil society. Your Honor, he's charged with first-degree murder. It's the most egregious act anywhere on the planet Earth that a person can commit in a civilized society. The legislature has codified a sentencing regime to punish first-degree murderers

more harshly than any other class of criminal offender. So to say his departure from the basic expectations of a civil society is actually implicit and inherent in the nature of the offense itself, and it requires more than just the elements of the offense to trigger pretrial detention.

As to the standard of clear and convincing evidence, Your Honor, that's actually a pretty lofty standard. That's the same standard the State has to achieve when they're going to take a child from their parents. It's a lofty hurdle to overcome, Your Honor. I submit to you that they didn't reach it here, and at least as it relates to what's reduced to writing in the pretrial detention order, Your Honor, the threat that Your Honor found within the confines of the paragraph starting at dangerous standard, nature and circumstances of the offense charged, those have already been mitigated, Your Honor.

Your Honor, it's kind of oxymoronic because I once represented an Illinois Department of Corrections officer who killed an inmate in the Illinois Department of Corrections. At his detention hearing, the government sought to detain him in a correctional facility awaiting trial. Your Honor,

that was oxymoronic because he never committed an act of violence in our civilized society. He only committed the act of violence in a penal institution, and the government wanted to put him in a penal institution where the very conduct occurred.

Fortunately, the Honorable Magistrate Judge released him from federal court for first-degree murder. That's what we have here, Your Honor. This man has never committed an act of violence in his persona that was not that of a professional law enforcement officer.

Your Honor, you were aware of how the defendant scored on the Virginia Risk Assessment. He scored 3, and that was covered at the initial detention hearing. But if I may with leave of the Court to approach --

THE COURT: Please.

MR. WYKOFF: -- the Court with what I've marked as Defendant's Exhibit C, as in Charlie. Your Honor, there was a point in time in this county where I was appearing at detention hearings, and honestly, I wasn't really convinced that folks really had a handle on what these numbers meant. Numbers were being tossed around willy-nilly in court, and if it's a

14-point scale and the number's 10, wow, that sounds really bad because 10's closer to 14 than it is to 0, so I think we should detain him.

Here we have a score of 3. What does that mean? Well, Your Honor, I'm about to tell you what a score of 3 means. If Your Honor turns to page 13 of Defendant's Exhibit C, at the top where it talks about risk factors, he starts out with a score of 3 simply because he's charged with a felony. For no other reason in the world, he starts out at a score of 3. So what do we do with that score of 3, Your Honor? We go down to Table 2 where it says if you score 3 or 4 on the risk level, you're placed at Level 2. Well, what does Level 2 mean? Well, Your Honor, we don't know unless we read on.

And we go to page 18. At page 18 is where it tells us what Level 2 is. Level 2 says bail status on the left, pretrial supervision on the left, special conditions on the left, and if you go all the way over to the right, the category where you place someone who's charged with a violent felony or firearm, as he is, Level 2 says release on Level 3 conditions with special conditions as needed.

Well, what are Level 3 conditions, Your

Honor? If you go to page 28, Level 3 conditions --

THE COURT: Mr. Wykoff, I apologize for interrupting you, but recording of this is prohibited from anyone in the gallery, so anyone recording this, that is prohibited.

Please continue, Mr. Wykoff.

MR. WYKOFF: Thank you kindly, Your Honor. Pretrial supervision Level 3 conditions, court date reminder for every court date, criminal history check before court date, face-to-face contact every week, special condition compliance verification.

So the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment instrument says even though he's charged with a violent felony, a firearm-related felony, he should be released. Now, Your Honor, I've heard it before. I'm sure I'll hear it again. Your Honor, this is just a tool for Your Honor to consider. Your Honor, I submit to you this: When the score is 10, the State wants it to be the toolbox. When the score leads to an outcome like we have here where the risk assessment says he should be released, it's just a tool.

Well, I submit this to Your Honor: In this instance, this is the pretrial instrument this county chose to guide the decisionmaking. I didn't choose

it, Your Honor. This county did. This county chose this as the tool to assist in the new law that went into effect on September 18 of last year.

Let me tell you how this tool came into being, Your Honor. It just wasn't some willy-nilly tool. Your Honor, this was based on research-based, objective criteria. It's objective, it's strongly recommended by both the American Bar Association and the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies standards. And it's the product, Your Honor, of an analysis of 500,000 cases processed through the federal pretrial services system between 2001 and 2007. Based on empirical evidence of a half a million studies they did in the federal system, this tool, as the State alludes to it, became the Virginia Risk Assessment.

Your Honor, I would submit to you it's as paramount of a tool as a hammer if you're going to hang a picture hook. Sure, the picture hook is a tool as well, but I don't think you'd do very well without that hammer. Your Honor, it's a tool just like a Phillips-head screwdriver is a tool when you have to tighten a Phillips-head screw. It's a tool like a lug wrench is when you have to change a flat tire. Is the

lug a tool? Yes. But can you do it without the lug wrench? No, you can't, Your Honor.

Your Honor, I submit to you this: In this instance, we're driven by the governing law. And Your Honor, by way of analogy, in Illinois Pattern Criminal Instruction 101, the very first instruction that is given to a jury, Your Honor tells them the law that applies to this case is in these instructions, and it is your duty to follow the law.

Those jurors are told and they're asked, Your Honor, during voir dire, will you follow the law even if you disagree with it? And if they say, I can't do that, they're not jurors. If they say, I can, Your Honor instructs them at the close of the case, you are duty-bound to follow the law.

Your Honor also instructs a jury neither sympathy nor prejudice should influence you in your deliberations. And most significantly, Your Honor, Your Honor instructs the jury, you must not let bias, prejudice, or public opinion influence your decision.

So I submit to you this, Your Honor: If Your Honor follows the law, you're not guided by sympathy or prejudice, and you do not let bias, prejudice, or public opinion influence you, you have

to come to the one and only just conclusion that the defendant should be released instanter. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wykoff.

Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

Simply no longer working as a police officer or home confinement or electronic monitoring or any other conditions that are oftentimes used cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way. I'm quoting this Court.

The Court has considered: Could that mitigate? This Court has decided no because of all of the risk factors that do apply to Mr. Grayson. The Virginia Risk Assessment, yes, was performed, but the output is only as good as the input. I would note for the Court that there is no mention in the criminal history section of the assessment of Mr. Grayson's prior conviction for DUI. It is referenced later in treatment that he had received before the conduct charged.

But as a conviction, I can only believe that Mr. Grayson did not report that to the reporting officer. Had he, had that conviction been noted on

the risk assessment, there would have been two points higher against Mr. Grayson. But it doesn't matter what he scored on this risk assessment. As I have stated before, Mr. Wykoff pointed out, and I will state again to courts in this building, this is just a tool.

This is one consideration for this Court. The law, as Mr. Wykoff pointed out, is what the Court has to go by. And in all of the considerations this Court has in determining whether or not to deny someone pretrial release, to determine whether or not there are any combination of conditions that can sufficiently mitigate the risk that this defendant poses, the Pretrial Risk Assessment is but one paragraph.

This Court has also and will also consider the nature of circumstances of the offense, that this was a crime of violence involving a weapon, any statements made by or attributed to the defendant, the age and physical condition of the defendant and the age and physical condition of any victim, and whether the defendant is known to possess or have access to any weapon or weapons. And these too are just lines from all of the law that this Court is to consider.

And this Court did consider that law, and this Court appropriately applied that law to the specific facts and circumstances of Mr. Grayson's case. You did not just simply say Mr. Grayson is accused of murder, he is being denied pretrial release. After thoughtful consideration of the actions of this defendant, only then did you reach the conclusion that pretrial release is the least restrictive means to protect the safety of the community.

Simply not being a police officer is insufficient to protect the community. As this Court noted and as I stated in my initial argument, Mr. Grayson's actions were so far outside of societal norms, there is no telling how he will act if he is released. This Court has no assurances that he will abide by any conditions it wishes to impose. What this Court does know were contained in the evidence presented and the arguments presented, and this Court saw with his own eyes the actions and words of this defendant. And this Court is acting in accordance with the law and applying them to the facts of this case. And therefore, this Court ruled correctly when it denied this defendant pretrial release, and I ask

that the Court stand on that ruling.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Rodgers.

I appreciate the pleadings, the arguments --

MR. WYKOFF: Your Honor?

THE COURT: Mr. Wykoff?

MR. WYKOFF: As the moving party, could I just make a brief rebuttal argument?

THE COURT: Please. Please.

MR. WYKOFF: Your Honor, counsel for the State just represented to the Court that Your Honor has no way of knowing how he would act in the community if released on pretrial release. I'll tell you exactly how he'll act, Your Honor. He'll commit no crimes of violence, just like he committed no crime of violence as a civilian ever in his life previously. History tends to repeat itself, and I would say that's exactly how he's going to act.

Secondly, Your Honor, counsel for the State makes these DUIs that happened almost a decade ago -- 2015 and 2016 -- sound like they are the crimes of the century. Your Honor, back on September 11, 2001, we had a Vice President of the United States on that date that he himself had two DUIs that happened in close

proximity to one another.

No one ever stated he was unable to competently lead our country through a national crisis, a war in Iraq, and a war in Afghanistan. I submit to you, Your Honor, and Your Honor knows as a judge, receiving court supervision on a DUI and then a second one that naturally leads to a conviction, they're Class A misdemeanors. There's no allegation that there was a wreck, injury, anything of the sort in these instances, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wykoff.

Appreciate the arguments of counsel, the pleadings of counsel, the exhibits, and everything that's been tendered to the Court so far.

I am going to deny the motion for relief, and the defendant will remain -- no, no. No outbursts in any way, shape, or form in any direction.

The defendant will remain detained pending trial. The State has met its burden by clear and convincing evidence of all three criteria for detention.

Number one, the proof is evident that the defendant committed a detainable offense. This first prong was brought up in the original hearing and is

unchallenged by the defendant in the motion for relief.

Number two, the defendant poses a real and present threat to the community based off the facts of this case. This is not directly challenged in the pleadings or in the motion by the defendant for the motion for relief, but I will summarize the findings of the previous order and say the ruling is based off, number one, the nature and circumstances of the offense; here this is a violent crime with a firearm against an unarmed woman in her own home.

Two, the statements made by the defendant directing fellow officers not to render aid and disparaging remarks about the victim after the shooting are evidence of a dangerousness. The physical condition of both the defendant and the victim in contrast to one another, the victim being of slight stature, the defendant being of a much larger stature, plus the fact that he was armed and a police officer with another officer who was also armed and had control of the situation and still led to this offense, the defendant being known to possess firearms are all evidence to that.

The third prong, which is the focus of the

motion for relief, that no condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the threat, has also been met by clear and convincing evidence by the State. Electronic monitoring is insufficient. Electronic monitoring may detect a failure to comply with conditions, but it's not adequate to mitigate the threat.

In the video the impulsiveness of the defendant as demonstrated by the amount of time that passes from the gun being drawn to him firing the gun, electronic monitoring does nothing to mitigate that threat. The police officer standing right next to him and recording him could not mitigate that threat. Also, home confinement and turning in weapons are insufficient because the Court does not have confidence he could comply with conditions.

Evidence shows he didn't comply with his oath as an officer, he didn't comply with body camera requirements, and directed other officers to potentially not comply with their oaths as well. That is not mitigated by not being an officer. That is evidence that he does not comply with conditions of being an officer, it is evidence that he doesn't comply with conditions. The Court is unsatisfied that

he would comply with conditions of home confinement or simply stating that he is going to turn over all his weapons.

Lastly, Mr. Grayson, I am sorry to hear about your medical condition. I did consider that at the detention hearing, and please keep jail personnel and your attorney apprised of any medical needs. The fact that this occurred while, you know, this medical condition was present on the day of the shooting, though, is evidence to me that the danger exists even with the medical condition. And jail personnel are equipped to handle all varieties of medical conditions.

Mr. Grayson, you do have a right to appeal at any time before conviction and if you're indigent can be furnished without cost to you a transcript of the proceedings here today. Also, if you are indigent, you have the right to have counsel appointed to you to appeal this detention. Cause remains set for August 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Anything further today, Mr. Wykoff?

MR. WYKOFF: Yes, please. If I may have leave to approach the Court with Defendant's Exhibit B, it was the medical information that was referenced

in our pleading, and in light of HIPAA, we would respectfully request that it be made part of the record as an impounded exhibit or document, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Please.

MR. WYKOFF: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. I'm also handing the clerk your Exhibit B and C. I did want to say this too. I did consider the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment and Ms. Rodgers' arguments about what the score would be, considered all those under the totality of the circumstances.

Ms. Rodgers, anything else today on behalf of the People?

MS. RODGERS: Nothing for the State, Your Honor.

MR. WYKOFF: Your Honor, I would just ask that Defendant's Exhibit C be entered into the record as an exhibit. Thank you.

THE COURT: That will be the order, yes, thank you.

(Which were all of the proceedings duly had on said date.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I, Rhonda K. O'Neal, an Official Court Reporter for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had in the hearing in the above-entitled cause and that I thereafter transcribed the same by Computer-Aided Transcription, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before the Honorable Ryan Cadagin, Circuit Judge of said court.

Rhonda K. O'Neal

RHONDA K. O'NEAL, CSR, RPR
CSR#084-004158
Official Court Reporter

Dated this 27th day of August, 2024.

EFILED
8/27/2024 2:04 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CRIMINAL DIVISION
vs.	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant.	)	

PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION
TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS of the hearing held before the Honorable RYAN M. CADAGIN on the 18th day of July, 2024.

APPEARANCES:

HONORABLE JOHN MILHISER,
State's Attorney of Sangamon County by,

MS. MARY BETH RODGERS,
First Assistant State's Attorney
representing the People of the State of Illinois.

MR. DANIEL FULTZ,
Attorney on behalf of the Defendant.

Marybeth Evans, CSR
Official Court Reporter
200 S. Ninth - Room 724
Springfield, IL 62701
(217)753-6653
License Number 084-003063

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: 2024-CF-909, People versus Sean Grayson.

Good afternoon, Mr. Grayson.

He appears in custody here with his attorney, Mr. Fultz. First Assistant State's Attorney Mary Beth Rodgers appears on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois.

Cause comes on for both an arraignment and a People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release.

Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The Grand Jury did convene yesterday and returned a True Bill on a five-count Indictment against this Defendant for three counts of First Degree Murder, one count of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and one count of Official Misconduct. I have provided a copy of the Indictment to counsel.

THE COURT: Mr. Fultz.

MR. FULTZ: Your Honor, we are in receipt of the five-count Indictment. I would waive formal reading.

I would just note that the parties are in agreement that the penalties on Counts I through III are the standard 20 to 60 years on First Degree Murder with

the 100 percent Truth-in-Sentencing with a 25-year to life enhancement for use of a firearm making the sentencing range on Counts I through III 45 years to life.

I would enter pleas of not guilty and ask that the matter be set on the Court's pretrial docket for August 26th, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well.

We'll show waiver of the formal reading of the Indictment, enter a plea of not guilty for you today, Mr. Grayson. We will show the agreement -- the sentencing range as outlined by Mr. Fultz. I'll enter a Pretrial Discovery Order, and I have been assigned to this case, and we will set it on the pretrial call of August 26th at 9:00 in the morning.

The next matter to take up is the People's Verified Petition to Deny the Defendant's Pretrial Release.

I have read the petition. I have reviewed -- the parties agree that People's Exhibit "A" would be submitted under Protective Order. I have reviewed that. I am giving that to the clerk under Protective Order as well, and, Ms. Rodgers, do you want to speak to your petition?

MS. RODGERS: Thank you, Your Honor.

The facts in the petition, I believe, are the relevant facts that this Court should be considering when deciding, one, if this Defendant committed a detention-eligible offense, two, if this Defendant does pose a risk to a person or persons or the community in general, and then, three, if there is any condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the risk posed by this Defendant.

Your Honor, as to the first assessment this Court must consider is whether or not this Defendant has committed a -- or is charged with a detention-eligible offense, and the answer is yes.

The Grand Jury did return that Indictment that included three counts of First Degree Murder which is very clearly laid out in the Pretrial Fairness Act as an offense that is eligible for detention, and, Your Honor, there is clear and convincing evidence not just that he is charged with this but that he has committed this offense.

The relevant facts -- and I will keep it kind of high level, I know that the Court has reviewed People's Exhibit "A", are that Ms. Massey called 9-1-1. She needed help, and this Defendant and another deputy

responded to her home, and in ascertaining if there was a crime having been committed outside of her home as reported from dispatch, they determined, no, there was not a crime, and at no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Nevertheless, this Defendant and the other deputy did enter Ms. Massey's home. It was noticed that there was a pot on a stove in a separate room of the home boiling or at least over an open flame on the stove. This Defendant did notice that. He was fine with Ms. Massey going into the other room to turn off the stove, remove the pot so there wasn't any accidental fires.

The other deputy during this time was doing a protective sweep of the house to make sure that there was no one else there, to make sure that there wasn't anything else dangerous, and there was no danger noted in the home by that other deputy.

After Ms. Massey removed the pot of water, she made a statement that this Defendant took to be concerning. His response to that statement was not to ask her to put the pot down. His response to that statement was to scream at her to put the pot down and threatened to shoot her. She did put the pot down, however, he did remove his firearm from its holster and

pointed it at Ms. Massey.

After a firearm was pointed at her, Ms. Massey put her hands up in the air and ducked behind the counter that was already separating her and the Defendant. There was quite a distance between this Defendant and any real or perceived threat, and instead of utilizing that distance, this Defendant instead closed the gap between him and Ms. Massey.

At this time and as seen in People's Exhibit "A", he then yells at her again and fires three times. One of those rounds did strike her in the face and she did die as a result of that gunshot wound.

This Defendant had a lot of options in those moments, the last moments of Ms. Massey's life. He did have less than lethal force on his duty belt. On his vest, he did have a taser. He chose specifically not to utilize that.

After the death of Ms. Massey, the Illinois State Police investigated the officer-involved shooting at the request of the State's Attorney's Office. An independent expert in the use of lethal force was consulted, and they did provide a report that is People's Exhibit "B", and in that report and as has been echoed by the Indictment given by the Grand Jury, this

Defendant was not justified in his use of deadly force.

He likened the scenario to an officer putting himself unnecessarily in front of a moving car and then being afraid that the car is going to hit him and using lethal force. This Defendant put himself in not even harm's way, in the perception of harm's way, and then decided purposefully to utilize lethal force.

The Defendant clearly disregarded his training as a law enforcement officer, and there is no condition or combination of conditions that can mitigate the threat that this Defendant poses to the community.

I admit that he scored only a three on the Pretrial Risk Assessment. That puts him in the low category, however, this is just one tool that the Court has to consider.

The Court also has to consider the Defendant's own actions, in particularly, not just the actions of this Defendant choosing purposefully to use lethal force, but the actions this Defendant then took afterwards. At no point did this Defendant render aid to Ms. Massey. The other deputy did. At no point did this Defendant show anything but callousness towards the human life.

The Defendant's lack of judgment which is so

far outside of societal norms demonstrates that there is no condition or combination of conditions that can protect the community. These are based on the articulable facts of the case before the Court today.

So, not only is there clear and convincing evidence that he has committed a detention-eligible offense, there is clear and convincing evidence that he is a risk to the community and that is set forth in the factors that this Court is to consider that there is a firearm involved, that a life was taken, the age and physical characteristics of the Defendant. He is over six feet tall, over 200 pounds. Ms. Massey was much smaller in size.

So, taken as a whole, the articulable facts of this case, this Court should grant the People's Petition to Deny Pretrial Release and order this Defendant detained pending trial.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Rodgers.

Mr. Fultz, on behalf of Mr. Grayson.

MR. FULTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

With regard to what the Court must consider, I want to start with the legal framework that the Court is required to consider when making their decision.

As the Court is aware under what we commonly call the Pretrial Fairness Act, every Defendant is presumed eligible for release, and under that presumption, it can only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence by the State that, one, proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant committed a detainable offense, which we would stipulate First Degree Murder is an enumerated detainable offense under the statute, so, they have met that burden, and, two, the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or community based on the specific articulable facts of the case, and, three, even if Number 2 is met, no combination of conditions can mitigate against the threat the Defendant poses to the safety of any person or the community.

You have before you a 30-year-old Defendant. He has owned his own home for the last four years. He lives there with his fiancee. They are set to be married in October.

Mr. Grayson graduated from North Mac in 2013 at which time he enrolled in the Army and was in the Army for three years before he was honorably discharged as a Private First Class.

His law enforcement career includes a year of

service to Virden and Pawnee, another year of service to the community of Auburn, a year at the Logan County Sheriff's Department, and currently one-and-a-half years at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office. That service ended yesterday when Sheriff Campbell terminated him.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson -- and, Judge, I want to make a record that Mr. Grayson has waived any HIPAA concerns for me to discuss these matters with you.

In October of 2023, Mr. Grayson was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer. In November of 2023 as a result of that cancer, he was hospitalized for approximately a month-and-a half at St. John's Hospital at which time a colostomy was performed. He currently has an ostomy bag and that ostomy bag is set to be removed by surgery within the next next couple of months.

I would note that overnight, Mr. Grayson while in custody did have a medical incident that required calling in someone to assist with his ostomy bag which had burst, and I would submit to the Court that this case may take some time to resolve, and that would be a significant burden on the county jail wherever he is held in terms of trying to ensure the safety of the jail and also assure his medical concerns are attended to.

We firmly believe that there are a number of conditions that the Court can put in place that would certainly meet the criteria that the Court must find in Paragraph 3 in terms of the State not being able to meet their burden by clear and convincing evidence. That combination of conditions would be shall not possess any firearm or other dangerous weapons. Those have already been removed from his home. Shall not use any intoxicating or controlled substances, shall refrain from the use of alcohol, shall undergo a mental health evaluation and complete all treatment, sign any necessary releases so the pretrial services can confirm his compliance, and, lastly, submit to 24-hour seven-day a week electronic monitoring.

I am aware, Your Honor, that the Court was instructed by a recent appellate case, People versus Romine, 2024 IL App. (4th) 240321. Your Honor, I think this case is easily distinguished from Mr. Romine's case in that in that particular case, after the incident occurred, Mr. Romine did everything to hide and obstruct the fact that the incident had occurred, starting with leaving his mother deceased in the home, disappearing.

At some point after family and friends called wondering where -- why they hadn't heard from his

mother, the police performed a welfare check. They called the Defendant. The Defendant told them that she was alive and well and they should knock on a particular window and she would answer. Of course, that was not true. The police did that. They called him again. They said he couldn't get to the scene because he was intoxicated. He also refused assistance to get there, and then he tried to destroy his phone.

The police entered the house, found his mother deceased, and tracked his car to an address in Springfield where they tried to stop him. He didn't immediately stop and instead through an assault rifle out of the truck.

Your Honor, this incident happened on July 6, 2024, 11 days ago, 12 days ago now. He was arrested yesterday. In that 11-day period, he made no attempt to flee the jurisdiction. He did nothing other than remain in his home for 11 days until the arrest warrant was issued yesterday. He was notified the Indictment had been returned and the arrest warrant had been issued, and he surrendered to the Sangamon County Jail in less than a half-an-hour of his own volition.

I submit to the Court that the State has not met its burden by clear and convincing evidence that

there is no set of conditions that would ensure the safety of the community.

Your Honor, I would say in finishing up my arguments, I understand that this is a difficult case, and I understand that there is a extreme public interest in this case, but, Your Honor, this is the framework that the General Assembly gave us to work with as of September of 2023. We may not like it, but that's the framework we are required to decide detention or release within, and I submit the State simply has not met their burden.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Fultz.

I appreciate the arguments and pleadings by counsel on both sides.

Based off of the video which was, like I say, presented by both -- counsel from both sides under the Protective Order, based off of that, based off the People's verified petition, the arguments of counsel, all of the statutory factors which I will go through here in a moment, the People's petition is granted, and the Defendant will be detained under the dangerousness standard of the act while awaiting trial.

First, the State has met its burden by clear

and convincing evidence that the proof is evident or the presumption great that the Defendant has committed a detainable offense.

Here, the actions described in the Indictment are on video, and the State has met its burden on that first prong.

Secondly, the State has proved by clear and convincing evidence the Defendant poses a real and present threat to the community based off specific articulable facts of this case including the Defendant is known to possess firearms as was the case in this instance.

The victim here was in her own home unarmed of a slight build meaning she was no physical threat to the Defendant. She had called 9-1-1 asking for help. The Defendant arrives as a trained and sworn officer with an additional law enforcement officer, and he had a weapon. Despite his level of control, the impulsivity of the Defendant led to the charges in this case.

Based on review of the video, this was such a departure from the basic expectation of a civil society and societal norms regarding the safety of others that the State has met its burden to demonstrate he is a real and present threat to the community.

Lastly, the State has shown that no condition or combination of conditions can mitigate this threat.

Here, the Defendant is a sworn officer who took an oath to protect the community. He knew or should have known that he was being recorded, was standing next to a Sheriff's deputy, and still fired a weapon at an unarmed woman from across the room. If a police officer being right next to you recording you and having gone through personally hours of training and taking an oath cannot prevent the Defendant from acting in such a way, I can think of no conditions or set of conditions that would sufficiently mitigate the threat.

Furthermore, the Defendant's comments about the victim before and after the shooting including directing an officer not to give aid and disparaging remarks made about the victim are so out of bounds of societal norms that it suggests that there's no condition that would be sufficient. Simply no longer working as a police officer or home confinement or electronic monitoring or any other conditions that are oftentimes used cannot sufficiently mitigate the threat of someone who acted in this way.

People's petition is granted. Defendant is to remain detained.

Cause remains set for August 26th -- no, no, no. No, no, no. No outbursts in any direction.

Anything further today, Mr. Fultz?

MR. FULTZ: No.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything further, Ms. Rodgers?

MS. RODGERS: No, Your Honor.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

(Conclusion of today's proceedings.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I, Marybeth Evans, an Official Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had on the hearing in the above-entitled cause; that I thereafter caused the foregoing to be transcribed into typewriting, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before RYAN M. CADAGIN, Judge of said proceedings.

Marybeth Evans

Marybeth Evans

Official Court Reporter

Dated this 27th day

of August, 2024.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Sean Grayson

Defendant.

Case No.: 24-CF-909

PRETRIAL FAIRNESS ACT APPEAL
APPOINTMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER AS COUNSEL ON APPEAL

It appearing to the Court that the above-named defendant desires to appeal from the Pretrial Fairness order entered by the Court on 8/19/24, the defendant is indigent and requests appointment of counsel for representation in this interlocutory appeal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT

CAROLYN R. KLARQUIST, Director of the Pretrial Fairness Unit
Office of the State Appellate Defender
203 N. LaSalle St., 24th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 814-5472
PFA@osad.state.il.us

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SEP 0 3 2024
63
Joseph B. Rocco Clerk of the Circuit Court

is hereby appointed to represent the above-named defendant for purposes of appeal.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court Reporting Personnel of this Court shall within twenty-one days from the date of filing of the Notice of Appeal, and without charge to the indigent defendant, file a transcription or official electronic recording as the official Report of Proceedings with the Clerk of this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall:

1) Send a copy of this order to the defendant, the defendant's counsel on appeal, and the court reporting personnel responsible for filing the Report of Proceedings; and
2) File the Report of Proceedings with the Clerk of the Reviewing court within 30 days of the filing of the Notice of Appeal.

DATED: 9/3/24

Lynn M. Wyf
JUDGE

EFILED
9/18/2024 4:38 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

DEFENDANT'S POSITION REGARDING EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ORDER M.R. 2634 (AMENDED: FEBRUARY 22, 2016)

NOW COMES the Defendant, SEAN GRAYSON, through his attorneys, Daniel L. Fultz of Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, and Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr. of the Wykoff Law Office LLC, and for his position regarding extended media coverage, states to this Honorable Court as follows, that:

1. On or about August 22, 2024, a Request(s) for Extended Media Coverage of Trial/Proceedings was submitted to this Honorable Court.

2. On or about August 22, 2024, this Honorable Court granted "leave [to all parties] to file any objections or positions to expanded media coverage within 30 days."

3. In accord therewith, let it be abundantly clear that counsel for the Accused are committed to defending all constitutional rights as enshrined in the amendments to the Bill of Rights. Counsel do not take an *a la carte* approach to defending constitutionally protected rights, *e.g.,* embracing only those favorable to the Accused when convenient, while ignoring others that are not so opportune.

4. Here, at a minimum, the right to Due Process as protected by the Fifth Amendment is implicated, as are as the rights to a public trial and trial by an impartial jury as guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment. These rights, as protected by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. might not necessarily be in harmony with one another, however. In fact, in the criminal law, there are instances where even within the same amendment to the bill of rights, two rights might conflict with one another. For example, although

every defendant has a right to the attorney of his choosing, that right is not absolute. *United States v. Vasquez*, 966 F.2d 254, 261 (7th Cir. 1992). The Sixth Amendment also entitles defendants to representation by an attorney unfettered by any conflict of interest. *United States v. Lowry*, 971 F.2d 55, 59 (7th Cir. 1992). In other words, the Sixth Amendment right to counsel of defendant's choosing and right to conflict-free representation may at times clash with each other, and one must then give way to the other.

5. Counsel for the Accused deem that here, such a clash of rights is at play, and in such an occurrence, the right to a fair trial must reign superior to all others. As evidenced by the extensive media interest in this cause since inception – which includes, but is not limited to, commentary by the Governor of Illinois and the current and past President of the United States – extended media coverage will potentially be distracting, and/or interfere with the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the Court making decisions that affect the life, liberty, or property of citizens. The Illinois Supreme Court's Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois specifically prohibits such distractions. *Supra*.

6. As such, to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice in the pending cause, undersigned counsel respectfully requests that this Honorable Court exercise its discretion and **DENY** the application for all extended media coverage in the cause *sub judice* in accord with 1.3(c) of Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 2634 (Amended: February 22, 2016).

WHEREFORE, Defendant, SEAN GRAYSON respectfully prays that this Honorable Court grant this motion for relief, deny the application for extended media coverage in the cause *sub judice*, and grant him any and all further relief as this Honorable Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
Brown, Hay, & Stephens, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 544-8491
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E-mail: dfultz@bhslaw.com

WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 18, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ODYSSEY EfileIL system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non-ODYSSEY EfileIL participants:

Sean Grayson
c/o Sangamon County Jail
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

By:

BROWN, HAY, & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
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205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700
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E-mail: dfultz@bhslaw.com

WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
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Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

EFILED
10/2/2024 2:05 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
-v-	)	**Case. No. 24-CF-909**
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
Defendant	)	

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, representing the People of the State of Illinois, in the above styled cause, hereby certifies that I supplied Discovery to the accused in compliance with Supreme Court Rule 412, and all Discovery Orders entered by the Court, by U.S. Mail, said Discovery material to:

Dan Fultz
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, Illinois 62705

Mark Wykoff
Attorney at Law
919 South Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

on the 2nd day of October, 2024, said Discovery consisting of one USB Drive containing 675 consecutively numbered pages and digital media as listed:

- CSI Photos
- ISP Files
- Logan County Audio
- SCCDS Files
- SCSO BWC
- Sonya Massey Phone Extractions
  SPD BWC and Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Milhiser
STATE'S ATTORNEY

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
2nd day of October, 2024.

NOTARY PUBLIC

OFFICIAL SEAL
ANNETTE MARIE AGRALL
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMMISSION NO.979552
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCTOBER 16, 2027

EFILED
10/16/2024 3:07 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VIDEO WRIT

Case Name: v. SEAN GRAYSON	Case Number: 24-CF-909	Beginning Date of Type of Hearing: 10/21/24	Type of Hearing: Status Hearing Length of Hearing: 15 minutes

TO: THE SERGEANT ON DUTY OF MENARD COUNTY JAIL
WE COMMAND that you make the following inmate available at a designated Menard County Jail video conference facility to appear in the above proceeding before the Honorable Ryan M. Cadagin, Circuit Judge, sitting at Sangamon County, Illinois

PERSONS TO APPEAR BY VIDEO
ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Name	ID. NO.	LOCATION	DATE TO APPEAR	TIME OF HRG
Sean Grayson	DOB 6/7/94	Menard County Jail	October 21, 2024	9:00 a.m.

Date: October 16, 2024

Judge Ryan M. Cadagin

Zoom meeting ID: 844 3178 3448 Password: 393748

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED
OCT 17 2024
Joseph B. Kozak Clerk of the Circuit Court
7

People,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
Sean Grayson,)
Defendant.)

Case No: 24 CF 909

MEDIA COVERAGE ORDER BENCH HEARINGS

Media Coverage Requester: _____

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT:

The request(s) for media coverage in the above case, hearing or trial scheduled for the 21 day of October, 2024 at 9 (AM)/PM, at the Sangamon County Courthouse in Springfield, Illinois has been ☐ Approved ☒ Denied

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following in the courtroom for media coverage of the above case.

☐ **Photography:** Single Shot (no rapid auto shoot) - Ambient Light Photographic Equipment – No Flash - All Cameras in Approved Locations Only – No Live Streaming. **Number Allowed:**_____ (No more than 2 still photographers per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Television Coverage:** – Single Video "Pool" Camera in approved location only with single operator – Recorded Video Only No Live Steaming. (Not more than 2 television cameras and not more than one camera person per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Web or Television Pool Camera(s):**- for live streaming specifically: PTZ Ambient Light – Noiseless movement or Standalone Ambient Light Cameras All Cameras in approved locations only. **Number Allowed:**_____ (Not more than 2 per Supreme Court policy on Media Coverage).

☐ **Audio/Electronic Sound Recording Equipment:** – Only one audio system for broadcast shall be permitted in a proceeding. No Live Broadcast, Record Only. Microphones can be used in only approved locations or in conjunction with supplied signal mult box. **Number Allowed:**_____

Live Blogging on the Internet Live Streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform IS NOT allowed

Cell Phone use is STRICTLY PROHIBITED due to the difficulty of verifying live broadcast.

If extended media coverage is needed, the media must submit a new request for each day.

No equipment or clothing of media coverage personnel shall bear any insignia or identification of the individual medium or network involved in the media coverage.

All media equipment and personnel shall be in place at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time of commencement of the proceedings. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

Audio or visual equipment authorized by this Order shall not be operated during a recess in the court proceeding. (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

The Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for the enforcement of this Order.

The Court may refuse, limit amend or terminate photographic or electronic media coverage at any time during the proceedings in the event the judge finds the provisions established under the media policy have been violated, or that substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by the manner of coverage if it is allowed to continue; or if necessary to guarantee the safety of the courtroom, including any party, witness, juror or attendee of the proceeding.

The Courts retain the right to remove one or all of the media if any section of the media coverage policy is breached.

A decision by a judge to deny, limit or terminate media coverage is not appealable.

Courts Technology Liaison is responsible for equipment review and placement.

☐ **Notice.** The request for media coverage was made at least 14 days in advance of the proceedings and a statement that appropriate notice was given to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the trial court administrator and the judge, along with the names of each, has been done. (Check if this has been done) (See Supreme Court policy of media coverage).

☐ **Objections.** No objections were received by those entitled to receive notice.

Date: 10/17/24

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit

STATE OF ILLINOIS
APPELLATE COURT
FOURTH DISTRICT
201 W. MONROE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

CLERK OF THE COURT
(217) 782-2586

RESEARCH DIRECTOR
(217) 782-3528

FILED
October 22, 2024
APPELLATE
COURT CLERK

4-24-1100

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
v.
SEAN GRAYSON,
Defendant-Appellant.

Sangamon County
Case No.: 24CF909

FILED
OCT 22 2024
50
Joseph B. Kroul Clerk of the Circuit Court

ORDER

This cause coming to be heard with proper notice having been served, and the Court being fully advised in the premises:

IT IS ORDERED that appellee's Unopposed Motion to Supplement the Record on Appeal is allowed. The Sangamon County Circuit Clerk is directed to file a supplement to the record on appeal containing People's Exhibit A.

Order entered by the court.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois
Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24 CF 909

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

FILED
DEC 03 2024
Josh B. Pettit Clerk of the Circuit Court
23

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 6th day of December, 2024 at 2:30 a.m. (p.m.), at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel: 1 camera (video + still) + 1 photographer
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   _____ at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   X less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: hearing was set yesterday (12/2/24).
5. Notice of this request needs to be provided to:
   Counsel of record: Daniel Fultz + Mark Wykoff
   Parties appearing without counsel: _____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Mayheimer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature] Kelsey Mullins
Signature Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

FILED
DEC 03 2024
Joseph W. Pickett Clerk of the Circuit Court

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

People of the State of Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24 CF 909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 6th day of December, 2024 at 2:30 ~~a.m.~~ /p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (X) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

12/3/24
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois
Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24-CF-909

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

FILED
DEC 09 2024
23
Joseph B. Roesch Clerk of the Circuit Court

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 7 day of January, 2025 at 3:30 a.m. (p.m.), at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel: 1 video camera + 1 photographer
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   ✓ at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   _____ less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: _____
5. Notice of this request needs to be provided to:
   Counsel of record: Mark Wykoff, Daniel Fultz
   Parties appearing without counsel: _____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Matheimer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

Kelsey Mullins
Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

FILED
DEC 10 2024
Joseph B. Rocco Clerk of the Circuit Court

21

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 2nd day of January, 2025 at 3:30 a.m. (p.m.), at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (✓) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

12/10/24
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS. Case Number: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, along with a copy of:

Docket Entry Dated December 30, 2024

Entry Regarding Motion to Continue Stay

Referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof plainly addressed to:

JOHN MILHISER

On the following date: 12/30/2024

Sent by US Mail to the address listed above: Yes

Sent by electronic mail:

To the following e-mail address:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

By Deputy Clerk: AMK

By Deputy Clerk:

Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Case on Appeal Report: Appeal

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: DANIEL FULTZ
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: MARK WYKOFF

12/30/2024 Entry Regarding Motion to Continue Stay
Trial Call on Jan 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom 7C
On 12/10/24, the Illinois Supreme Court entered the following order in People v. Grayson, 131279: "Motion by Petitioner to continue stay of mandate through disposition of appeal. Allowed. The mandate of the appellate court is stayed pending disposition of the State's petition for leave to appeal, and if the petition for leave to appeal is allowed, until disposition of the appeal." The 1/2/25 court setting in this case had previously been set in accordance with the 4th District Appellate Court's stay of their own mandate for 35 days. Pursuant to this order from the Illinois Supreme Court staying the mandate of the 4th District Appellate Court pending the petitioner's appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court, the 1/2/25 court setting is cancelled. Cause remains set for pretrial on 1/13/25 at 9:00 a.m. Clerk directed to send a copy of the docket to all attorneys of record.
Judge: CADAGIN Reporter: N Clerk: N

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS

Case No: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, together with a copy of the :
Docket Entry Dated 12/30/2024

referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof in an envelope plainly addressed
JOHN MILHISER

and depositing the same in the U. S. Mail postage pre-paid on December 30, 2024

Joseph B. Roesch
CIRCUIT CLERK

BY: AMK
DEPUTY CLERK

AMK

POS

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS

Case No: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, together with a copy of the :
Docket Entry Dated 12/30/2024

referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof in an envelope plainly addressed
MARY RODGERS

and depositing the same in the U. S. Mail postage pre-paid on December 30, 2024

Joseph B. Roesch
CIRCUIT CLERK

BY: AMK
DEPUTY CLERK

AMK

POS

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS

Case No: 2024-CF-000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, together with a copy of the :
Docket Entry Dated 12/30/2024

referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof in an envelope plainly addressed

DANIEL FULTZ
205 S. 5TH ST STE 700
P.O. BOX 2459
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62705

and depositing the same in the U. S. Mail postage pre-paid on December 30, 2024

Joseph B. Roesch
CIRCUIT CLERK

BY: AMK
DEPUTY CLERK

AMK

POS

JOE ROESCH
SANGAMON COUNTY, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
200 SOUTH 9TH STREET ROOM 405
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Case: 2024-CF-000909 Type: Criminal Felony Assigned Judge: CADAGIN
Filed: 07/18/2024 Status: Case on Appeal Report: Appeal

	Case Participant	Attorney
	State of Illinois	
	vs.	
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: DANIEL FULTZ
Defendant	SEAN GRAYSON	Lead: MARK WYKOFF

12/30/2024 Entry Regarding Motion to Continue Stay
Trial Call on Jan 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom 7C
On 12/10/24, the Illinois Supreme Court entered the following order in People v. Grayson, 131279: "Motion by Petitioner to continue stay of mandate through disposition of appeal. Allowed. The mandate of the appellate court is stayed pending disposition of the State's petition for leave to appeal, and if the petition for leave to appeal is allowed, until disposition of the appeal." The 1/2/25 court setting in this case had previously been set in accordance with the 4th District Appellate Court's stay of their own mandate for 35 days. Pursuant to this order from the Illinois Supreme Court staying the mandate of the 4th District Appellate Court pending the petitioner's appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court, the 1/2/25 court setting is cancelled. Cause remains set for pretrial on 1/13/25 at 9:00 a.m. Clerk directed to send a copy of the docket to all attorneys of record.
Judge: CADAGIN Reporter: N Clerk: N

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

PROOF OF SERVICE

State of Illinois

VS

Case No: 2024 CF 000909

SEAN GRAYSON

The undersigned certifies that service of the foregoing, together with a copy of the :
Docket Entry Dated 12/30/2024

referred to herein, was made by enclosing a true copy thereof in an envelope plainly addressed

MARK WYKOFF
919 SOUTH 8TH ST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

and depositing the same in the U. S. Mail postage pre-paid on December 30, 2024

7th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SEAL SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Joseph B. Roesch
CIRCUIT CLERK

BY: AMK
DEPUTY CLERK

AMK

POS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois
Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24-CF-909

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

FILED
JAN 03 2025
Josh W. Rossi Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 13th day of January, 2025 at 9 a.m./p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel: 1 photographer, 1 camera
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   ____ at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   ✓ less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: I was delayed filing a submission because of holiday
5. Notice of this request needs to be provided to:
   Counsel of record: Mark Wykoff, Daniel Fultz
   Parties appearing without counsel: ____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Maxheimer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

Kelsey Mullins
Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

FILED
JAN 03 2025
Joseph B. Rosal Clerk of the Circuit Court
62

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 13th day of January, 2025 at 9:00 (a.m.) /p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (✓) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

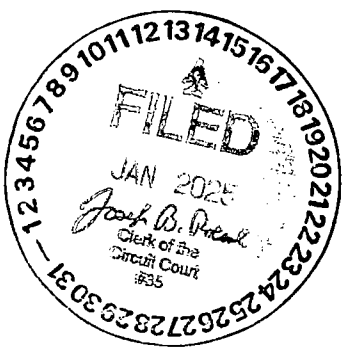
Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

1/3/25
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois
Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24-CF-909

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 24th day of March, 2025 at 9 a.m./p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel: 1 video camera + 1 photographer
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   X at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   _____ less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: _____
5. Notice of this request needs to be provided to:
   Counsel of record: Mark Wykoff, Daniel Fultz
   Parties appearing without counsel: _____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Maxhamer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

Kelsey Mullins
Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

FILED
JAN 21 2025
Joseph B. Kean Clerk of the Circuit Court
21

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 24th day of March, 2025 at 9:00 (a.m.)/p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (✓) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

1/21/25
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS **Plaintiff,** **-v-** **SEAN GRAYSON,** **Defendant**	))))))	**Case No. 24-CF-909**

ADDITIONAL DISCOVERY

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, Sangamon County State's Attorney, and through his duly appointed First Assistant, Mary Beth Rodgers, who submit the following as additional discovery in the above-captioned cause:

Pages 676 – 748	Transcript Grand Jury Proceedings held July 17, 2024;
Pages 749 – 1029 (Contained on CD)	ISP Lab reports – Notes, CIT Course Description – ILETSB website, Grayson – Logan County Disciplinary Records (7-10-24), Grayson History-65149298;
One CD	Michael Angeles interview.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. MILHISER
SANGAMON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

By: _____
Mary Beth Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that service of the foregoing document was made by enclosing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, postage fully prepaid, addressed to:

Daniel Fultz
Brown, Hay & Stephens
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, Illinois 62705

Mark Wykoff
Attorney at Law
919 South Eighth Street
Springfield, IL 62703

and placing the same in the U.S. Mail from the office of the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office on January 22, 2025.

_____

EFILED
2/26/2025 9:07 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

MOTION FOR CHANGE OF PLACE OF TRIAL

NOW COMES Sean Grayson, by and through his attorneys, Daniel L. Fultz of Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, and Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr. of the Wykoff Law Office LLC, pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/114-6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963, and moves this Court for a change of place of trial. In support of his Motion for Change of Place of Trial, Defendant states to this Honorable Court as follows, that:

BACKGROUND

On July 6, 2024, Defendant Sean Grayson and another Sangamon County Deputy Sheriff responded to a 9-1-1 call for service at the residence of Sonya Massey. During their response, a shooting occurred that resulted in the death of Ms. Massey. The Defendant was subsequently arrested on July 17, 2024. On July 18, 2024, an Indictment was handed down, alleging that the Defendant committed, *inter alia*, the offense of first-degree murder. He was arraigned that same day and has remained in custody throughout these proceedings. Trial is set to commence on a date yet to be determined.

CHANGE OF PLACE OF TRIAL

725 ILCS 5/114-6 states as follows:

> Change of Place of Trial. (a) A defendant may move the court for a change of place of trial on the ground that there exists in the county in which the charge is

> pending such a prejudice against him on the part of the inhabitants that he cannot receive a fair trial in such county. 725 ILCS 5/114-6(a).

The statute requires the motion be supported by affidavit(s) setting forth the nature of the prejudice alleged. 725 ILCS 5/114-6(b). Those affidavits are attached to this pleading and are marked as Exhibit 1. Further, "[i]f the court determines that there exists in the county where the prosecution is pending such prejudice against the defendant that he cannot receive a fair trial *it shall transfer* the cause to the circuit court in any county where a fair trial may be had." (Emphasis added.) 725 ILCS 5/114-6(c). Defendant submits that this motion, along with its attached exhibits, establishes a *prima facie* showing of prejudice against him by the inhabitants of Sangamon County such that a fair trial cannot be obtained without a change of place of trial.

FACTUAL BASIS

Sonya Massey resided in Springfield, Illinois, which has an estimated population of 112,544. *State & County QuickFacts: Sangamon County, IL*. U.S. Census Bureau (2023) retrieved December 18, 2024. Defendant Sean Grayson has been a lifelong resident of Sangamon County. He graduated from North Mac High School and served in law enforcement in both Virden and Pawnee, amongst other agencies, prior to his service with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department. Both Sonya Massey and Sean Grayson are well known throughout Sangamon County as a result of this incident.

The print and electronic news media coverage relating to the death of Sonya Massey has been extensive nationally and worldwide, but especially in the local community. The Defendant proffers to this Court that this case has subjected Sangamon County to unprecedented media attention from local, regional, national and world news sources. There have also been extensive community comments surrounding this case. Virtually everyone is aware of and has an opinion on the matter and has discussed the case with fellow community members.

1. Newspapers and Electronic Media: Sangamon County and the near surrounding counties are served by several major newspapers including: The State Journal Register and Illinois Times, based in Springfield, Illinois; the Chatham Clarion, Auburn Citizen, New Berlin Bee, Pawnee Post, Rochester Times, Riverton/Tri-City Register, and Sun Times all published by South County Publications, based in Auburn, Illinois; The Pantagraph, based in Bloomington Illinois; the Herald and Review, based in Decatur, Illinois; and the Breeze Courier, based in Taylorville, Illinois. The State Journal Register, Illinois Times, South County Publications, Herald and Review, The Pantagraph, and the Breeze Courier all maintain websites for the dissemination of their articles. Counsel has obtained electronic copies of relevant and available articles published in these newspapers, marked as Exhibit 2. Counsel has also provided the "Sonya Massey" search results from a few of these newspaper and publisher websites. As one can quickly see, the articles easily number more than 100 and many of them disclose information that may ultimately be deemed to be inadmissible at trial.

2. Community Awareness: Community activities and engagement within Sangamon County are substantial and must also be considered. Here, a GoFundMe account titled "Justice for Sonya Massey" was created by her father, James Wilburn. As of the date of this pleading, the fund has raised $528,730 from over 15,000+ individual donations. A copy of the GoFundMe webpage has been attached as Exhibit 3. This GoFundMe has reached hundreds of thousands of individuals through national news coverage including, WGN9, the Chicago Defender, the State Journal Register, and Illinois Eagle. A copy of many of the articles are attached hereto as Exhibit 3A.

Moreover, the Jefferson Bridge in Sangamon County is to be renamed "Massey Memorial Bridge." This bridge is not only undertaking a new name in Sonya Massey's honor but also displays a vivid mural of her on the side of the bridge. The mural displays a drawing of Ms.

Massey as well as her name and the quotation "Say Her Name" printed near her drawing. It is conceivable that many residents of Sangamon County and the surrounding area will see this mural and take note of the story being told by the media and others. A photograph of the bridge's mural has been attached to this Pleading as Exhibit 3B as well as multiple articles that have been attached as Exhibit 3C.

Furthermore, many county-based and national news sources such as The State Journal Register, Illinois Times, CNN, NBC, ABC, and WAND, have shared the story of recent news involving the $10 million dollar settlement with Sangamon County. A copy of these articles have been attached as Exhibit 3D.

Perhaps the most compelling news stories include the ones describing the overwhelming number of applications to be involved in the Massey Commission, a citizens' commission established in response to the events on July 6, 2024. *See Ex. 2.*

3. Online Blogs, Wikipedia, etc.: Online discourse about the case has been extensive, with widespread coverage across social media, blogs, and forums. A Wikipedia page titled "Killing of Sonya Massey" was created shortly after the indictment and has since undergone multiple edits. The page includes detailed accounts of the incident, trial updates, and media reactions. It cites numerous news articles, many of which are included as exhibits in this motion. The page's discussion section also contains ongoing debates about the case's facts, indicating the strong public interest and potential bias among Sangamon County residents. This page is attached as Exhibit 4.

4. Everyday Human Nature: Sangamon County is a relatively small, closely knit community and the circumstances surrounding this case have led to an overwhelming and emotional response from its residents, many of whom have participated in a number of public protests, marches or other public expressions of support for Sonya Massey. The high-profile nature

of the case, combined with continuous media coverage, has shaped public perception, making it difficult to separate fact from speculation, and the opinion of oneself from the opinion of another. Virtually everyone in the county is aware of the case, and many have already formed strong opinions regarding the Defendant's guilt or innocence.

Given this emotionally charged atmosphere, it is reasonable to conclude that the community's widespread engagement has made it virtually impossible to empanel a fair and impartial jury in Sangamon County. The prejudgment of this case – whether through direct knowledge, media influence, or social pressure – poses a significant threat to the Defendant's right to a fair trial. Lastly, as discussed below, information that will be inadmissible at trial has already rapidly spread through the community.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

As previously cited, 725 ILCS 5/114-6 governs motions for change of place of trial. Such a change of place of trial must be granted if the defendant can show that there exists in the county in which the charge is pending such prejudice against the defendant on the part of the inhabitants that he cannot receive a fair trial in that county. 725 ILCS 5/114-6(a)-(c); *People v. McPherson*, 306 Ill. App. 3d 758, 764 (5th Dist. 1999) ("A defendant is entitled to a change of venue as a result of pretrial publicity if there is a reasonable apprehension that the defendant cannot receive a fair and impartial trial."); *People v. Jones*, 2021 IL App (4th) 190743-U, ¶ 44 ("If a court determines such prejudice exists, the court *must* transfer the case to a different county.") (Emphasis added). Courts consistently emphasize that a motion for change of place of trial should be granted when it is apparent that it will be impossible to find 12 jurors sufficiently unfamiliar with the details of the case to withstand challenge for cause. *People v. McPhearson*, 306 Ill. App. 3d 758, 765 (5th Dist. 1999); *People v. Fort*, 248 Ill. App. 3d 301, 309 (1st Dist. 1993). If the change is granted, the court

shall transfer the cause to any county where a fair trial may be had, and the Defendant will also be transferred to that county not more than three days before the commencement of trial. 725 ILCS 5/114-6(c)-(e).

The decision whether to grant a change of place of trial is within the sound discretion of the court and will not be reversed absent an abuse of that discretion. *People v. Fort*, 248 Ill.App.3d 301, 309 (1st Dist. 1993); *People v. McPherson*, 306 Ill. App. 3d 758, 764 (5th Dist. 1999).

According to United States Supreme Court precedent set forth in *Irvin v. Dowd*, 366 U.S. 717 (1961), the mere existence of any preconceived notion as to guilt or innocence is not enough to rebut the presumption of impartiality of a juror; such an opinion or impression can be set aside by a prospective juror, and if that juror can render a verdict based on the evidence, it is sufficient to give the defendant a fair trial in this regard. 366 U.S. at 723-24.

However, in *People v. Taylor*, 101 Ill.2d 377 (1984), the Supreme Court of Illinois found that in some situations with extensive pretrial publicity, jurors' assertions of their impartiality were not enough to make the assumption of that impartiality. The *Taylor* court described the media coverage of the case in the county where the crime occurred and surround counties as "unprecedented." *Id.* at 383. Detailed coverage began on the day of the crime and continued through trial. There were daily reports on the radio and television, as well as extensive coverage in two local newspapers. *Id.* Further, through this coverage, many jurors gained knowledge of *inadmissible and highly prejudicial information* such as the release of a codefendant because of his performance on a lie detector test. (Emphasis added.) *Id.* at 395. The court stated, "The defendant's right to a trial by a fair and impartial jury was infringed as soon as the potential jurors were shown to have been exposed to this peculiarly persuasive material." *Id.*

Similarly, in the present case, widespread and continuous media coverage began the day after the incident and remains persistent. *See generally Ex. 2-5.* More significantly, and as in *Taylor*, prospective jurors in Sangamon County have been exposed to potentially inadmissible and highly prejudicial information, including Defendant's prior DUI convictions and internal affairs investigations. *See Ex. 2.* This is not a case where media attention was fleeting, concentrated solely in the immediate aftermath of the incident, or dissipating well before trial. *See id.* at 396. Rather, the nature, extent, and duration of publicity here mirror the circumstances in *Taylor*, where the court determined that the prejudicial impact of media exposure compromised the defendant's fundamental right to an impartial jury. *Id.*

The Sangamon County community has clearly taken a stance on the question of Defendant Grayson's guilt. The only way to overcome the extensive coverage and community knowledge of inadmissible information in this case is to transfer it to a county where exposure to such coverage has been limited, regardless of potential jurors' assertions of impartiality. "Our system of criminal justice depends to a large extent on the participation of fair and impartial jurors. They must decide the case on the basis of evidence presented during the trial, not on the basis of information received or opinions formed from outside sources." *People v. Taylor*, 101 Ill. 2d 377, 386 (1984).

In an ordinary case, not characterized by extreme publicity and frequent press coverage, the *voir dire* examination is the most effective and valuable means of ascertain juror impartiality and fairness, including preconceived notions of guilt based on publicity or other reasons. *Voir dire* is the tool best suited to determine if a prospective juror can lay aside those notions and render a verdict based only on the evidence presented in court. *People v. Kurtz*, 37 Ill. 2d. 103 (1967). However, in this case, *voir dire* will be insufficient to protect Defendant's constitutional right to be tried by an impartial jury as it is apparent that it will most likely be impossible to find 12 jurors

sufficiently unfamiliar with the details of the case, and even inadmissible information, to withstand a challenge for cause. It is Defendant's position that the *voir dire* process will likely transpire as it did in *People v. Taylor*, 101 Ill.2d 377 (1984).[1] As a result, a reasonable apprehension exists that Defendant will not receive a fair trial in this county at this time, and the case must be transferred elsewhere accordingly.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, based upon the reasons set forth above, Defendant, Sean Grayson, respectfully prays this Honorable Court to:

1. Consider these verified pleadings and all facts contained therein which support a change of place of trial;

2. Require no further evidentiary showing to order a change of place of trial; and

3. Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
Brown, Hay, & Stephens, LLP
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700
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WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
919 South Eighth Street
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Telephone: (217) 522-3319
Fax: (217) 522-4147
E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

[1] "The record of the *voir dire* as a whole indicates widespread awareness of this case. There were almost no prospective jurors who knew nothing of the case. Even individuals who initially stated that they remembered very little responded to further questions by providing details. If a potential juror remembered one fact, it was likely to be that two boys were arrested, but one was released. This alone demonstrates the saliency of the information. When it became apparent that, in view of the details of the information that had been disseminated by the extensive press coverage, it would not be possible to find 12 jurors who were sufficiently unfamiliar with the facts highlighted by the media to be able to reach a verdict based solely on admissible evidence presented in the courtroom, the trial judge was obliged to grant the defendant's motion for change of venue." *People v. Taylor*, 101 Ill. 2d 377, 387 (1984).

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 25, 2025February 26, 2025 I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ODYSSEY EfileIL system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office
200 South Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701

and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non-ODYSSEY EfileIL participants:

Sean Grayson
c/o Macon County Jail
333 South Franklin Street
Decatur, IL 62523

By:

BROWN, HAY, & STEPHENS, LLP

By: *Daniel L. Fultz*
Daniel L. Fultz
Reg. No. 6282911
Attorney for Defendant
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Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 544-8491
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E-mail: dfultz@bhslaw.com

WYKOFF LAW OFFICE, LLC

By: *Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.*
Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.
Reg. No. 6292093
Attorney for Defendant
Wykoff Law Office, LLC
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E-mail: mark@wykofflaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL

2024CF000909

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
) Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,)
)
Defendant.)

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) **SS**
COUNTY OF SANGAMON)

I, Daniel L. Fultz, Affiant herein, under oath, states as follows that:

1. I am one the attorneys for the Defendant in this proceeding. I, along with co-counsel, Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr., have drafted and fully reviewed this Motion for Change of Place of Trial in its entirety. I agree with its contents, which are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

2. I further state that I have been continuously licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois since 2004. My practice is limited to criminal defense. During the time I have practiced I have been involved as defense counsel in a number of cases that have garnered significant press coverage and public interest.

3. During the period of time that I have represented Sean Grayson, the amount of media coverage and public interest in his case has been unprecedented in my experience. I have received media inquiries from every national news agency as well as national media figures requesting interviews, as well as international news agencies from around the world seeking comment. I have also received hundreds, if not thousands, of unsolicited emails and phone calls from people from around the globe freely commenting on their opinions of my decision to represent Mr. Grayson. I have also talked to many friends and family, who have expressed strong opinions about the case.

4. I do not believe that it is possible to find a fair and impartial jury in Sangamon County due to the amount of media coverage, rumors and other public discourse about this case.

FURTHER, THIS AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Daniel L. Fultz

Signed and sworn to before this 25th day of February 2025.

OFFICIAL SEAL
JUDY ANN SISSON
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMMISSION NO. 978858
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 29, 2027

Notary Public

Group Exhibit 1

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL

2024CF000909

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
) Case No. 2024-CF-909
SEAN GRAYSON,)
)
Defendant.)

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) **SS**
COUNTY OF SANGAMON)

I, Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr., Affiant herein, under oath, states as follows that:

1. Undersigned counsel is one the attorneys for the Defendant in this proceeding. Undersigned counsel and co-counsel, Daniel L. Fultz, have collaboratively drafted and fully reviewed this Motion for Change of Place of Trial in its entirety. The undersigned agrees with its contents, which are true and accurate to the best of personal knowledge.

2. Undersigned counsel has been continuously licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois since 2007. Undersigned counsel's practice is limited to criminal defense. Undersigned counsel has been involved as defense counsel in a significant number of high-profile homicide cases that have generated significant press coverage and public interest, some of which have garnered national media attention.

3. During the period of time that undersigned has represented Sean Grayson, the amount of media coverage and public interest in his case has been unprecedented. The undersigned has received media inquiries from nearly every national news agency, as well as national media figures, requesting interviews and seeking comment. The undersigned has also talked to many acquaintances, as well as fellow legal professionals, who have expressed unsolicited strong opinions about the case, nearly all of which have been atypically negative.

4. Undersigned counsel does not believe that it is possible to find a fair and impartial jury in Sangamon County due to the amount of media coverage, rumors, and other public discourse about this specific case.

FURTHER, THIS AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Mark Kevin Wykoff, Sr.

Signed and sworn to before this 25 day of February 2025.

OFFICIAL SEAL
NATALIE PRITCHARD
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES February 9, 2027

Notary Public

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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2/26/2025 9:07 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)		
)		
Plaintiff,)		
v.)		
)	Case No. 2024-CF-909	2024CF000909
SEAN GRAYSON,)		
)		
Defendant.)		

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) **SS**
COUNTY OF MACON)

I, Sean Grayson, Affiant herein, under oath, states as follows that:

1. I am the Defendant in this proceeding. I have reviewed the Motion for Change of Trial Venue in its entirety. I agree with its contents, which are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

2. I further state that I have been continuously incarcerated since being charged in the above-captioned matter.

3. During the period of my incarceration, I have talked to many friends and family, as well as other inmates who have come and gone. They have told me of numerous rumors and comments that have circulated publicly about me, particularly with regard to my guilt in this matter.

4. I do not believe that it is possible for me to get a fair trial in Sangamon County due to the amount of media coverage, rumors and other public discourse about my case.

FURTHER, THIS AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Sean Grayson

Signed and sworn to be fore this 25 day of February 2025.

Notary Public

"OFFICIAL SEAL"
TAYLOR JOHNSON
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 04-27-2026

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In wake of Massey shooting, Sangamon County target of Department of Justice investigation

November 21, 2024

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office is under investigation by the U. S. Department of Justice for civil rights violations, but the probe may go beyond the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey. The U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights probe will investigate the sheriff's department, but also Sangamon County Central Dispatch and the county itself. The investigation began after Massey, a […]

In wake of Massey shooting, Sangamon County target of DOJ investigation

November 21, 2024

By BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice for civil rights violations, but the probe may go beyond the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey. The U. S. Department of Justice's civil rights probe will investigate the sheriff's department, but also Sangamon County Central Dispatch and the county itself. The investigation began after Massey, a […]

Exhibit 2

A little over a month after the shooting death of Sonya Massey by a sheriff's deputy, Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell on Friday announced his retirement, effective no later than August 31. His announcement comes amid intense pressure to resign, including from Gov. JB Pritzker on Thursday. The Massey shooting raised questions regarding the hiring of Deputy Sean Grayson, who […]

Campbell to retire by end of month in wake of Massey shooting

August 15, 2024

By BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

A little over a month after the shooting death of Sonya Massey by a sheriff's deputy, Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell Friday announced his retirement, effective no later than Aug. 31. His announcement comes amid intense pressure to resign, including from Gov. JB Pritzker Thursday. The Massey shooting raised questions regarding the hiring of Deputy Sean Grayson, who worked at […]

Fax: Sangamon County enters• • agreement to end Dept. of Justice investigation 2226 2226

January 23, 2025

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

Sangamon County, its sheriff's office and its central dispatch system on Thursday announced an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice to resolve an investigation spurred by the shooting of Sonya Massey. Massey, an unarmed black woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis, was shot in her kitchen by Sangamon County Deputy Sean Grayson who responded to Massey's 911 […]

Grayson to remain jailed as state Supreme Court considers release request

December 19, 2024

Sean Grayson as it considers whether to hear an appeal regarding his pretrial detention. Grayson is charged with first-degree murder for killing Sonya Massey inside her home near Springfield on July 6. Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser petitioned for Grayson to be detained [...]

Sheriff Campbell statement

August 15, 2024

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell issued the following statement August 9 in regards to the July 6 killing of Sonya Massey by former County Deputy Sean Grayson. "I was first elected Sheriff in 2018. I embraced that role, to lead SCSO, but I always saw myself as a cop, not a politician. And for over thirty years, my career has [...]

Grayson's behavior in Logan Co. led superior to ask, 'How are you still employed with us?'

August 01, 2024

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

Before former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson was accused of shooting Sonya Massey after she called police to investigate a prowler, he had a rocky, one-year tenure with the Logan County Sheriff's Department. Personnel records show that Grayson's time there was fraught, though he was not fired by the department. Grayson's file from Logan County shows he continued a [...]

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By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | February 13, 2025 | Comments Off

JOHN O’CONNOR Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A $10 million settlement between county officials in Springfield, Illinois, and the family of Sonya Massey is the “first step in getting full justice” for the Black woman fatally shot in her home last summer by a sheriff’s deputy, lawyers said Wednesday. Civil rights attorney Ben Crump…

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Deputy who shot Sonya Massey thought her rebuke ‘in the name of Jesus’ indicated intent to kill him (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/08/06/deputy-who-shot-sonya-massey-thought-her-rebuke-in-the-name-of-jesus-indicated-intent-to-kill-him/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | August 6, 2024 | Comments Off

JOHN O’CONNOR Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The deputy sheriff who fatally shot Sonya Massey in her Illinois home last month said he believed that when the Black woman who called 911 for help unexpectedly said, “I rebuke you in the name of Jesus,” that she intended deadly harm, according to the deputy’s field…

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Sangamon County enters agreement to end DOJ investigation (https://www.breezecourier.com/2025/01/20/sangamon-county-enters-agreement-to-end-doj-investigation/)

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Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois Sangamon County, its sheriff’s office and its central dispatch system on Thursday announced an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice to resolve an investigation spurred by the shooting of Sonya Massey. Massey, an unarmed Black woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis, was shot in her kitchen by…

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Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell to retire Aug. 31 (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/08/12/sangamon-county-sheriff-jack-campbell-to-retire-aug-31/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | August 12, 2024 | Comments Off

JOHN O’CONNOR and RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — An Illinois sheriff who hired the deputy charged in the death of Sonya Massey announced Friday that he will retire, five weeks after the 36-year-old Black woman was fatally shot in her home. Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, who won the office in 2018,…

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Grayson to remain jailed as state Supreme Court considers release request (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/12/17/grayson-to-remain-jailed-as-state-supreme-court-considers-release-request/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | December 17, 2024 | Comments Off

Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois The Illinois Supreme Court declined to issue an order to release former Sangamon County Sheriff’s Deputy Sean Grayson as it considers whether to hear an appeal regarding his pretrial detention. Grayson is charged with first-degree murder for killing Sonya Massey inside her home near

Springfield on July 6. Sangamon County…

Read More (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/12/17/grayson-to-remain-jailed-as-state-supreme-court-considers-release-request/)

Chaotic shooting scene of Sonya Massey (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/07/23/chaotic-shooting-scene-of-sonya-massey/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | July 23, 2024 | Comments Off

By JOHN O’CONNOR Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Sonya Massey ducked and apologized to an Illinois sheriff’s deputy seconds before he shot the Black woman three times in her home, with one fatal blow to the head, as seen in body camera video released Monday. An Illinois grand jury indicted former Sangamon County Sheriff’s…

Read More (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/07/23/chaotic-shooting-scene-of-sonya-massey/)

Justice Department wants Sangamon Co. records (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/11/18/justice-department-wants-sangamon-co-records/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | November 18, 2024 | Comments Off

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department is demanding records related to the shooting of an Illinois woman who was killed in her home by a sheriff’s deputy as it investigates how local authorities treat Black residents and people with behavioral disabilities. The government made a list of demands in dozens of categories in…

Read More (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/11/18/justice-department-wants-sangamon-co-records/)

Massey’s death underscores state delay in launching mental health response program (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/09/04/masseys-death-

underscores-state-delay-in-launching-mental-health-response-program/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | September 4, 2024 | Comments Off

BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois An Illinois law intended to help people with mental illness avoid confrontations with police had been on the books for three years when Sonya Massey was shot by a Sangamon County Sheriff’s deputy. The Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, or CESSA, requires mental and behavioral health calls to 911…

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Sangamon County, Massey family reach settlement (https://www.breezecourier.com/2025/02/11/sangamon-county-massey-family-reach-settlement/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | February 11, 2025 | Comments Off

Sangamon County has reached an out-of-court settlement with the family of Sonya Massey. Reports indicate the settlement is in the amount of $10 million and requires approval from the Sangamon County Board at its next meeting, slated for tonight. On July 6, 2024, Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, was allegedly shot by then Sangamon County…

Read More (https://www.breezecourier.com/2025/02/11/sangamon-county-massey-family-reach-settlement/)

Attorneys for Sonya Massey’s family call for legislative change (https://www.breezecourier.com/2024/08/15/attorneys-for-sonya-masseys-family-call-for-legislative-change/)

By Editor (https://www.breezecourier.com/author/editor/) | August 15, 2024 | Comments Off

BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois Members of Sonya Massey’s family and their attorneys called a news conference Wednesday to push for federal and state legislation in the wake of Massey’s shooting. Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump called former Sangamon County Sheriff’s Deputy Sean Grayson “a ticking time bomb waiting to explode,” but also blamed a…

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Lawyers for Sonya Massey's family say $10M settlement 'first step;' await trial, legislative changes

By JOHN O'CONNOR - Associated Press | Updated Feb 12, 2025

Sangamon County reaches $10 million settlement with family of woman shot by deputy

JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Feb 12, 2025

US Justice Department, Illinois sheriff agree to policing upgrades after Sonya Massey shooting death

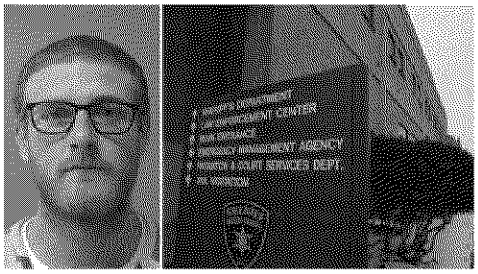
By JOHN O'CONNOR - AP Political Writer | Updated Jan 17, 2025

Feds, Sangamon County sheriff's office resolve inquiry into Sonya Massey's death

JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Updated Jan 17, 2025

Former deputy Sean Grayson to remain jailed in Decatur as appeal considered

BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois | Dec 17, 2024

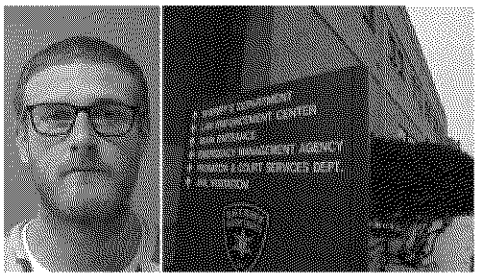


Justice Department demands records from Illinois sheriff after July killing of Black woman

ASSOCIATED PRESS | Updated Dec 17, 2024

Sean P. Grayson, ex-deputy charged with murder, now held in Decatur

Tony Reid | Oct 31, 2024



Illinois State Police investigating another Sangamon County officer-involved death

BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois | Updated Dec 17, 2024

In Sangamon County, Grayson wasn't the only deputy hired with a DUI on his record

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Massey's death underscores state delay in launching mental health response program

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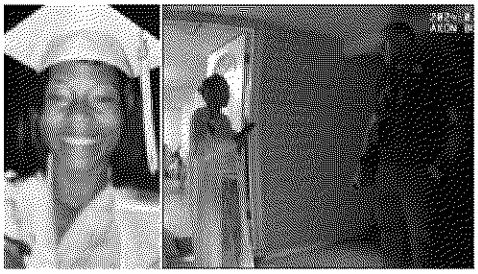

Biden signs order to establish 1908 Springfield race riot monument

AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press | Updated Aug 29, 2024

Our view: Thumbs up! To college students, music and back-to-school season

Aug 16, 2024

Biden to designate 1908 Springfield race riot site as national monument

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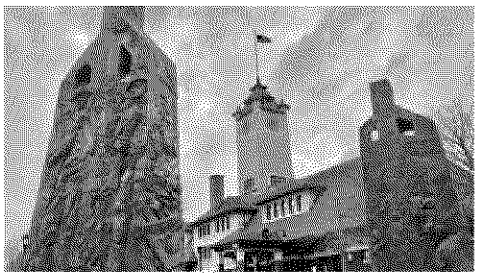
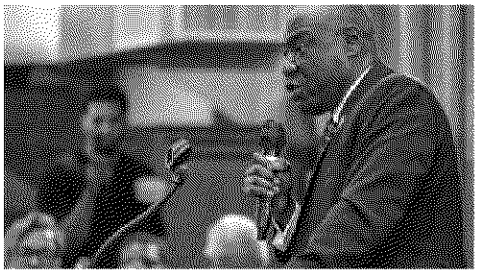


Attorneys for Sonya Massey's family call for legislative change

BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois | Updated Dec 17, 2024



Inside the work of Illinois' reparations efforts: 'A movement, not just a moment'

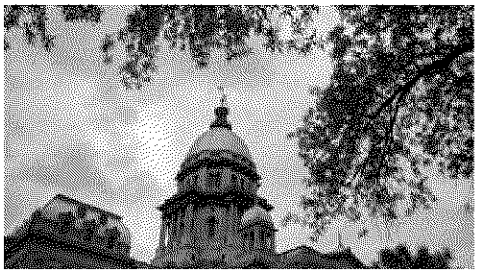
JONATHAN BULLINGTON, ALEX HULVALCHICK and KATE ARMANINI Chicago Tribune | Aug 11, 2024

Sangamon County sheriff to resign in fallout over Sonya Massey killing

Brenden Moore | Updated Dec 17, 2024

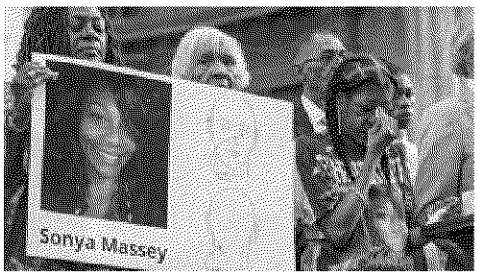
Capitol Briefs: 'Worker Freedom' act challenged; training aims to help LGBTQ+ community

JENNIFER FULLER, HANNAH MEISEL and JERRY NOWICKI Capitol News Illinois | Aug 9, 2024



Pritzker calls for sheriff to resign over handling of Sonya Massey killing

Brenden Moore | Updated Sep 12, 2024

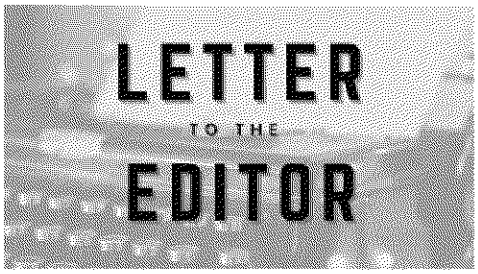


Deputy who shot Sonya Massey thought her rebuke 'in the name of Jesus' indicated intent to kill him

JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Updated Dec 17, 2024

Letter: Stop police violence

Aug 2, 2024



911 calls before Sonya Massey's shooting include 1 from her mother asking officers not to 'hurt her'

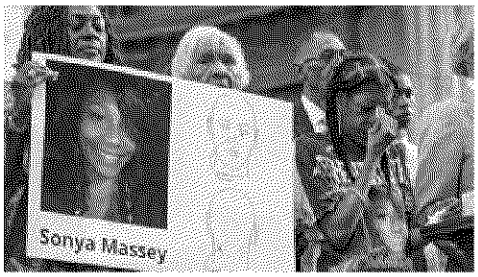
JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Updated Dec 17, 2024

Sonya Massey made multiple 911 calls for mental health crises in days before police shot her at home

JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Updated Dec 17, 2024

Illinois sheriff whose deputy killed Sonya Massey apologizes: 'I offer up no excuses'

JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press | Updated Dec 17, 2024

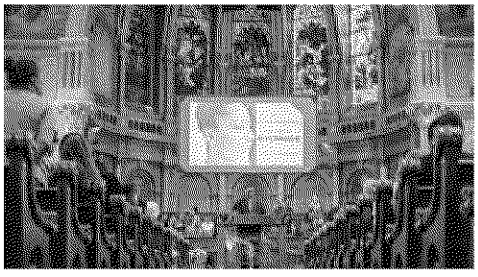


Pritzker signs birth equity initiative into law, celebrates Medicaid expansion

DILPREET RAJU and JENNIFER FULLER Capitol News Illinois | Jul 31, 2024

In the wake of Sonya Massey's death, advocates want the state to act

ANDREW ADAMS Capitol News Illinois | Updated Dec 17, 2024



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In wake of Massey shooting, Sangamon County target of Department of Justice investigation

November 21, 2024

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office is under investigation by the U. S. Department of Justice for civil rights violations, but the probe may go beyond the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey. The U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights probe will investigate the sheriff's department, but also Sangamon County Central Dispatch and the county itself. The investigation began after Massey, a […]

In wake of Massey shooting, Sangamon County target of DOJ investigation

November 21, 2024

By BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice for civil rights violations, but the probe may go beyond the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey. The U. S. Department of Justice's civil rights probe will investigate the sheriff's department, but also Sangamon County Central Dispatch and the county itself. The investigation began

Campbell says he'll retire by end of month in wake of Massey shooting

August 15, 2024

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

A little over a month after the shooting death of Sonya Massey by a sheriff's deputy, Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell on Friday announced his retirement, effective no later than August 31. His announcement comes amid intense pressure to resign, including from Gov. JB Pritzker on Thursday. The Massey shooting raised questions regarding the hiring of Deputy Sean Grayson, who [...]

Campbell to retire by end of month in wake of Massey shooting

August 15, 2024

By BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

A little over a month after the shooting death of Sonya Massey by a sheriff's deputy, Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell Friday announced his retirement, effective no later than Aug. 31. His announcement comes amid intense pressure to resign, including from Gov. JB Pritzker Thursday. The Massey shooting raised questions regarding the hiring of Deputy Sean Grayson, who worked at [...]

Fax: Sangamon County enters• • agreement to end Dept. of Justice investigation 2226 2226

January 23, 2025

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

Sangamon County, its sheriff's office and its central dispatch system on Thursday announced an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice to resolve an investigation spurred by the shooting of Sonya Massey. Massey, an unarmed black woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis, was shot in her kitchen by Sangamon County Deputy Sean Grayson who responded to Massey's 911 [...]

December 19, 2024

By BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court declined to issue an order to release former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson as it considers whether to hear an appeal regarding his pretrial detention. Grayson is charged with first-degree murder for killing Sonya Massey inside her home near Springfield on July 6. Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser petitioned for Grayson to be detained […]

Sheriff Campbell statement

August 15, 2024

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell issued the following statement August 9 in regards to the July 6 killing of Sonya Massey by former County Deputy Sean Grayson. "I was first elected Sheriff in 2018. I embraced that role, to lead SCSO, but I always saw myself as a cop, not a politician. And for over thirty years, my career has […]

Grayson's behavior in Logan Co. led superior to ask, 'How are you still employed with us?'

August 01, 2024

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

Before former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson was accused of shooting Sonya Massey after she called police to investigate a prowler, he had a rocky, one-year tenure with the Logan County Sheriff's Department. Personnel records show that Grayson's time there was fraught, though he was not fired by the department. Grayson's file from Logan County shows he continued a […]

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Sonya Massey's father speaks out on possible release of Grayson: 'This makes absolutely no sense'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:10 a.m. CT Dec. 11, 2024 | **Updated 10:19 a.m. CT Dec. 12, 2024**

James Wilburn, the father of Sonya Massey, who was fatally shot in her home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield on July 6, said little made sense to him about a Fourth District Appellate Court ruling paving the way for the pre-trial release of Sean P. Grayson, the former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with his daughter's murder.

Then again, Wilburn said, little has made sense since July 6.

"It was unbelievable," Wilburn said of the Nov. 27 appellate court opinion that ordered the circuit court to schedule a hearing to determine "the least restrictive conditions of defendant's pretrial release," now set for Jan. 2, 2025.

More: 'I don't ever want to see him walk free': Sonya Massey supporters rally, want Grayson detained

"As a dear friend of mine, a Black CEO who has a podcast, says, 'Make it make sense.' This makes absolutely no sense. It's like my daughter (has been) shot all over again."

Wilburn, with his white hair and goatee, expressive eyes and ever-present walking staff—a reminder of a 2020 quadruple heart bypass surgery—is no shrinking violet.

A retired U.S. Border Patrol agent who lives in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Wilburn has shared the stage in Springfield with nationally known civil rights attorney Ben Crump. He called for the resignation of then-Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell weeks before it came down as a retirement.

He has challenged federal legislators to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

More recently, pointed words have been directed at the three appellate court justices: Eugene Doherty, who wrote the opinion, and James A. Knecht and Craig H. DeArmond, who concurred.

At a rally and press conference last week in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda, Wilburn suggested the justices invite Grayson to live on their neighborhood block.

Wilburn also called the opinion "a bastardization of the of the (Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or) SAFE-T Act.

"The SAFE-T Act was not meant to let killers and murderers free," said Wilburn, in a one-on-one interview with The State Journal-Register. "It was (for) low-level people who could not afford to make a bond, so they didn't languish in jail until they were able to have their day in court. It shouldn't have included killers.

"It shouldn't have included the killer of my daughter."

'They're hurting because I'm hurting'

Wilburn said many of his best friends are law enforcement officers, as are some family members.

Wilburn doesn't hold the profession against Grayson, who he calls "an aberration." In past visits to Springfield, Wilburn has been critical about Grayson's hiring.

"(Grayson) should've never had a badge, he should've never had a gun," Wilburn said at a July 22 press conference. "He should've never been given the opportunity to kill my child because he had some serious blips on his record."

That's a reference to Grayson's criminal history with two DUIs before he became a police officer and a separation from the U.S. Army that listed "misconduct (serious offense)" as the reason.

Wilburn said some county deputies have told him they are sorry for what he has gone through.

"Most members of law enforcement are good people," he said. "They had nothing to do with the hiring of Sean Grayson. They're ashamed that he ever wore their uniform.

"Friends of mine who are hardened retired police officers. I've never saw these men cry before, but they're hurting because I'm hurting."

'We're all family'

Wilburn said he tries to keep busy in his retirement years.

He taught ninth graders last school year, but decided not to return to the classroom.

Wilburn serves on the Jefferson County Library Commission and he's an exalted ruler at his Elks Lodge.

More: 'A serious miscarriage of justice': Hearing set for Sean Grayson's release conditions

"When I'm alone with my thoughts, that's when it's hard," Wilburn admitted. "When I get a call from one of Sonya's sisters and they say, 'Daddy, I'm having a hard time,' I'm trying to be strong for them, but this still hurts. It still hurts.

"We're all family. When one has a heartache, we all have a heartache, we all shed a tear. We rejoice in the victories our family has."

Wilburn said he remains rooted in his Christian faith. Because of that faith, he believes after his daughter died that she was "immediately welcomed into the arms of Jesus. One day, I'm going to see her again, I'm going to be able to hug her again. I'm going to be able to talk to her again. That's my belief and nothing's going to change that.

"I think in the end we win because I'm a follower of Jesus Christ. 'That that was meant for evil will be turned for good.' I have to believe that. That's the anchor. That's the way I was raised, and I continue to believe that."

Changes to the SAFE-T Act

In addition to the policing act and the voting rights act, Wilburn said he is committed to helping make changes to the state's SAFE-T Act, which was passed in 2021.

Wilburn said would "absolutely" support murder being the threshold for not letting someone free from detention.

More: Sangamon County sheriff's department subject of a Department of Justice civil rights probe

"(Grayson) had been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two other felonies," Wilburn pointed out. "Where does this happen (that people charged with murder are let out pending trial)?

"(Working on those SAFE-T Act changes) gives me something to continue to live for. If it takes the last breath of my body, I'm going to see to it that these changes take place.

"I can stand up against injustice. I've done that all my life. I can't do anything else but."

(This story has been updated to meet our standards.)

Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

COURTS

Illinois Supreme Court will take up State's petition on Sean Grayson's detention

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:33 p.m. CT Jan. 28, 2025

The Illinois Supreme Court has agreed take up a Petition for Leave to Appeal filed by Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser regarding the detention of a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with first-degree murder in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey.

Oral arguments will be heard by the high court after the State and defense attorneys for Sean P. Grayson file briefs.

The petition, or PLA, asks the Supreme Court to address a Nov. 27 ruling from the Fourth District Appellate Court that would have cleared the way for Grayson's release from detention under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, which is part of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act.

More: 'I don't ever want to see him walk free': Sonya Massey supporters rally, want Grayson detained

A March 24 hearing for Grayson in Sangamon County Court will stand.

On Dec. 10, the Supreme Court ordered Grayson remain jailed until a decision is made in the case. He is currently jailed in Decatur.

Grayson and another sheriff's deputy responded to Massey's residence for a purported prowler early on the morning of July 6.

Grayson shot Massey in the face while in her home, even as Massey put her arms in the air and said "I'm sorry" while ducking for cover. Grayson aggressively yelled for Massey to put down a pot of boiling water.

Body worn camera footage of the shooting sparked international outrage.

Grayson has pleaded not guilty to all counts.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Hearing for potential release of ex-deputy in Massey shooting is delayed

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 5:18 p.m. CT Dec. 3, 2024 | **Updated 8:12 a.m. CT Dec. 4, 2024**

A Friday hearing to set "least restrictive conditions" for the release of a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with the first-degree murder of Sonya Massey is off.

The Fourth District Appellate court on Tuesday granted a State's motion to stay an order issued on Nov. 27 directing Sean Grayson be released from custody.

The new hearing date is Jan. 2, 2025, pending further action by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, supporters of Massey's family will gather for a rally in the Rotunda of the Illinois Capitol Building at noon Thursday.

The appellate court decision overturned a circuit court decision last week, meaning that Grayson would be released from detainment prior to his trial.

Circuit Court Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin twice ordered Grayson detained.

Grayson is being jailed at the Macon County Jail in Decatur.

Sheriff's deputies were called to Massey's home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield on July 6 for a report of a suspected prowler.

A conversation between Grayson and Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and the mother of two children, escalated quickly over a pot of boiling water, leading to Grayson drawing his service weapon and firing at Massey, striking her in the face.

The released body cam footage and case has garnered international attention.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation against the Sangamon County Sheriff's office, noting "serious concerns about (the sheriff department's) interactions

with Black people and people with behavioral health disabilities," along with a host of practices and procedures. The office has until Dec. 14 to provide DOJ necessary documents.

(This story has been updated with new information.)

Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

COURTS

'I don't ever want to see him walk free': Sonya Massey supporters rally, want Grayson detained

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 9:14 a.m. CT Dec. 6, 2024

Teresa Haley said she personally supported passage of the SAFE-T Act in Illinois, especially because it allowed for no-cash bail for offenders at the discretion of judges.

A recent Fourth District Appellate Court unanimous opinion that would have allowed for the pre-trial release of Sean P. Grayson, a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with first-degree murder of Sonya Massey, changed Haley's tune somewhat.

"(With the Grayson ruling, the SAFE-T) Act has been taken totally out of context," Haley said a press conference and rally for Sonya Massey inside the Illinois Capitol Rotunda Thursday. Haley of Haley & Associates has worked closely with the Massey family.

More: Hearing for potential release of ex-deputy in Massey shooting is delayed

"I'm asking state legislators to revisit the act and see what we can do to tweak it," she added. "If somebody is charged with murder, they are a risk to the society."

Haley was joined by several family members of Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman who was fatally shot inside her home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield after placing a 911 call, on July 6. Three members of the Massey Commission, formed with an eye towards addressing systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, also spoke.

On Tuesday, the appellate court stayed its mandate until Jan. 2, allowing the Illinois Supreme Court the opportunity to determine whether it will take up the case.

Grayson's hearing to set the conditions of his release had been scheduled for Dec. 6 before the stay.

Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser filed a Petition for Leave to Appeal (PLA) with the Supreme Court asking it take up the appellate court decision from the Nov. 27 order.

In a news release announcing the filing, Milhiser said Grayson had demonstrated that he "cannot comply with conditions and is a danger to the community."

Mark Wykoff, an attorney for Grayson, said the State's arguments in the PLA "at first blush, appear to be a regurgitation of the arguments that were unpersuasive in the appellate court."

The petition, Wykoff added, appeared to be "the product of the same playbook" employed in the Earl Moore Jr. case.

The State argued that the defendants in the case, former emergency medical services workers Peggy Finley and Peter Cadigan, both charged with first-degree murder, were dangers to the community. Finley and Cadigan also were ordered released pending trial.

Thursday's speakers took a different tact.

"My message to those three judges who ruled Sean Grayson is not a danger to the people of Springfield...If there's a house for sale on your block, let him move on the block where you live and we'll see how quickly that (not in my backyard) attitude comes out in you," said James Wilburn, Sonya Massey's father, who lives in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

"I'm going to fight to keep my daughter's killer in a jail cell. I don't ever want to see him walk free amongst any of us."

Wilburn believed the appellate court ruling was "a bastardization of the SAFE-T Act."

"I think the SAFE-T Act was enacted to keep low-level criminals, who could not afford a bond that was set, to get (out of jail)," Wilburn said. "(Grayson) has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two other felonies."

University of Illinois Springfield associate professor of sociology Lesa Johnson believed an old nemesis was behind the appellate court's ruling.

"The idea that an institutionalized group of people should use the very SAFE-T Act that has been put into place to save poor people and people of color and use it to turn around and save a white supremacist murderer is not new," Johnson said. "It is a carryover of a centuries-old

institutional racism that has pervaded the criminal system, the government system, the education system, the economic system and every other system that calls itself a bastion of justice.

"This is not justice. This is the same institutional racism that has been going on in the U.S. for over 400 years. This is what we must say to the appellate court: bsolutely not. This stops here."

Evan Brown, a member of a workgroup of the Massey Commission, said it seemed like the appellate court judges were "politicizing their own agenda. We have faith ultimately the Supreme Court will do the right thing."

Brown challenged local, state and federal officials to make strong statements and "put the pressure on the Supreme Court to do what's right."

Brown and commission member Calvin Christian said they also had little hope for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation launched last month against the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department.

The DOJ noted "serious concerns about (the sheriff department's) interactions with Black people and people with behavioral health disabilities," along with a host of practices and procedures.

Christian said comments by President-elect Donald Trump stating he would like to have federal immunity for police officers reinforced that thinking.

Shadia Massey, a first cousin to Sonya Massey and a co-chair of the commission, said the family continues to be devastated.

The appellate court ruling the day before Thanksgiving was one more pang.

"The day Sean Grayson is let out," she said, "will be a hurtful, hurtful day."

Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

CRIME

'A serious miscarriage of justice': Hearing set for Sean Grayson's release conditions

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 11:51 a.m. CT Dec. 2, 2024 | **Updated 3:17 p.m. CT Dec. 2, 2024**

Circuit Court Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin and attorneys for the State and for former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson will take up the "least restrictive conditions" of Grayson's release at a hearing in Sangamon County court at 2:30 p.m. Friday.

A Fourth District Appellate Court decision overturned a lower court decision last week, meaning that Grayson, charged with first-degree murder in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey inside of her home, will be released from detainment prior to his trial.

Grayson, sitting with one of his attorneys, Daniel Fultz, appeared by Zoom from the Macon County Jail in Decatur at Monday's hearing. Grayson agreed to appear by Zoom at Friday's hearing.

More: 'A travesty:' People react to deputy in Massey shooting being freed from jail

Outside of the county building before Grayson's hearing, about 15 to 20 protesters called for Grayson, 30, to continue to be detained.

Late Monday morning, State's Attorney John Milhiser filed a motion to stay the appellate court's mandate. An objection to the motion was quickly filed by the defendant.

After the hearing, James Wilburn, Massey's father from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, called Grayson's possible release "a serious miscarriage of justice."

The Massey family, including Sonya Massey's mother, Donna Massey, again packed the court's gallery.

Cadagin twice ordered Grayson to be detained under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

The appellate court opinion was written by Justice Eugene Doherty. Justices James A. Knecht and Craig H. DeArmond joined in the opinion.

It took exception with Cadagin's ruling that "no conditions of release would be adequate to mitigate the threat (Grayson) posed to the safety of the community."

The trial court's focus on Grayson's failings as a law enforcement officer, the opinion noted, "distracted from the central question of how to address any risk he posed after being stripped of his office."

Conditions for Grayson's release could include home confinement and some sort of monitoring process.

Tiara Standage, who has worked with the Massey and helped stage Monday's protest, said it was "ridiculous" even considering the possibility of releasing Grayson.

"It's a slap in the face to the Massey family," said Standage, outside of the courtroom. "They're spending their first holidays without their loved one and Sean Grayson could possibly spend his holidays with his family.

"That's unfair."

Springfield activist Ken Pacha said first-degree murder should be a disqualifier for release from jail before a defendant's trial.

Two emergency medical services workers, Peggy Finley and Peter Cadigan, both charged with first-degree murder in the 2022 death of Earl Moore Jr., have been released.

"It makes a mockery of the Safe-T Act," Pacha said, outside the courtroom.

Pacha added that stripping Grayson of his badge doesn't make him any less violent.

"Why would I believe that once your authoritative oversight has been removed that you're going to be more responsible?" Pacha said. "That doesn't make any sense at all."

Sheriff's deputies were called to Massey's home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield on July 6 for a report of a suspected prowler. A conversation between Grayson and Massey over a pot of boiling water quickly escalated, leading to Grayson drawing his service weapon and firing at Massey, striking her in the face.

Massey was the subject of a 911 mental health call made by her mother, Donna Massey, the day before the shooting.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation against the Sangamon County Sheriff's office, noting "serious concerns about (the sheriff department's) interactions with Black people and people with behavioral health disabilities," along with a host of practices and procedures. The office has until Dec. 14 to provide DOJ necessary documents.

(This story was updated to add new information and to add a video.)

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

'A travesty:' People react to deputy in Massey shooting being freed from jail

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:16 a.m. CT Dec. 2, 2024

Representatives close to Sonya Massey's family said a Fourth District Appellate Court decision directing that former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson be freed from jail with conditions pending trial was "a slap in the face to justice" and "a travesty."

Massey family supporters plan to protest outside of the Sangamon County Complex Monday morning when Grayson, charged with first-degree murder in the July 6 fatal shooting of Massey inside of her home, has a status hearing.

Circuit Court Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin, who twice ordered Grayson to be detained under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, and attorneys for the state and for Grayson are expected to work out a date for a hearing to consider conditions of his pre-trial release.

More: Deputy in fatal Sonya Massey shooting to be released with conditions

Those conditions could include home confinement or some type of monitoring.

Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser said his office was filing a leave to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court asking for a review of the decision. Milhiser was also filing a request to stay the mandate pending the appeal to the supreme court.

Milhiser said he agreed with Cadagin's earlier rulings that Grayson be detained.

The opinion was written by Justice Eugene Doherty. Justices James A. Knecht and Craig H. DeArmond joined in the opinion.

It took exception with Cadagin's ruling that "no conditions of release would be adequate to mitigate the threat (Grayson) posed to the safety of the community."

The trial court's focus on Grayson's failings as a law enforcement officer, the opinion noted, "distracted from the central question of how to address any risk he posed after being stripped of his office."

Teresa Haley of Haley & Associates, who has worked closely with the Massey family, said the ruling was "unfair and unfortunate."

"The criminal justice system doesn't care about justice and justice must be served in the Sonya Massey case," Haley said. "Our cry, our fight, not (just) Black people, but poor people, people without a voice, continuing to fight for justice and rights of all people, seems to go unheard. So, we are willing to fight for justice until the end.

"This is not what we expected. I am personally very disappointed. The Massey family is disappointed. This is a travesty, but we trust God and we trust that some people in the justice system will do the right thing."

Haley said she expected the Massey family to be out in "full force" for Grayson's hearing.

Daniel Fultz, one of Grayson's attorneys, said the team respected the appellate court's decision, "but we also respect the process and Judge Cadagin's ruling and we will work within the framework of whatever the court decides to do next."

Fultz had argued in the past that Grayson, who is being jailed in Decatur, wasn't a flight risk and that he was dealing with complications of Stage 3 colon cancer.

Grayson has not been in court in person since his indictment.

Tiara Standage, who runs a harm reduction center and also has worked with the Masseys, said the ruling was "a slap in the face when it comes to justice for Sonya Massey."

Standage believed Grayson's release would "heighten and elevate the already very high level of tension in our community and the stigma between the Black community and the police, the justice system and everything else.

"It's not going to make things better. It's going to make things worse."

Massey was a 36-year-old Black mother of two children. The 30-year-old Grayson is white.

The NAACP's Illinois State Conference president Theodis Pace, in a statement issued over the weekend, said Wednesday's ruling "raised significant questions about accountability and the judicial process.

"We urge the court system to ensure that justice is not only served but also seen to be served, in a manner that upholds public confidence and trust in the legal system."

More: 'Everybody just wants you to be OK.' Sonya Massey was subject of 911 call hours before shooting

Sheriff's deputies were summoned to Massey's home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield on July 6 for a report of a suspected prowler. A conversation between Grayson and Massey over a pot of boiling water quickly escalated, leading to Grayson drawing his service weapon and firing at Massey, striking her in the face.

Massey was the subject of a 911 mental health call made by her mother, Donna Massey, the day before the shooting.

The Massey Commission was called for in August by Sangamon County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter and State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, with an eye towards addressing systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation against the sheriff's office, noting "serious concerns about (the sheriff department's) interactions with Black people and people with behavioral health disabilities," along with a host of practices and procedures.

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The State Journal-Register

COURTS

Illinois Supreme Court rules Grayson remain jailed until it takes up State's petition

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:54 p.m. CT Dec. 10, 2024

The Illinois Supreme Court entered an order Tuesday staying the release of the former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with the murder of Sonya Massey on July 6 until it takes up or denies the State's Petition for Leave to Appeal, or PLA.

Sean P. Grayson will remain detained for now in the Macon County Jail in Decatur.

Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser last week filed the PLA asking the state's high court address the Fourth District Appellate Court's ruling from Nov. 27 that cleared the way for Grayson's pre-trial release.

More: 'I don't ever want to see him walk free': Sonya Massey supporters rally, want Grayson detained

The appellate court said in essence that the circuit court had ruled improperly about denying Grayson's release under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, part of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act.

Grayson and another sheriff's deputy responded to a 911 call from Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and the mother of two children, about a possible prowler around her home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield.

Grayson, who is white, shot Massey in the face, with the actions caught on body camera.

Grayson was later terminated from his job prior to his indictment on the murder charges.

“The trial court’s focus on (Grayson's) failings as a law enforcement officer, while understandable, distracted from the central question of how to address any risk he posed after being stripped of his office,” the opinion, reached by a three-justice panel, read in part.

The ruling from the appellate court bound the circuit court to set a hearing for Grayson's release with "the least restrictive conditions." The appellate court later stayed that mandate until Jan. 2.

Massey's family members and other supporters gathered in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda last week demanding that Grayson be kept behind bars.

"I'm going to fight to keep my daughter's killer in a jail cell," said James Wilburn, Massey's father. "I don't ever want to see him walk free amongst any of us."

The shooting has grabbed international headlines, leading the U.S. Department of Justice last month to launch an investigation into the sheriff's department and other offices.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Sangamon County sheriff's department subject of a Department of Justice civil rights probe

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:02 p.m. CT Nov. 15, 2024 | **Updated 5:45 p.m. CT Nov. 15, 2024**

A scathing letter from the U.S. Department of Justice said the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a now former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy in her home this past summer "raises serious concerns about (the sheriff department's) interactions with Black people and people with behavioral health disabilities" along with a host of practices and procedures.

The eight-page letter directed to Sheriff Paula Crouch and State's Attorney John Milhiser among others and dated on Nov. 14, asks for the department's cooperation in providing records in nearly 30 different areas.

Crouch, in a statement released Friday, said her department "pledged full cooperation with the Department of Justice in its review."

More: 'Everybody just wants you to be OK.' Sonya Massey was subject of 911 call hours before shooting

A representative from the office of civil rights attorney Ben Crump didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The Florida-based Crump represents the Massey family.

The DOJ probe is outside of the criminal prosecution of former deputy Sean Grayson, who is charged with Massey's murder.

The letter added that Massey's killing incident brings into question the sheriff's department's "policies, practices, procedures, and training regarding community policing, bias-free policing, response to behavioral health crises, use of force, de-escalation, affirmative duty to

intervene, affirmative duty to render medical aid, and body-worn camera policies and compliance."

The fatal incident and prior 911 calls involving Massey in the days before her death indicate "possible issues" with Sangamon County, the sheriff's department and the sheriff's department emergency response and dispatch system, the letter added.

The DOJ also has reviewed reports "concerning (the sheriff's department employment practices, including allegations that a lack of racial diversity at (the department) impacts (its) provision of policing services in communities of color."

In addition to seeking all records related to the fatal shooting of Massey, the sheriff's department was asked to identify whether it "has provided or currently provides any form of alternative response models when responding to behavioral health crises or interacting with someone with a behavioral healthdisability."

That includes any co-responder teams, mobile crisis teams or Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) programs.

With regards to its hiring process for deputies and lateral transfers, the department was asked to produce information on recruitment, background check, psychometricevaluation, reference, and selection processes.

Grayson's hiring process has been brought into question. His criminal history shows he had two DUIs and a questionable discharge from the military. Grayson had also been with six different law enforcement agencies within four years.

Grayson used his future father-in-law, Scott Butterfield, a former county sheriff's deputy, as an employment reference in 2023.

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and the mother of two children, called 911 about a would-be prowler at her home on Hoover Street early on the morning of July 6. Massey was the subject of a 911 call shortly after 9 a.m. on July 5 made by her mother, Donna Massey, who said she was having "a mental breakdown."

Springfield Police responded because Donna Massey's home was within the city. Sonya Massey's Hoover Street home is an unincorporated part of Woodside Township.

The Massey Commission was called for in August by Sangamon County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter and State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, with an eye towards addressing

systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations.

(This story has been updated to add new information.)

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The State Journal-Register

COURTS

Emergency motion to Supreme Court asks Grayson hearing be set by circuit court

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 12:03 p.m. CT Dec. 6, 2024

The State Appellate Defender Friday morning filed an emergency motion with the Illinois Supreme Court asking for a supervisory order directing the Fourth District Appellate Court remand the hearing of a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with murder back to the circuit court.

Friday's request comes with directions that the lower court "set the case for a hearing to determine the least restrictive conditions of (Grayson's) pre-trial release."

The 30-year-old Sean P. Grayson is accused in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and mother of two children, who had called 911 about a possible prowler around her home in an unincorporated Springfield neighborhood.

More: 'I don't ever want to see him walk free': Sonya Massey supporters rally, want Grayson detained

On Tuesday, the appellate court stayed a motion filed through the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office, moving Grayson's hearing to Jan. 2, 2025.

A three-justice panel opinion from the appellate court on Nov. 27 asked the circuit court to set the hearing for conditions of Grayson's release. That hearing was set for Friday before the stay was granted.

Circuit Court Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin twice ordered Grayson to be detained under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, part of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act, but the panel ruled the lower court had been in error.

The State's motion Monday indicated that Grayson' release could lead to "a high likelihood of societal upheaval" and "leave the citizens of Illinois with diminished confidence in the criminal justice system."

An objection to the State's motion to stay the mandate argued that there weren't "compelling reasons" to hold Grayson.

Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser, in asking the Supreme Court asking it take up the appellate court decision, said in a news release that Grayson had demonstrated that he "cannot comply with conditions and is a danger to the community."

Among "conditions" for Grayson's release are home confinement and some sort monitoring system.

The defense appeal on Friday comes after family members and other supporters of Massey gathered for a press conference and rally in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda.

James Wilburn, the father of Massey who lives in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, said the Supreme Court should keep Grayson detained "as long as I have breath in my body."

Wilburn added that attempts to release Grayson under the SAFE-T Act was "a bastardization" of the act "to keep low-level criminals, who could not afford a bond that was set, (out of jail). (Grayson) has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two other felonies."

In a written statement read by his fiancée, Margaritta Fultz, Sontae Massey, the first cousin of Sonya Massey, said the appellate court's ruling was "payback, in my humble opinion, for passing the SAFE-T Act."

Milhiser and some supporters of Massey, like Teresa Haley of Haley & Associates of Springfield, said they would like to see provisions of the SAFE-T Act, which was passed in 2021, changed or tweaked.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Supreme Court denies emergency motion to move Grayson pre-trial release hearing

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:14 a.m. CT Dec. 9, 2024

An emergency motion filed by the Office of the State Appellate Defender asking for a supervisory order directing the Fourth District Appellate Court remand the hearing of a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with the July 6 murder of Sonya Massey back to the circuit court was denied by the Illinois Supreme Court.

That means Sean P. Grayson still has a hearing regarding the conditions of his pre-trial release before Circuit Court Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin on Jan. 2, 2025.

Still before the state high court is the State's Petition for Leave to Appeal (PLA) asking that it address the appellate court's Nov. 27 ruling that cleared the way for Grayson's release.

More: Emergency motion to Supreme Court asks Grayson hearing be set by circuit court

The Supreme Court could accept or deny the PLA and stay Grayson's release indefinitely beyond Jan. 2.

The emergency motion filed on Dec. 6 asked the high court to not wait until Jan. 2 to set the case for a hearing. It was denied with no comment.

Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser said in a news release announcing the filing of the PLA that Grayson had demonstrated that he "cannot comply with conditions and is a danger to the community."

Among "conditions" for Grayson's release could be home confinement and some sort monitoring system.

Grayson, 30, is being held at the Macon County Jail in Decatur.

Cadagin twice ordered Grayson to be detained under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, part of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act, but the three-justice panel unanimously ruled the lower court had been in error.

"The trial court's focus on defendant's failings as a law enforcement officer, while understandable, distracted from the central question of how to address any risk he posed after being stripped of his office," the Nov. 27 opinion read in part.

A hearing had been scheduled Dec. 6, but the appellate court stayed a motion filed through the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office to move the hearing 35 days out from the issuance of the Nov. 27 ruling.

The shooting of Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and mother of two children, who had called 911 about a possible prowler around her home in an unincorporated Springfield neighborhood, was caught on body cam and its release to public has caused an international outrage.

The U.S. Department of Justice last month launched an investigation into the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department and other offices.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

New hearing date set for former sheriff's deputy charged with Massey's murder

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 12:16 p.m. CT Oct. 21, 2024 | **Updated 3:46 p.m. CT Oct. 21, 2024**

Family members and friends of Sonya Massey, who was fatally shot in her home by a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy on July 6, were still finding seats in a courtroom when Monday's hearing ended.

In the less than 90-second proceeding before Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin, Sean P. Grayson, charged with Massey's murder, was given a new status hearing for Dec. 2.

That is expected to be closer to a Fourth District Appellate Court ruling regarding Grayson's ongoing detention in Menard County.

More: Pastor insists he wasn't forced off Massey Commission; denies allegations made by two women

As with his previous hearing, Grayson wasn't in court but appeared by Zoom seated next to his attorney, Daniel Fultz.

Another of Grayson's attorneys, Mark Wykoff, was present in the courtroom and asked for the new date.

Cadagin has ruled Grayson, 30, be jailed in accordance with the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

At Grayson's July 18 arraignment, Cadagin cited the former deputy's callousness during and after the shooting of Massey, a 36-year-old Black mother of two who had called 911 about a prowler, including not rendering help to her.

The defense appealed the decision.

About 25 to 30 members of Massey's family and other friends attended Monday's hearing, but some weren't even seated when the hearing finished.

After the hearing, family members huddled in the state's attorney's office to debrief.

Among those attending Monday was Donna Massey, Sonya Massey's mother.

"The family is definitely committed (to this trial)," said Teresa Haley of Haley & Associates, speaking for the Massey family afterwards. "We had more family members here than at the first and second hearings."

Haley admitted the Massey family is "struggling," but is getting educated on the court process.

"It's definitely justice being delayed, but it's process," Haley admitted. "We all have to go through something to get to something and we're hoping in the end we receive victory and that (Grayson) is fully prosecuted for first-degree murder."

The hearing came on the same day as the first Massey Commission hearing, which will consider testimony regarding a proposal for an independent review of the Sangamon County Sheriff's department's procedures.

Shadia Massey, a cousin of Sonya Massey's who is serving as a commission co-chair, attended the court hearing as did another cousin and commission, Sontae Massey.

Grayson has pleaded not guilty.

(This story has been updated to add a video.)

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Former deputy in Sonya Massey shooting moved to Macon County Jail

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:47 a.m. CT Oct. 29, 2024

The former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged in the fatal of Sonya Massey has been transferred to the Macon County Jail in Decatur from the Menard County Jail in Petersburg.

Sean P. Grayson was moved to Decatur because it is a larger facility, Menard County Sheriff Mark Oller said Monday.

The move was decided mostly because Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin ruled that Grayson would continue to be detained in accordance with the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, leading sheriffs to decide where best to place Grayson while he awaits trial.

Grayson has a new status hearing for Dec. 2. A Fourth District Appellate Court ruling regarding Grayson's ongoing detention is expected around the time of the hearing.

Oller said he and former Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell had arranged for Grayson to be jailed in Menard County rather than in Sangamon County as a security precaution, but it was their intention to only hold Grayson in Menard County for a short-term stay.

"I think some of (former Sheriff Campbell's) concerns were that he had worked in Sangamon County, so his arrestees could have possibly been in the jail," Oller said. "Some of the staff could have been familiar with him. None of our staff knew him."

More: Massey Commission requests for review of hiring practices, procedures of sheriff's office

Oller said he had some concerns about holding Grayson because of the notoriety in the case, but he wanted to assist neighboring sheriffs. Jails holding inmates for neighboring counties is not an uncommon practice.

Sangamon County Sheriff Paula Crouch and Macon County Sheriff Jim Root were unable to be reached for comment. Grayson's defense attorney Daniel Fultz did not immediately return messages to The State Journal-Register.

During the time that Grayson was held in Menard County, Sangamon County was responsible for any expenses such as medical expenses, Oller said, though Grayson experienced no major medical issues while in the Menard County Jail.

Grayson was dealing with complications from a diagnosis of Stage 3 colon cancer, Fultz said in court in late August.

Reporter Steven Spearie contributed to this story. Tom Ackerman covers breaking news and trending news along with general news for the Springfield State Journal-Register. He can be reached at tackerman@gannett.com.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Massey Commission requests for review of hiring practices, procedures of sheriff's office

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:12 a.m. CT Oct. 22, 2024

In one of its first acts, the 14-member Massey Commission voted that a formal request be sent to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois State Police requesting they conduct "a full review of the hiring practices (and) procedures" of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office.

The commission, formed after the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey in her home in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township by a now-former sheriff's deputy on July 6, held its first hearing on Monday.

Some of those hiring practices have come under scrutiny after red flags were raised in the hiring of Sean P. Grayson, who is charged with the murder of Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and the mother of two children.

More: New hearing date set for former sheriff's deputy charged with Massey's murder

Grayson had a status hearing in Sangamon County court Monday and had another one set for Dec. 2. That is expected to be closer to a Fourth District Appellate Court ruling regarding Grayson's detention under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

The ordinance, proposed by Sangamon County Board members Gina Lathan and Anthony DelGiorno, also asks for a full review of complaints and disciplinary action.

If those agencies in question don't agree to a review, a Request for Proposal would be sent out seeking an independent investigator with the sheriff's office granting "unfettered access" to the investigator.

More particular recommendations to the sheriff and the county regarding applicants to the office were sent to a commission law enforcement work group for study.

It recommends background checks of applicants require FOIA requests "of any public agency personnel file, review of social media accounts/posts and review of involvement in civil legal proceedings."

It would also prohibit employment of an applicant who has a DUI or other Class A misdemeanor conviction within five years prior to application or has two or more DUIs in the 10 years prior to application.

Grayson's criminal history showed he had two DUIs and a questionable discharge from the U.S. Army.

A former inmate at the Logan County Jail wrote in an official complaint filed in December 2022 that Grayson ordered her to expose herself to him, according to a USA Today finding.

The resolution was originally drafted by Lathan after talking to officials in Minneapolis where George Floyd was murdered in 2020. It became a joint resolution, taking in DelGiorno's work, and was sent to the county board's jail committee.

Because there was no financing tied to it, Lathan agreed to withdraw the resolution and resubmit to the Massey Commission.

In introductory remarks, commission co-chair Dr. Jerry Kruse, dean and provost of the SIU School of Medicine and CEO of SIU Medicine said the commission "is committed to leading a process for the community to listen, to learn and more importantly, to act. The commission's work will start the process of culture change that will lead to generational transformation in our community."

While the commission was created and funded by Sangamon County, it now functions as an independent public body, Kruse pointed out.

It will look to produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

The commission is also co-chaired by JoAnn Johnson, the first Black woman to reach the rank of colonel with the Illinois State Police and a law enforcement trainer in police bias, and Shadia Massey, a cousin of Sonya Massey.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Who is on the Massey Commission? A closer look at the 14 members

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:32 a.m. CT Oct. 17, 2024 | **Updated 6:29 p.m. CT Oct. 17, 2024**

The first hearing of the Massey Commission will be held at Memorial Learning Center, 228 W. Miller St., at 6 p.m. Monday.

The commission, an outgrowth of the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy on July 6, recently seated its members and named two new co-chairs, JoAnn Johnson and Shadia Massey, Sonya Massey's cousin, replacing the Rev. T. Ray McJunkins and Nina Harris after an initial listening session.

Dr. Jerry Kruse is staying on as the third co-chair.

More: Full Massey Commission, working group members named

During the hearing, the co-chairs plan to present the scope of the commission's work. The commissioners will discuss and consider approval for the draft mission and values, workgroup titles and proposed members.

The commission will hear testimony regarding a proposal for an independent review of the Sangamon CountySheriff's department's procedures. Kelly Hurst, the equity and inclusion strategist for SIU School of Medicine will present on the language and values of antiracism work.

There will be a public comment section and sign-up is at the meeting. The meeting will be live streamed on youtube.com.

Here is a look at the commission members:

JoAnn Johnson, co-chair

A South Side native and the daughter of a Chicago Police officer, JoAnn Johnson became in 2016 the first Black woman to reach the rank of colonel of the Illinois State Police, when she was in charge of the division of internal investigation in Springfield. Johnson started as a patrol officer, worked in criminal investigations and served as an undercover narcotics officer in a joint-jurisdictional drug task force. Johnson retired in 2018.

Dr. Jerry Kruse, co-chair

Dr. Jerry Kruse is dean and provost, SIU School of Medicine and CEO of SIU Medicine. He joined the medical school in 1984 as a practicing family physician. He established the Office of the Associate Dean for Equity Diversity and Inclusion in 2016 and later assisted the medical school in its declaration to strive to be an anti-racist organization.

Shadia Massey, co-chair

The cousin of Sonya Massey, Shadia Massey has likened herself to Massey's older sister. The two practically grew up together and had, Shadia Massey said, "an unbreakable bond." She was the first family member, along with Jimmie Crawford Jr., the father of Sonya Massey's daughter, to arrive at Massey's home the morning of the July 6 fatal shooting in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township. Massey is a certified nursing assistant.

Gerry Castles

Sgt. Gerry Castles spent nearly three decades in law enforcement, including 24 with the Springfield Police Department before retiring in 2019. As a neighborhood police officer and crisis intervention team sergeant, he was cofounder of SPD's co-response teamed with mental health program, and founder of SPD's homeless outreach team (H.O.T.). Castles is currently certified as an instructor for officer mental health, well-being and crisis intervention.

Calvin Christian III

A popular blogger, Christian's never-ending battles over Springfield Police internal affairs records have been well chronicled, including the "Shredgate" affair in 2013, which netted him a six-figure sum from a federal lawsuit with the city and led to the downfall of a police chief.

Sunshine Clemons

Sunshine Clemons, along with Khoran Readus, organized the Springfield Chapter of Black Lives Matter (BLMSPI) in 2016. BLMSPI staged a procession of about 3,000 vehicles around Springfield days after the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin. Clemons is a member of the Springfield Police Community Review Commission. She is the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Veronica Espina

Veronica Espina is founder, co-chair and board president of the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network. The network supports immigrants and refugees in Springfield and the surrounding areas, advocating for immigrants' rights, encouraging immigrants' full participation in civic, cultural, social and political life and educating the public about issues that affect local immigrant communities. The native of Chile is on the board of the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism.

Harvey Hall Sr.

Hall is president of Be Neighbors Affordable Housing for Veterans and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. A community activist and business owner for over 30 years, Hall is actively involved in building inclusive communities for homeless veterans and families toward self-advocacy, to maintain independence and advancing inclusive systemic changes.

Kathryn Harris

The former division manager of library services at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Harris most recently served as interim head of the city's public library. She serves on the board of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Known for her work in the community with study circles on race, the city's zoning commission and the Illinois Humanities Council, Harris was named the SJ-R First Citizen in 2020.

Sontae Massey

A cousin of Sonya Massey, Sontae Massey serves as the asset manager for the Springfield Housing Authority. He has decades of experience in sales and customer service in Springfield and is trained in cultural competence and diversity.

More: People knew about allegations against Riverton Police Chief but hired him anyway. Why?

Rev. Susan Phillips

Phillips became the first female pastor at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Springfield in 2017. Her nearly40 years of ministry includes creative worship design, community building, anti-oppression advocacy, and trauma mitigation. Phillips co-chairs the Illinois Poor People's Campaign and has been active with the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism and the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association.

Kristin Rubbelke

Rubbelke has been lobbying since 2016 and has her own consulting firm. She is also a licensed social worker and policy advocate with a background in racial justice initiatives. As a former co-chair of the National Association of Social Workers-Illinois Racial Justice Task Force formed after George Floyd's murder in 2020, Rubbelke helped develop police reform recommendations.

Bob Wesley

Before retiring in 2018, Wesley was the SIU School of Medicine's principal administrator responsible for rural outreach, telehealth development and implementing community service programs. The U.S. Marine Corps veteran is a member of Frontiers International, the American Legion Post 32 and the Community Health Roundtable and is a current board member of SPARC.

Brian Wojcicki

An attorney, Wojcicki is the CEO of Illinois Capitol Group, a Springfield lobbying firm. He has served on the board of The Outlet, Springfield Ball Charter School and Downtown

Springfield Inc.

(This story was updated because an earlier version included an inaccuracy.)

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Springfield's Jefferson Bridge officially renamed to honor Sonya Massey

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 7:38 a.m. CT Sept. 19, 2024

"This and our Black Lives Matters signs we put up permanently that we all signed up to, are more than symbolic."

Those were the words Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory said at the Springfield City Council meeting on Sept. 17, after the aldermen unanimously approved the vote to rename Jefferson Bridge to the Massey Memorial Bridge.

Sonya Massey was fatally shot in her home by a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township after reporting a possible intruder on July 6.

Former deputy Sean P. Grayson, 30, was charged with Massey's murder. Grayson has pleaded not guilty.

More: 'Your hurting — we've heard it.' Massey Commission holds first listening session

Ordinance 2024-364 was originally requested by Gregory, and all other members of the council requested for the vote to pass. The ordinance authorizes the creation of murals on select areas of the bridge over Clearlake Avenue and Jefferson Street.

The council approved on Sept. 10 to commission a mural for the Jefferson Bridge, and work with IDOT to rename the bridge in her honor. This final vote on Tuesday night sealed Sonya Massey's name, and impact on the city for future generations to acknowledge.

Massey's mother, Donna, was in the crowd when the ordinance passed.

"Those that pushed for us did it," Massey said. "She deserves it, and I thank you guys very much."

The inspiration for this vote comes from the resounding mural of Sonya Massey, painted by Springfield artist Austin Wells in late July of this year.

Claire Grant writes about business, growth and development and other news topics for The State Journal-Register. She can be reached at CLGrant@gannett.com; and on X (Formerly known as Twitter): @Claire_Granted

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Sonya Massey's cousin named a new co-chair of Massey Commission in leadership shake-up

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 1:37 p.m. CT Sept. 26, 2024

After only one listening session, the Massey Commission has new leadership.

One of the newest co-chairs is Shadia Massey, a cousin of Sonya Massey, the namesake of the commission, who was fatally shot by a now former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy in her home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township on July 6.

In light of the leadership change, a Sept. 30 gathering has been postponed.

More: 'Your hurting — we've heard it.' Massey Commission holds first listening session

Yet to be publicly announced are the 12 commissioners.

JoAnn Johnson, the first Black woman to reach the rank of colonel with the Illinois State Police and a law enforcement trainer in police bias, is the other new co-chair.

Dr. Jerry Kruse, dean and provost of SIU School of Medicine and CEO of SIU Medicine, will serve as the other co-chair.

More than two dozen speakers addressed the Sept. 16 session on issues like police reform, accountability, training and crisis intervention in Monday's open forum.

But some of those speakers also scrutinized the leadership of the commission and called for members of the Massey family to be included in the commission.

Also in question are resolutions that doled out over $78,000 to two different communications and consulting companies. They were tabled at a Sept. 18 special meeting of the county board.

“As we have been from the beginning, we will continue to be responsive to community voices in this process," said State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, who helped form the commission, along with Sangamon County Board chairman Andy Van Meter.

The commission seeks to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, with the goal of creating "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

It will look to produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

'Have to have a direction'

Johnson was with the State Police for nearly 30 years and came to Springfield in 2010.

Speaking at the session on Sept. 16, Johnson said she helped, through a company she now works for, train Springfield Police officers in "implicit bias."

Implicit bias is any bias a person holds on a level that they are not consciously aware of and can affect a person's behavior and decision-making without realizing it.

Johnson said the commission "will not get far if it is just a group of angry voices. We absolutely have to have direction, focus, come from a place of composure and bring these important issues to the forefront."

The commission, Johnson added "has to be diverse not only in race gender, culture and background, but also experience and expertise."

Johnson said she was one of just 200 people who applied to be on the commission.

Former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson, 30, was charged with Sonya Massey's murder.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

'Your hurting — we've heard it.' Massey Commission holds first listening session

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 10:14 a.m. CT Sept. 17, 2024

Several people expressed concern about the proposed makeup and representation of the 12-member Massey Commission as it held its first public listening session at Union Baptist Church Monday.

While the full slate is expected to be announced later this week, one of the co-chairs of the commission, the Rev. T. Ray McJunkins acknowledged that nine people have already affirmed that they have agreed to serve, including a family member of Sonya Massey, the namesake of the commission, who was fatally shot in her home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township after reporting a possible intruder on July 6.

Former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson, 30, was charged with Massey's murder. Grayson has pleaded not guilty.

More than two dozen speakers addressed issues like police reform, accountability, training and crisis intervention in Monday's open forum.

More: New commission being formed after Massey shooting will address police practices

"Your desires, your personal experiences, your hurting — we've heard it," said commission co-chair Dr. Jerry Kruse, dean and provost of the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield.

Kruse earlier said that the deaths of Massey and Earl Moore Jr., in late 2022 at the hands of two emergency medical workers charged with his murder, have "shaken Springfield and Sangamon County to its moral core and has become a collective toxic stress."

Both Massey and Moore were Black.

Several members of Massey's family, including her mother, Donna Massey, attended the hearing.

Kruse said mistrust of law enforcement and health care particularly was an issue he saw the commission addressing.

JoAnn Johnson, a former Illinois State Police trooper who does police training, said she hoped the commission would have "the teeth that it needs."

"I pray that this commission does everything that it hopes and is tasked to do," Johnson said.

Beth Langen was one of several speakers encouraging the establishment of a permanent citizens commission that would have oversight authority over the sheriff's office.

In announcing the commission last month, the goal was to create "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

The commission will produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

But the parade of speakers Monday also questioned what the makeup of the commission might be.

Kruse, McJunkins and another co-chair, Nina Harris of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion, sifted through over 200 applications for the dozen spots.

Breonna Roberts said with "the right people, leadership and resources, (I believe the commission) can be a transformative step in Springfield's future."

That came with a caution, though.

"I urge the co-chairs," Roberts said, "to deeply reflect on whether their actions align with the community's best interests. My hope is for fair representation of Black people, of Black women, of the Massey family. Those who have lived experiences with police brutality, being arrested, going to jail. Are they going to be on the commission? Are their voices of diverse walks of life going to be heard?"

Langen also had a prayer for the co-chairs.

"I hope that every decision you make," she said, "honors Sonya Massey."

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

New Springfield-area sheriff is intent on listening to Massey Commission

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 5:50 a.m. CT Sept. 26, 2024

New Sangamon County Sheriff Paula Crouch told The State Journal-Register in a one-on-one interview last week that she is intent on listening to the Massey Commission and suggestions it might offer regarding policing in the community going forward.

"I think the most important thing is for me right now to hear what the Massey Commission has identified as what our community thinks is a big problem with law enforcement," Crouch said. "I don't think it's going to be just the county. It's law enforcement in general, though our focus with this issue is the county.

The Massey Commission, called for last month by Sangamon County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter and State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, seeks to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, with the goal of creating "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

More: Springfield-area woman turning 112 years old is likely state's oldest resident

It will look to produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

The commission had its first listening session on Sept. 16, but yet has to publicly name its 12 commissioners.

"I feel with the commission, we have to have a partnership. As far as what they want me to do, I don't have all those answers. I'm sure we will review the suggestions that come up and I think we'll work together to come up with resolutions that will be satisfying to them and to law enforcement."

Crouch, the first female sheriff in the county, said if the history she has made brings encouragement to females in law enforcement, all the better.

"While I'm honored and it's amazing and I'm happy to be here and I hope it encourages others that you can achieve and you can be," Crouch said. "I think my resume--and I'm lucky enough with all the experience I had at SPD with the training and education there and just repetition of calls and opportunity--that it stands on its own and its shows I'm where I should be because of that."

A nearly 25-year veteran of the Springfield Police Department, Crouch's appointment was approved by a Sangamon County Board vote on Sept. 18.

She takes over for Jack Campbell who retired in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a now-former sheriff's deputy. Sean P. Grayson was charged with Massey's murder and remains behind bars.

More: Lawmakers weighing use of solitary confinement in Illinois prison. Here's what to know.

At a recent county board meeting, Teresa Haley said she hoped Crouch would be willing to meet with the Black community on a regular basis, voices, Haley contested "I don't believe (are) being heard."

As a Springfield Police officer, Crouch said she worked with "the most vulnerable of our community," including serving as a neighborhood officer on the city's eastside and participating in a number of activities at Feitshans Elementary School, including providing students with books they could take home and having traditional Thanksgiving dinners.

During her eight years with the Child Advocacy Center, Crouch said she investigated over 500 child sex crimes.

"Sometimes, they don't have a voice of their own and they need a strong law enforcement support and really the CAC works on a team concept," including the Department of Children and Family Services and the Sangamon County State's Attorney, plus several police agencies, Crouch said.

On the other end of the age spectrum, Crouch worked with Senior Services of Central Illinois as an elder abuse officer.

Crouch said she would encourage deputies and staffers "to focus a little more on some community outreach type stuff and getting to know the community agencies and how they can help us."

Springfield Police Chief Ken Scarlette said Crouch was an excellent police officer who will serve Sangamon County well.

"I've already had a conversation with her offering my support any way I can help to help her as she gets her feet wet with this new assignment," Scarlette said recently. "Whatever we can do to work for the betterment of the citizens of Sangamon County, I'm all for that."

Crouch didn't tip her hand about a possible run in 2026 when the office is up for election.

Reporter Claire Grant contributed to this story. Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

'Everybody just wants you to be OK.' Sonya Massey was subject of 911 call hours before shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:35 a.m. CT Sept. 4, 2024

Sitting in the passenger's seat of her car, Sonya Massey was sobbing, fretting over her family and her two kids and the power and water being turned off at her Hoover Street home.

Massey was the subject of a 911 call shortly after 9 a.m. on July 5 made by her mother, Donna Massey, who said she was having "a mental breakdown." Massey had been staying at her mother's home on Cedar Street.

Newly released bodycam footage shows Massey at one point saying, "I don't know what to do," though several suggestions have been made to help that is available.

Massey then confirmed she has her medication and was going to take it.

More: First public hearing for Massey Commission set as more than 200 people apply

The roughly 45-minute footage shows a Springfield Police officer, who had responded to a call about Massey the week before, talking to her calmly.

"(Your kids) are worried about you, too," the officer said. "They're both good. Everybody just wants you to be OK, that's all it is."

"Right now," another SPD officer told her, "you have to take care of yourself. That's the best way for you to take care (of your kids)."

After talking to a Memorial Behavioral Health specialist, Massey drove off.

Less than 16 hours, she would be fatally shot by a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy.

Audio of the 911 call was released earlier by Sangamon County, but two videos from body-worn cameras were recently provided to The State Journal-Register after the newspaper put in a FOIA request with the city of Springfield.

In the 911 call, Donna Massey said her daughter wasn't a danger to herself and "she's not a danger to me."

"I don't want you guys to hurt her, please," she said in the audio.

Springfield Police responded because Donna Massey's home was within the city. Sonya Massey's Hoover Street home is an unincorporated part of Woodside Township.

Right when officers arrive, Massey was in the front yard, pleading for her clothes, planner and medicine, among other things.

"They won't give it to me," said Massey, referring to her mother and other relatives in the home.

Inside her home, Donna Massey acknowledged her daughter's recent release from a mental facility in southern Illinois, from which she voluntarily checked out.

More: 'They will have leadership.' Coroner steps in as temporary Sangamon County Sheriff

Sonya, her mother told an officer, has two personalities: "a very sweet one and (then) she'll flip the script."

"I know this is not my daughter," Donna Massey added. "We just want her to be OK."

"She's sporadic," Sonya's aunt added. "I've never seen her like this. I want the old Sonya back."

Massey was seen on the video being quizzed by an emergency medical worker about what year it is and who is the president, among other questions. She answered them all correctly.

Later in the video, Massey talked to a behavioral health specialist. Other records indicated that while Massey didn't seek immediate help, she did go to HSHS St. John's Hospital later in the day "to seek treatment of her mental state" after an alleged confrontation with her neighbor.

While worried about some things, Massey was also effusive with her praise, thanking workers and calling them "blessed" and "beautiful."

"We're here," another SPD officer tells her in the approximately 45-minute engagement, "to help you."

"God bless. Thank you all," Massey said. "I'm going to do what I need to do."

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The State Journal-Register

COURTS

Massey family makes presence felt at ex-deputy's court hearing

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 12:19 p.m. CT Aug. 26, 2024 | **Updated 6:11 p.m. CT Aug. 26, 2024**

In a brief pre-trial hearing in Sangamon County court Monday, the attorney for a former Sangamon County sheriff's deputy charged with murder in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey confirmed that the State will be handing over discovery material.

Mark Wykoff also said that will probably take the Fourth District Appellate Court "three or four months" to rule on a hearing regarding the ongoing detention of Sean P. Grayson, who shot Massey in the face inside of her home.

Grayson, 30, did not attend Monday's hearing before Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin. Grayson, who is being jailed, appeared by Zoom and was seated next to another defense attorney, Daniel Fultz.

Grayson has pleaded not guilty.

On Aug. 9, Cadagin stood on his initial decision to continue to detain Grayson in accordance with the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

Cadagin, at Grayson's July 18 arraignment, cited the former deputy's callousness during and after the shooting of Massey, a 36-year-old Black mother of two who had called 911 about a prowler, including not rendering help to her.

Fultz, at the same time, said Grayson wasn't a flight risk and was dealing with complications from a diagnosis of Stage 3 colon cancer.

"It's a serious matter and no serious matter is going to be resolved in 90 days," Wykoff told assembled media after Monday's hearing.

The defense last week appealed Cadagin's decision.

The discovery content shared by the State, Wykoff said, is going to take "a period of time to receive, review and confer with Mr. Grayson, in regard to that."

Neither Wykoff nor Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser said how much discovery was being tendered or where it came from.

Also, the defense is now on the clock to provide an answer to Cadagin about "extended media coverage," or cameras in the courtroom. A media request to allow them was given to Cadagin.

Several members of the national media were at the hearing.

About 20 to 30 members of Massey's family and allies packed the courtroom Monday.

"Every time Sean Grayson is here for court, you will see the Massey family," promised Shadia Massey, Sonya Massey's cousin, afterwards.

Grayson's next court date is Oct. 21.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

First public hearing for Massey Commission set as more than 200 people apply

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 2:43 p.m. CT Sept. 3, 2024

The newly-formed Massey Commission will hold its first public listening session on Sept. 16.

According to a news release from Sangamon County Tuesday, over 200 people applied to be on the commission, a public response to the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey in her home on July 6.

The commission, which goes before the full county board for a vote on Sept. 10, is being co-chaired by Dr. Jerry Kruse, Dean and Provost of the SIU School of Medicine; the Rev. T. Ray McJunkins, pastor of Union Baptist Church and Nina Harris, chair of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion.

The co-chairs will vet the applicants, said Sangamon County spokesman Jeff Wilhite.

The session will be held at UBC, 1405 E. Monroe St., at 6 p.m.

Speakers will be given an opportunity to address the commission for up to three minutes.

The Massey Commission's proposed mission, according to a statement released Aug. 16, is to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, with the goal of creating "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

It will look to produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

Sean P. Grayson, a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy, faces murder charges against Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and mother of two children who had called 911 about a possible prowler.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Sonya Massey recalled at historic church on monumental day in Springfield

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:25 a.m. CT Aug. 15, 2024 | **Updated 8:02 a.m. CT Aug. 15, 2024**

Even if she didn't know her, Lisa Clanton said she felt a connection to Sonya Massey, who was fatally shot by a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy in her home on July 6.

"We're Black women," Clanton said before Wednesday's memorial for Massey at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, which was founded in 1895. "She called for help. Unfortunately, help did not come to her. Quite the opposite, she lost her life to someone who was supposed to protect and to serve.

"I see myself reflected in her in that dire situation."

The church, and faith, also connected Clanton, 46, and Massey, 36. She called Massey "my sister in Christ."

Both grew up in the Baptist tradition and Clanton well understood Massey's directive at Sean Grayson—"I rebuke you in the name of Jesus"—before he shot her in the face inside her home after she called 911 for a possible prowler.

"She was rebuking an evil presence that she recognized in the sheriff deputy," Clanton said. "He was confused and didn't understand cultural reference."

About 100 people gathered for the service, which featured civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who also represents the Massey family. Donna Massey, Sonya's mother was present along with Jeanette "Summer" Massey and Malachi Hill-Massey, Sonya's children.

Wednesday also marked the 116th anniversary of the start of the Springfield Race Riot. It was announced earlier in the week that President Joe Biden intended to use the Antiquities Act to

make the site, along the 10th Street railroad tracks at Madison Street, a national monument under the National Park Service.

More: Report: President Biden to make Springfield race riot site a national monument

Fittingly, Sontae Massey, Sonya's first cousin, explained to the gathering that the family had ties to William Donnegan, an elderly Black man and one of the city's best-known citizens, whose throat was slit and body hung during the riot.

Crump, reciting a long list of Black victims who had been shot by police or others in authority, cautioned that it was time for Springfield to stand up for Massey.

"We can't be scared," Crump challenged. "We have to speak truth to power."

Recalling a quote from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Crump said the coward will ask the question, Is it safe? Expediency, he said, will ask the question, Is it politically correct? Vanity will come along and ask, Is it popular?

"Conscience comes along," Crump said quoting King, "and asks the question, Is it right? My brothers and sisters, it is the right thing to do to stand up for Sonya Massey. It's the right thing to do to speak up for Sonya Massey. It is the right thing to do to fight for Sonya Massey."

Pleasant Grove pastor, the Rev. William DeShone Rosser, said the evening struck "a 10 out of 10."

"Everything I had in mind came about and more," Rosser admitted. "The choir lifted us and got us inspired. (Ben) Crump preached tonight, and he touched our spirits, touched out hearts."

Clanton said a fallout from Massey's death is that it has brought the Springfield community together, evident at rallies and gatherings supporting the Massey family. Clanton said she took part in a rally at Comer Cox Park on a National Day of Mourning for Massey on July 28.

"She gave her life," Clanton said of Massey, "hopefully to move us forward, to call for reform, everything from the sheriff retiring to reform in hiring practices to transparency in background checks."

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The State Journal-Register

COLUMNS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Your turn: Opportunity exists for generational change following Massey shooting

Jerry Kruse Special to the State Journal-Register
Published 4:02 a.m. CT Aug. 30, 2024

On July 23, 2024, I sent the following message to my colleagues at SIU Medicine:

"On July 6, Sonya Massey called 911 for help when she suspected the need for protection from an intruder. Two Sangamon County Sheriff's deputies, including defendant Sean Grayson, arrived on the scene. While the other deputy checked the house, Grayson drew his weapon on Ms. Massey while she was in her kitchen. Grayson shot Ms. Massey in the face and she died.

While most of us did not know Sonya Massey, we do know the impact that such violence can have on the people of Springfield.

More: Massey family makes presence felt at ex-deputy's court hearing

Our community is once again experiencing collective loss and trauma associated with harm being done to someone who called for help. As it was with the death of Earl Moore Jr. in December 2022 and the severe injury sustained by Gregory Small, Jr. in March 2021, tragedies like this call to mind issues of racialized violence and mistrust that impact the community and all helping professions.

Need a break? Play the USA TODAY Daily Crossword Puzzle.

We at SIU Medicine offer our support to our community and to our colleagues. We can never know how difficult it is for those who directly experience such trauma. We certainly know that those who witness the footage of this violence also suffer great vicarious trauma community.

On behalf of all of our SIU Medicine colleagues, I express our condolences to the family of Sonya Massey and all those who are grieving. We will continue to care for our community through outreach and forums on inequities, both in our clinical practice and through educational partnerships. We will continue to build on our antiracism work and our trauma-

responsive leadership development as we strive for the culture change that is necessary for our community, our patients and ourselves.

The deaths of Massey and Moore and the injuries sustained by Small have directly shaken the Springfield community to its moral core.

These local events demonstrate that racially motivated violence and the improper use of firearms and other methods of violence are civil, ethical and public health emergencies. These events have given us an unsettled apprehension for the future.

We at SIU Medicine will be unwavering in our pursuit of equity, justice and fairness for all, and condemn all violent acts motivated by racism.

After the death of Moore in 2022, SIU School of Medicine released a public statement. A portion of that statement was written by Wendi Wills El-Amin, the SIU Medicine associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion and professor of family and community medicine and medical education.

She wrote: “It is important to remember that harm can be both active and passive. Passive harm occurs when we witness violence and say nothing. Statements of condemnation are a first step in interrupting further harm.

This is a way that we collectively name the injury and call out the behavior that led to it. Statements like this and others that will be made in the days and weeks ahead are only the first step. They must be followed by meaningful and sustained actions to build greater equity and to rebuild trust in the health care system in our community.”

El-Amin is, of course, correct. It is time for actions that are more meaningful and more sustained in Sangamon County.

The community must be engaged, all voices must be heard, respected and understood, mutual trust must be developed, and the systems of emergency response, law enforcement and health care must be carefully examined, so that they are not fragmented or inequitable, but that they become completely safe for all in need of help.

The people of Sangamon County have a lot a work to do. It will take time, but we are past due to begin the comprehensive work necessary for equity, fairness and justice in our county.

A major step has been taken to spur meaningful and sustained action. Andy Van Meter, chair of the Sangamon County Board, and Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, recently, announced

the formation of the Sonya Massey Commission, whose mission is to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, with a goal of creating "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

More: Resolution calling for independent review of sheriff's office's hiring practices withdrawn

When police action and emergency response is examined, it is likely that the Commission will discover many instances of racism, inequities, and fragmented systems of training and practice. It is also likely that the Commission will find local systems with resourceful thinking and innovative programs that will provide useful foundations upon which to build.

There will be great opportunity for generational change for the helping professions and public service in Sangamon County.

Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH, is dean and provost, SIU School of Medicine and CEO, SIU Medicine.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Embattled Springfield-area sheriff will retire following Sonya Massey shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:34 p.m. CT Aug. 9, 2024 | **Updated 11:08 p.m. CT Aug. 9, 2024**

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, embroiled in controversy following the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a sheriff's deputy, said he is stepping away.

Campbell, who has been sheriff since 2018 but whose family roots run deep in the department, is retiring no later than Aug. 31 he said in a statement issued Friday afternoon.

Former deputy Sean P. Grayson has been charged with Massey's murder. He pleaded not guilty and remains in custody after again being denied pre-trial release by Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin Friday.

It will be up to Chairman Andy Van Meter to name an interim replacement. The current second in command is Chief Deputy Anthony Mayfield.

Calls for Campbell's resignation had come from many sides, including Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton earlier this week. Massey's family members also called for his ouster.

In a statement provided, Pritzker hoped a fresh start with new leadership "will usher in a new era of reform and rebuilt the trust lost between the Sangamon County community and sheriff's office."

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who the Massey family has retained, said Campbell's retirement "marks a turning point in the ongoing pursuit of justice for Sonya Massey."

"Although the pain of her loss is still fresh, Sonya's family is willing to work with the outgoing sheriff for the remainder of his tenure to help heal the community and achieve full justice for Sonya," Crump said in a statement. "The Massey family also hopes to work with Sangamon

County's next sheriff to examine how this tragedy happened and to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again in this community."

Questions have centered around the hiring of Grayson who worked for six different agencies in four years.

Grayson had two DUI convictions in Macoupin County, including one while he was still enlisted in the U.S. Army. Both occurred before he was employed as a police officer.

Grayson's separation from the Army noted a "serious misconduct" Campbell said he construed to be the first DUI charge.

Campbell acknowledged that Scott Butterfield, a former Sangamon County sheriff's deputy for 25-plus years, was listed as a reference for Grayson and that he was contacted by the department prior to Grayson employment with the county in May 2023.

In his reference, Butterfield noted his daughter was dating Grayson.

Grayson and another deputy, who has not been charged in the case, responded to Massey's home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue after a 911 call was made about a possible prowler.

County deputies responded because the home is in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township.

In an earlier interview, Campbell said he felt Grayson "betrayed" members of sheriff's department.

Campbell said the department "failed the community, we failed Sonya, we failed Sonya's family and friends," at a U.S. Department of Justice hearing in Springfield last month.

"While it is painful to say goodbye, I do so knowing I have fulfilled my duties and served to the best of my ability," Campbell said Friday.

Campbell, a former undersheriff, has been around the department most of his life. His father, Jim Campbell, was with the sheriff's office 20 years and rose to sergeant and his great-uncle, Hugh Campbell, was sheriff.

Like Pritzker, State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, said the hiring practices of the sheriff's office needed to be reviewed and is calling for an independent investigation.

“This was absolutely the right decision,” Turner said of Campbell's move, in a statement. “It doesn’t do any good to remove the sheriff unless we look into the hiring practices that led to Sonya Massey’s murder.”

Three Sangamon County Board members, all Democrats, also asked for his ouster.

But the 60-year-old Campbell maintained his stepping down would be "irresponsible."

"I was overwhelmingly elected to lead the Sheriff's Office through both good times and bad," Campbell said. "I am fully prepared to continue leading my office and serving the residents of Sangamon County through this difficult period, ensuring we learn from this tragedy and work toward a better future."

Since the shooting, Campbell insisted he has been "proactive and transparent, working tirelessly to present all of the facts to the public. I have committed to making changes to our standards and collaborating with other units of government on ways to prevent incidents like this in the future."

Van Meter said in a text that he respected Campbell's decision.

"The Jack Campbell I know," Van Meter said, "has always done what he thinks is best for the community."

Board member Kevin McGuire, who called for Campbell's ouster, said his leaving was a first step.

McGuire is also calling for an outside investigative team to look at the sheriff's department's hiring practices.

"I would say that's paramount," McGuire said.

Sunshine Clemons, a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter group in Springfield, said she was "saddened" that Campbell appeared to be taking no responsibility for the situation.

"His lack of accountability is a major issue," Clemons acknowledged. "If he doesn't see a role that he played in this, I don't believe he's able to bring in the change that is actually needed."

Board member Marc Ayers said what happened to Sonya Massey can never happen again in Sangamon County.

"I invite the community to heal and come together as we fight for justice, not just for Sonya Massey," Ayers said.

This story will be updated.

Reporter Patrick Keck contributed to this story. Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

New commission being formed after Massey shooting will address police practices

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 12:30 p.m. CT Aug. 16, 2024

A citizens' commission is being formed in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey.

The Massey Commission's proposed mission, according to a statement released Friday, is to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses and community relations, with the goal of creating "tangible, practical and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home."

It will look to produce a comprehensive report outlining findings, recommendations and proposed actions within a year.

The commission will be co-chaired by Jerry Kruse, dean and provost of the SIU School of Medicine; the Rev. T. Ray McJunkins, pastor of Union Baptist Church and Nina Harris, chair of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion.

While Sangamon County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter and State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, called for the commission, it won't have any elected officials on it.

Van Meter said the commission was in part a response to the public commentary from Tuesday's board meeting. The public commentary part lasted more than three hours, many calling for an independent investigation.

He added that public officials have reached out to counterparts in other communities, like Ferguson, Missouri, where similar tragedies have occurred.

In the months after the shooting of teenager Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014, then-Gov. Jay Nixon appointed an independent group to address the situation.

"The consistent advice (from those communities) has been careful listening, absolute transparency and a firm resolve to adopt best practices," Van Meter said. "Many of the thoughtful comments at Tuesday's county board meeting confirm the wisdom of this advice."

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and mother of two children, called 911 in the early morning hours of July 6 because she thought she heard someone outside of her house, which is technically not part of the city of Springfield.

Now-former sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson shot Massey in the face after a situation over a pot of boiling water quickly escalated.

An Illinois State Police investigation "did not support a finding" that Grayson, whose hiring by the department has been called into question, was justified in his use of deadly force. He was indicted and charged with murder on July 18.

Sheriff Jack Campbell eventually announced his retirement over the situation.

McJunkins' church hosted a U.S. Department of Justice community relations service listening session over the fatal shooting.

"My hope is that the work of this commission creates space for Sangamon County to be able to move toward what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called the beloved community, a community governed by a shared commitment to equitable policies and systems for all," said McJunkins, one of the founders of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good.

In the statement, Kruse said in addition to the Massey shooting, the death of Earl Moore Jr. and the shooting of Gregory Small Jr. in Chatham have "shaken Sangamon County to its moral core."

Two emergency medical services workers were charged with Moore's death on Dec. 18, 2022. Small was shot by Chatham police responding to a mental health crisis on March 7, 2021.

The officer, Adam Hahn, was cleared by ISP. Small was found not guilty of aggravated assault by reason of insanity in 2022.

"The people of Sangamon County must now engage in meaningful and sustained actions to address the issues related to these events," Kruse said. "The Massey Commission will guide

the process to engage the community; to hear, respect and understand all voices; to begin a process to develop mutual trust; to repair fragmented and inequitable systems, and to ensure safety for those in need of help."

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump of Florida, who represents the Massey family, welcomed the creation of the commission.

"Efforts like these go beyond addressing past injustice," Crump said in a statement. "They help create a future where the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves is one of trust and mutual respect, and where every individual is treated with the fairness and dignity they deserve."

Those wishing to serve on the Massey Commission can apply at SangamonIL.Gov/MasseyCommission. The application deadline is Aug. 30.

The State Journal-Register

STATE

Pritzker formally calls on sheriff to resign following Sonya Massey shooting

Patrick M. Keck
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 11:44 a.m. CT Aug. 7, 2024 | **Updated 10:21 p.m. CT Aug. 7, 2024**

Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton are formally calling for Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell to resign, expressing frustration with how the sheriff has responded following the Sonya Massey fatal shooting.

Much scrutiny has been placed on Campbell, who hired now former Deputy Sean P. Grayson in May 2023 despite having two DUI convictions. Grayson has been charged by a grand jury with three counts of first-degree murder and shooting and killing Massey in her own home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township on the morning of July 6.

"(Campbell) has failed to explain how he ended up hiring this deputy sheriff who has resigned from every position, held positions for less than a year, sometimes for just a few months," the governor said at an impromptu press conference after the unveiling of the Butter Cow at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. "I ask the question simply, 'What did the sheriff know about his background. Why didn't he do more work on his background before hiring him?"

More: Illinois Gov. Pritzker criticizes sheriff for hiring deputy who fatally shot Sonya Massey

"This isn't about politics. This is about bringing people together in Sangamon County and making people feel safe. It's the sheriff's job is to make people feel safe, and he's done the opposite of that.

Pritzker made mention of "Save Sheriff Jack Campbell" signs that have gone up on the streets and roads around Springfield.

"He's the one who has played politics," he added. "It's time for him to go."

The governor said it was "outrageous" that Campbell had yet to meet with the Massey family in the month since the murder.

"It's been a month. It's been a month," Pritzker said. "We should have seen already a meeting with the Massey family. If he's reached out, he hasn't done a very good job."

Pritzker and Stratton met with the Massey family, including her mother, Donna Massey, and father, James Wilburn, along with Massey's son, Malachi, and daughter Jeanette "Summer," at Union Baptist Church on July 23.

The sheriff, who once again stated his intent to stay on the force, said in a statement he has tried to meet with the family four times, but he has been rejected each time.

Campbell said he would still like to have a meeting.

"The Sheriff's Office is willing to modify our hiring practices in order to prevent an incident like this from occurring again. However, before changes can be made, it is important to identify the problem," the sheriff said in a statement.

"We have used a process that we believe was consistent with statewide standards. If these standards are deficient, we would advocate a change at all necessary levels.

"I was overwhelmingly elected to lead the Sheriff's Office through both good times and bad. I am fully prepared to continue leading my office and serving the residents of Sangamon County through this difficult period, ensuring we learn from this tragedy and work toward a better future."

Campbell also said he believes calls for his resignation are politically motivated.

"We need to unite and heal. The one responsible is in jail and will never work in law enforcement again. Calls for my resignation are nothing more than political maneuvering during a tragic event and only hurt the good citizens of Sangamon County."

Calling on Campbell and his senior leadership team to resign immediately, Sangamon County Democratic Chair Bill Houlihan said Wednesday there was a "tragically broken culture within the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department.

"For decades the unspoken practice of 'legacy hires' and 'go along to get along' have permeated throughout the county building. Jack Campbell's resignation would only be a Band-Aid on the deep cut the sheriff's department has inflicted upon our community. Only

with entirely new leadership can the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department begin the essential work of restoring the public's trust and serving all members of our community."

Black Lives Matter SPI co-founder Sunshine Clemons said in a Facebook message that she was grateful to Pritzker for using his voice and platform "to support and elevate the Massey family's request for Sheriff Campbell to step down.

"The wider community has made the same request as this action would enable the start of the healing process and rebuilding of trust that has been shattered."

Three Sangamon County Board members, all Democrats, asked Campbell, a Republican, to resign last week.

Marc Ayers, one of those members, said Wednesday he was "proud" to stand with Pritzker.

"The governor is correct," Ayers told The State Journal-Register via text. "Our community cannot heal and trust county law enforcement until Campbell resigns."

Another county board member, Tony DelGiorno, on a Facebook post Wednesday, said it was time for Campbell's successor to "pick up the pieces in a transparent and accountable way."

"You've failed your department, you've failed your county and you've failed an innocent woman in a mental health crisis because you didn't do your job to properly vet deputy applicants," DelGiorno said, addressing Campbell.

Board member Kevin McGuire also asked Campbell to resign.

Ayers, DelGiorno and McGuire, along with Sam Cahnman and Gina Lathan, are backing an advisory referendum about Campbell's future that would go before the voters on Nov. 5.

The full county board would have to pass the referendum at its meeting Tuesday, now scheduled for the Bank of Springfield Center, for it to get on the ballot.

Even if it passes the voters on Nov. 5, Campbell would not be bound to resign.

Campbell, a Republican, has been sheriff since 2018 and is next up for election in 2026.

Reporter Steven Spearie contributed to this story. Contact Patrick M. Keck: pkeck@gannett.com, twitter.com/@pkeckreporter.

The State Journal-Register

NEWS

'How did the sheriff end up hiring this person?': Pritzker wants answers in Massey shooting

Patrick M. Keck
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 2:26 p.m. CT Aug. 6, 2024 | **Updated 2:43 p.m. CT Aug. 6, 2024**

Amid mounting pressure facing Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, Gov. JB Pritzker is heaping extra frustration with the sheriff.

Where Pritzker and others in Sangamon County want answers is what went into hiring now former sheriff deputy Sean P. Grayson — charged in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey.

"I have a lot of questions and I'm so far disappointed with the answers that I'm hearing from the sheriff," the governor said during an unrelated press conference in Chicago Tuesday.

Grayson's personnel files released last week by the county included testimony from one of his former police chiefs saying, "he needed more training" and also documented the two DUI's convictions he had received in 2015 and 2016.

The records revealed he also scored "low" on his cognitive assessment as part of his psychological evaluation but met the acceptable standards for being hired.

Campbell hired Grayson in May 2023 after serving in Logan County Sheriff's Department and other Springfield-area police departments. His decision to hire Grayson, now facing three counts of first-degree murder, has prompted an attempt to put an advisory referendum on the November ballot asking whether Campbell should stay in office.

More: County board members pushing advisory referendum to voters to recall Campbell

The push is coming from five Democrats on the Republican-majority county board and would not require the sheriff to step down if the voters approved it. Campbell has been

steadfast that he will not leave his office.

Asked whether he thinks Campbell should resign, Pritzker emphasized he wants more transparency into the hiring process. U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski, D-Springfield, told reporters last week in Springfield she was still looking for more information before she could call for his resignation.

"How did the sheriff end up hiring this person?," Pritzker said. "(He) must have known their background, must have. I mean, no one hires somebody without checking the hirees' background."

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Attorney: SAFE-T Act 'failed to stop' former sheriff's deputy accused of Massey's murder

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 7:18 p.m. CT Aug. 14, 2024

Attorneys for the family of Sonya Massey want a national database for police officers to prevent "ticking time bombs" like former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson, charged in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey.

Grayson's hiring by the sheriff's department, particularly because of some of his record with the Logan County Sheriff's Office prior to coming to Springfield, and his two DUIs before he became an officer have continued to raise questions.

Massey family members applauded the retirement of Sheriff Jack Campbell, who is leaving office by Aug. 31.

While calling Illinois' SAFE-T Act "one of the most comprehensive police reform bills" passed, Antonio Romanucci, an attorney who has worked with the Massey family's attorney, Ben Crump, said the act "needs a little bit of help."

Romanucci said a more comprehensive national database would include infractions such as DUIs, driving excessive speeds during a police chase and incidents of excessive force or unnecessary profane language on a citizen.

It also would create a waiting period, "some quiet time," Romanucci said, in between officers going from job to job, in order for "a thorough and comprehensive background check (to be) completed."

Romanucci said the act failed to stop Grayson "until he literally exploded and caused a needless life to be lost in Sonya Massey."

"There has to be mandatory reporting," Romanucci added. "Illinois has been a great leader. We just need to caulk the SAFE-T Act."

Grayson, 30, worked for six different agencies, including several on a part-time basis, in four years.

Raymond Massey said his niece, Sonya Massey, was "failed by multiple systems and multiple people. By the sheriff stepping down, I think it's a great first step."

"We have to catch the warning signs," Crump said, "before they become homicides. That's why we have to have accountability at the department level.

"The blood is the hands of the system as well as Sean Grayson."

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

'Full justice.' Family, friends gather to recall Sonya Massey a month after fatal shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:42 a.m. CT Aug. 7, 2024

Theresa Mercado's 11-year-old daughter, Maleyah, recalled making tea with some friends one time when she asked her neighbor, Sonya Massey, for some honey.

"She said, 'Here you go, sweetie,'" recalled Maleyah, of Massey. "She's a nice person."

About 100 or so friends and neighbors gathered at Massey's home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue Tuesday night to mark the one-month anniversary of her fatal shooting at the hands of a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy.

After a moment of silence and prayer, the crowd released purple balloons, Massey's favorite color. They also lit candles for her on the front porch of her home and left flowers and artwork.

The gathering came on the same day Gov. JB Pritzker, at a press conference in a Chicago, expressed frustration with embattled Sheriff Jack Campbell.

Shadia Massey, a cousin who likened herself to Sonya's older sister, admitted the last month has been hard on the family "and it's getting harder, actually. We are dealing with it day by day."

The family, she said, has kept its eyes on "full justice for her. We won't change in this for the community, for the world, for the nation."

Jimmie Crawford Jr., who was the first family member, along with Shadia, to arrive at Massey's home the morning of July 6, said he still hoped her death could be a catalyst for change in gun reform and civil rights "that we need."

Abbie Giganti, who is white, said police in Springfield treat Blacks like "sub-humans."

"They look at people who are different from them," Giganti said, "and they shame them and punish them."

Erin Pacha, who has been a stalwart with Giganti at local protests and rallies that cropped up within a week of Massey's murder, said police should have sent someone who could have dealt with Massey mental health issues "and not someone who was going to punish her for it."

"But it's important to us to be out here and be here for the family. I want the family to know there is support for them."

An emotional Donna Massey reiterated it was about getting justice for her daughter.

"That's all this is about. It's not just about Sonya," she said. "There have been thousands of us killed by the hands of the police. She's the straw the broke the camel's back."

Earlier, Pritzker said he was "disappointed with the answers" he was hearing from Campbell over the hiring of Sean P. Grayson, who is being held on first-degree murder charges.

"How did the sheriff end up hiring this person?" Pritzker said. "(He) must have known their background, must have."

An advisory referendum, even if it makes it to the ballot and gets a majority of the votes on Nov. 5, still might not be Campbell's undoing because he would not be bound by it.

Campbell is next up for election in 2026.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Massey's mom said Sonya was having 'a mental breakdown' hours before fatal shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:40 a.m. CT Aug. 1, 2024 | **Updated 9:48 a.m. CT Aug. 2, 2024**

The mother of Sonya Massey detailed in a 911 call on July 5 that her daughter was having "a mental breakdown."

Sangamon County released to the public 911 calls, service detail reports and CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) messaging Wednesday morning.

The call from Donna Massey came about 16 hours before Sonya Massey was fatally shot in her home. Massey had called 911 about a possible intruder, "someone banging on the side of my house."

The 36-year-old Black woman, lived in a home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township, an area known as "Cabbage Patch."

Former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson, one of two deputies on the initial call, has been charged with Massey's murder. Grayson was the only one to fire his weapon.

Grayson pleaded not guilty in Sangamon County Court on July 18. He remains in custody.

Massey's family members and civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing the family, have admitted on several occasions that she had mental health challenges.

"She was dealing with some issues," Crump said in an appearance in Springfield on July 22. "She needed a helping hand. She didn't need a bullet to the face."

In the 911 call placed shortly after 9 a.m. on July 5, Donna Massey described her daughter's behavior and what she was experiencing.

"The mental health people told me to call 911 because she could get in her car and kill herself or somebody. She's run a couple of red lights," she told dispatch.

Donna Massey said Sonya Massey wasn't a danger to herself and "she's not a danger to me."

"I don't want you guys to hurt her, please," she said.

Just before the end of the call, Donna Massey told dispatch about not sending any "combative policemen who are prejudiced. I'm scared of the police. Sometimes they make (the situation) worse."

Talking to Springfield Police at her mother's house about an hour later, Sonya Massey said she didn't want to seek treatment. She spoke to emergency medical technicians at the scene and "both cleared her," the report read.

But Massey did go to HSHS St. John's Hospital later that afternoon "to seek treatment of her mental state" after an alleged confrontation with her neighbor.

There, Massey told Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Shane Matli about a neighbor who broke the driver's side window of her Chevy Equinox with a brick. Massey then told the deputy she broke the window on the back driver's side "in an attempt to get into the car to get away. She was unable to get in through the back, so she ripped out the driver side window in order to gain entry into the vehicle" resulting in some minor scrapes.

The narrative mentioned that Massey recently had been released from a mental health facility in Granite City.

Massey shared paperwork with Matli from the Mobile Crisis team, a co-responder program between Springfield Police and Memorial Behavioral Health, dated from July 3. Massey was out with Mobile Crisis and Springfield Police "who attempted to run her off the road," she told Matli.

A seven-minute 911 call placed at 12:49 p.m. on July 5 features an expletive-filled conversation that seemed to be between Massey and the neighbor.

It also was believed that Massey called 911 at 10:27 p.m. on July 4 about "(somebody) trying to hurt me."

When the dispatcher asked who was trying to hurt her, she replied "a lot of them."

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who represents the Massey family, said the case proves that there is an urgent need for comprehensive police reform and better training for handling mental health crises.

"The 911 calls capture the heartbreaking pleas of Sonya's mother who desperately sought help for her daughter while expressing her deep fears about the potential for violence at the hands of the police," Crump said in a statement. "Despite these warnings, Sonya, a woman struggling with her mental health, was met with deadly force in her own home.

“Sonya needed compassion and support. Instead, she was met with a gunshot to the face by a deputy whose actions have now led to charges of first-degree murder. The failure to provide the appropriate response to a mental health crisis has resulted in an irreversible loss for the Massey family and underscores a systemic issue that must be addressed."

In a CAD message from 2:02 the morning of the shooting, someone writes that "(we) were under the impression it was self-inflicted until just a minute."

The fact that the Illinois State Police were called in shortly after the shooting "raised questions with us, too," a response said.

Several family members last week insisted they weren't able to get a straight version of what happened to Massey at the scene.

Jimmie Crawford, the father of Massey's youngest daughter, Jeanette "Summer" Massey, said last that a family friend heard police telling HSHS St. John's Hospital nurses that Massey killed herself.

"Not once was I told the officer did it," Crawford said.

Crawford was at Massey's house later on the morning of the shooting.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Former sheriff's deputy charged with murder thought Massey 'was going to kill me'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 2:48 p.m. CT Aug. 5, 2024 | **Updated 8:12 a.m. CT Aug. 6, 2024**

A former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy charged with murder said he thought Sonya Massey was going throw boiling liquid on him and his partner on July 6 when they responded to Massey's home for a possible prowler.

In his report, released by Sangamon County on Monday, Sean P. Grayson admitted that when Massey twice said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," that "I interpreted this to mean she was going to kill me."

The release includes 30 pages of reports from other sheriff's deputies who responded to the shooting.

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, lived in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township.

Grayson shot Massey in the face after demanding she drop the pot of liquid.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges in Sangamon County Court on July 18. He remains in custody.

The report was written on July 9, three days after the shooting.

Grayson had requested and was given permission to review bodycam footage of the call.

In the report, Grayson admitted he was in "imminent fear of getting boiling liquid to my face or chest, which would have caused great bodily harm or death." He didn't know "the type of liquid" Massey was boiling.

Grayson indicated he gave Massey "loud, clear verbal commands" to drop the pot.

After Massey ducked down behind a cabinet, Grayson said he came closer to make sure she "did not grab any other weapon."

Grayson insisted Massey "threw the boiling substance at me."

"I fired my duty weapon in Sonya's direction," the report further read. "I observed Sonya fall to the ground behind the counter."

In another report, Deputy Jason Eccleston described Grayson as "visibly shaken up" and tried to support him at the scene.

At his patrol car, Eccleston advised Grayson "to not speak about what happened."

Grayson admitted in his report that he thought he had activated his body-worn camera at the beginning of the call, then realized later he hadn't and told his supervisor at the scene.

After getting cleared medically at Springfield Memorial Hospital, Grayson was interviewed by an Illinois State Police investigator at the sheriff's office.

In a report made out by Sgt. James Hayes, a witness whose name is redacted told him that Massey had been in a medical facility out of town prior to the shooting. The witness described to Hayes how Massey was in her yard "yelling. At one point, Massey threw a brick through one of the windows of her own vehicle."

On July 5, Massey told a sheriff's deputy in an interview at St. John's Hospital that she broke the window of vehicle on the back driver's side "in an attempt to get into the car to get away (from a neighbor). She was unable to get in through the back, so she ripped out the driver side window in order to gain entry into the vehicle" resulting in some minor scrapes.

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The State Journal-Register

POLITICS

Duckworth reintroduces police training reform bill following Sonya Massey shooting

Patrick M. Keck
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:31 a.m. CT Aug. 1, 2024

The July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey at the hands of a now-former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy is prompting renewed calls for police reform in Washington.

Details of the shooting of Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, have gone international since the body camera footage went public on July 22 with marches, rallies and protests across the country. Facing five counts, including first-degree murder, and now in custody in the case is Sean P. Grayson of Riverton.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris both issued statements after the footage went public, expressing sorrow and urging justice. They also called on Congress to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policy Act which would, among other provisions, track police misconduct and limit the use of qualified immunity in a private civil action against a law enforcement officer.

More: Union won't go forward with former deputy's grievance in Sonya Massey shooting

"In this moment, in honor of Sonya's memory and the memory of so many more whose names we may never know, we must come together to achieve meaningful reforms that advance the safety of all communities," said Harris, who had co-authored a prior version of the bill while serving as a senator, in a statement.

Massey placed a 911 call with concerns for a possible intruder inside her own home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township. Two deputies responded to the scene, which escalated quickly and saw her be shot three times and once to the head.

De-escalation tactics by Grayson, or the lack thereof, have been brought into question — the video featuring him saying "I swear to God I'll f***ing shoot you right in your f***ing face." In response, U.S. Tammy Duckworth, D-Hoffman Estates, again filed legislation to incentivize improved training and the use of independent investigation and prosecution to eliminate inherent conflicts of interest.

Through the Police Training and IndependentReviewAct, states would be eligible for grant funding if they adopt protocols emphasizing anti-bias and de-escalation training.

It would also encourage training for police when interacting with individuals with a mental illness or a behavioral or physical disability. Massey, a family member said during a recent press conference, was a paranoid schizophrenic.

It is Duckworth's fourth time introducing the legislation, which has the backing of fellow Illinois Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, and the NAACP.

Asked whether she supports the pieces of legislation, U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski, D-Springfield, told a State Journal-Register reporter during an unrelated press conference at Lincoln Land Community College Wednesday that she is on-board. A companion bill to Duckworth's is also being introduced in the House.

"I think in this case, in particular, you could see the need for more de-escalation training, but I think we need to be partnering with law enforcement to make sure that they're getting the skills training they need," Budzinski said. "Obviously, I don't support things like no-knock warrants, chokeholds. Those are things that were in the George Floyd bill."

For either of the bills to pass in Congress, bipartisan support would be necessary — Democrats holding a slim-majority in the Senate while Republicans have control of the House. A spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Mary Miller, R-Oakland, did not respond to a phone call or email requesting the congresswoman's position on the legislation.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Records: Deputy in Massey shooting 'needed more training'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 7:58 p.m. CT July 31, 2024 | **Updated 9:59 a.m. CT Aug. 4, 2024**

Former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean P. Grayson scored "low" on his cognitive assessment as part of his psychological evaluation but met the acceptable standards for being hired, his personnel file, released to the public Wednesday, showed.

According to one of his former chiefs, Grayson "needed more training."

Grayson, who was charged in the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey in her home, used his future father-in-law, Scott Butterfield, a former county sheriff's deputy, as an employment reference.

Butterfield, in his reference, said Grayson was "a mellow, non-confrontational person who has good communication skills."

Grayson was hired in Springfield in May 2023 from the Logan County Sheriff's Department.

In a check of his workplace performances prior to being employed by Sangamon County, Virden Police Department Chief Steven Snodgrass said Grayson "did not demonstrate good officer safety skills" during his short time with the department.

Auburn Police Chief David Campbell said Grayson showed good initiative but needed to improve his report writing and documentation and "needed more training."

Auburn was the first department where Grayson was hired as a full-time officer.

Soon after his hire by Sangamon County, Grayson was sent to a 16-week training course at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur, "a requirement," Sheriff Jack Campbell said, "for all new and lateral transfer deputies in our office."

The file did make note of his two DUI convictions: in 2015 in Virden while he was enlisted in the Army and in 2016 in Girard, when he was arrested by a Macoupin County Sheriff's deputy.

Grayson, who pleaded guilty in both cases, lost driving privileges for a year because of the second conviction.

Because of the mark on his cognitive assessment, the evaluation said, "it will take him longer to learn, process, and apply new material when compared to others."

It added that Grayson "knows he can move too fast at times. He needs to slow down to make good decisions."

While he displayed "appropriate social skills," Grayson also appeared "fairly rigid and linear in his thinking. He likes structure and routine."

Grayson also received a few critical remarks on a series of scenarios at the training session in Decatur.

Overall, his score was 87.2%.

In one notation, Grayson, during training, "allowed neighbor to walk behind (him) without being noticed."

Grayson, in another scenario, showed "poor marksmanship" and poor communication with his partner.

But in a further exercise, it was noted that Grayson took over as the primary officer "when things escalated between the victim and suspect. Good instincts."

A citizen's complaint in his file from May said Grayson accused a 17-year-old of "lying and obstructing an investigation" and that he spoke to the teen "in an inappropriate manner."

An internal review of Grayson's bodycam footage "determined his actions were warranted given the serious nature of the call."

Chief Deputy Anthony Mayfield noted in his internal investigation after the Massey shooting that Grayson "immediately" escalated to excessive force despite no threatening motions from Massey.

Grayson's communication and interaction with Massey "brought discredit" to the department, Mayfield noted.

He was cited for failing to turn on his body camera and for failing to provide medical aid to Massey.

Grayson refused to answer any questions during an interview with Lt. Wes Wooden of the sheriff's department "even after ordered to do so," Mayfield added.

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The State Journal-Register

POLITICS

'I don't know the exact case': Trump appears unfamiliar with Sonya Massey shooting

Patrick M. Keck
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:54 p.m. CT July 31, 2024

In Chicago Wednesday for the annual National Association of Black Journalists convention, former President Donald Trump appeared to be unfamiliar with details surrounding the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey.

Trump was asked if the officer — now-former Sangamon County Sheriff deputy Sean P. Grayson — who shot and killed Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, in her own home on July 6 should receive immunity from prosecution. Grayson, 30, of Riverton has been charged with five counts, including first-degree murder, and remains in custody.

"I don't know the exact case, but I saw something and it didn't look good to me," Trump told Kadia Goba, a politics reporter at Semafor, during the conversation attended by more than 1,000 journalists in Chicago.

Trump later asked if the case was "with the water," likely referring to the fact that Massey had a pot of boiling water that Grayson instructed her to remove from the stove. She was shot three times, once in the head, after moving the pot and saying, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

More: Union won't go forward with former deputy's grievance in Sonya Massey shooting

The question to the GOP presidential candidate came after he said during a rally in Minnesota that he would give law enforcement officers qualified immunity if elected to a second term. Whether Grayson deserves that immunity in Trump's eyes is unclear.

“Well he might not, it depends on what happens. I am talking about people much different than that. We need people to protect ourselves,” Trump said. “In this particular case, that did

not look good to me, I did not like it. I did not like it at all."

Trump's comments come a little more than one week since the body camera footage went public. In a statement, President Joe Biden said the Massey family deserves justice and that Sonya Massey "should be alive today."

In Springfield Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski also urged justice and accountability in the case. The Springfield Democrat addressed the murder on the U.S. House floor last week.

"I think now we're at a place where need to do some investigations into how this police officer actually got on the police force," she told reporters at Lincoln Land Community College during an unrelated press conference.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Buscher on CNN: Calls for sheriff to resign is a 'community-divided issue'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 2:42 p.m. CT Aug. 9, 2024

Mayor Misty Buscher, appearing on CNN Friday, said the call for Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell's resignation over the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a now-fired deputy is "a community-divided issue."

Earlier this week, Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton formally called on Campbell to step aside.

Buscher, interviewed by Jim Acosta, acknowledged the Republican sheriff does have his supporters. Within the last week or so, "Support Sheriff Jack Campbell" signs have popped up on public right of ways and in yards.

"If the sheriff were to call me," Buscher told CNN, "and ask me what I think he should do, I would say, 'What do you think is going to heal the community the best?' because that's what we're to do as leaders."

Buscher added she would encourage the sheriff's office to share its "hiring process and the training process so the community can learn about that."

Questions have centered around the hiring of Sean P. Grayson, who has been charged with Massey's murder. Grayson and another deputy responded to Massey's home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue after a 911 call was made about a possible prowler.

County deputies responded because the home is in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township.

Grayson shot Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, in the face after a verbal exchange over a boiling pot of liquid quickly escalated.

In his written report three days after the shooting, Grayson admitted he was in "imminent fear of getting boiling liquid to my face or chest, which would have caused great bodily harm or death."

The scrutiny over Grayson's hiring included his employment at six different law enforcement agencies in a little over four years, though some of that work was on a part-time basis.

Grayson had two DUI convictions in Macoupin County, including one while he was still enlisted in the U.S. Army. Both occurred before he was employed as a police officer.

Grayson's separation from the Army noted a "serious misconduct" Campbell said he construed to be the first DUI charge.

Campbell said his stepping down would be "irresponsible."

"I was overwhelmingly elected to lead the Sheriff's Office through both good times and bad," Campbell said. "I am fully prepared to continue leading my office and serving the residents of Sangamon County through this difficult period, ensuring we learn from this tragedy and work toward a better future."

The Sangamon County Democratic Party called for the resignation of Campbell and senior leadership over a "tragically broken culture within (the department)."

Black Lives Matter SPI co-founder Sunshine Clemons said in a Facebook message that she was grateful to Pritzker for using his voice and platform "to support and elevate the Massey family's request for Sheriff Campbell to step down."

Three Sangamon County Board members also have asked Campbell to step aside. At its Tuesday meeting at the Bank of Springfield Center, the 29-member board will consider placing an advisory referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot that would allow voters to weigh in on recalling Campbell.

It is first county board meeting since the fatal shooting. Already, 17 people have scheduled to speak.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Union won't go forward with former deputy's grievance in Sonya Massey shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 2:51 p.m. CT July 30, 2024

A labor organization won't pursue a fired Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy's grievance, an attorney said Tuesday.

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council filed the grievance on behalf of former deputy Sean P. Grayson, who is charged with murder in the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey on July 6.

The grievance filed against the sheriff's department on July 18, the day after Grayson was arrested, sought his reinstatement, reimbursement of all lost wages and restoration of all lost benefits.

Grayson was fired on July 17 by Sheriff Jack Campbell.

"We have arrived at that final stage of the process where a determination can be made regarding whether or not to proceed with Sean Grayson's grievance," a statement from the labor council read. "The Union has determined that it will NOT be proceeding any further."

Tamara Cummings, an attorney for the labor council, said Monday it had "an obligation to preserve the due process rights and other rights (of Grayson) within the collective bargaining agreement."

Cummings would not comment Tuesday about why the proceeding was being halted or who made the decision.

The statement added that the same internal processes "apply to all members who file grievances, including Sean Grayson."

The union represents about 10,000 members statewide.

Grayson, 30, is in custody. In addition to the murder charges, he was charged with aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct.

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman was shot in her home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township after reporting a possible intruder.

The chaotic and sometimes gruesome video, released to the public on July 22, has caused international outrage leading to marches, rallies and protests across the country.

The grievance caused heat for another state organization that's similar in name.

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge said in a statement issued Monday that it was a strictly fraternal organization with "a completely separate organization with different leadership, a different organizational structure and a different mission."

The statement, from its president, Chris Southwood, pointed out that the FOP Labor Council is allowed to use the name through a marketing agreement with the National Fraternal Order of Police, one the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge "has had many concerns (with)," Southwood said.

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Springfield residents seek reform as police chief speaks out after Sonya Massey shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:31 a.m. CT July 31, 2024

In a transparent and emotional stand before the Springfield committee of the whole Tuesday, Springfield Police Chief Ken Scarlette admitted the last three weeks, since the fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy, "have been hell on me."

Scarlette, whose department won almost universal praise from council members, said he and his officers "will bear the shame and the guilt for what a fellow law enforcement officer did in our community."

"(Massey) was senselessly murdered by a person who wears a uniform that is similar to this, by a person who wears a badge similar to mine, by a person who swore to uphold the same oath that I did and because of that, I'm mad," admitted Scarlette, capping the public comment section. "I'm extremely frustrated. I'm embarrassed, I'm ashamed that this person would ever call himself a law enforcement officer."

More: Husband of Springfield Mayor Buscher hospitalized following surgery, cancer diagnosis

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot in her home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township after reporting a possible intruder.

Former Sangamon County Sheriff deputy Sean P. Grayson was charged with Massey's murder and remains in custody.

The release of the officers' bodycam footage sparked international outrage that led to protests and rallies across the country. A number of protests have been staged in Springfield,

including in front of the Sangamon County building.

Police reform wanted

Anupama Paruchuri, who lives in Ward 7, said she still wanted to see "thorough, genuine police reform."

Specifically, Paruchuri said, the city should start "a focused committee to develop and implement meaningful reforms. This committee should engage with community leaders and provide regular public updates."

Paruchuri cited two city officers dismissed from the force, Nicholas Renfro and Aaron Paul Nichols, proving it has "similar issues" as other departments.

Scarlette said the force did change hiring practices in 2022, including implementing a hiring process that asks if candidates have been involved with or support hate groups.

Nichols, a veteran Springfield Police Department officer, resigned after being linked to racist, antisemitic and homophobic posts on social media.

"We added measures to do our best to avoid any more Aaron Nichols because that's the last thing I ever want to see," Scarlette said.

'Lot of very hurt people'

Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley said the devastation and heartbreak of Massey's murder was unthinkable. She said "every case" Grayson touched "should be reviewed."

"I've been that single woman who has called the police because I was very scared," Conley said. "I understand my privilege (as a white woman). I had officers come to my house and I was made to feel safe again. We as a city need to grow from this."

Bradley Russell of Springfield said he was tired of seeing "my Black and brown friends dying because they called the cops."

There are a lot of angry people across the Springfield area "me included," said James Johnson. "There are a lot of very hurt people, and I'm not talking about just Black. This goes across the board."

Scarlette said he's left with what's next in the Springfield community.

"I've got broad shoulders," he said, "and I can certainly say this: I'll take responsibility for what someone who wore a similar uniform did because that's unacceptable."

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Campbell says department 'betrayed' by deputy in Massey shooting; reiterates he won't resign

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 5:00 p.m. CT Aug. 1, 2024

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell said the department was "betrayed" by a former sheriff's deputy now charged with the murder of Sonya Massey.

Despite calls for Campbell's resignation from some county board members and from those speaking publicly at a sometimes-heated public listening session, the sheriff again maintained that it would be "irresponsible" to leave the position, and he has "a drive to get justice for Sonya Massey and for the community and for our deputies."

Campbell made his comments in a one-on-one interview with The State Journal-Register conducted at his office Thursday.

Deputies, Campbell said, were "personally are hurting. They're devastated. They were betrayed by one of their own deputies. They cannot believe somebody who wore the same uniform, that had the same training or more, conducted (himself) in such a manner. They are horrified by it, and it has impacted them.

"My job here is to make it better for them and help lead us of this."

Grayson and another deputy responded to Massey's home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township around 1 a.m. on July 6. Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, told a 911 dispatcher that it sounded like "someone banging on the side of my house."

Bodycam footage released to the public on July 22 showed how quickly situation inside Massey's home escalated after she told Grayson “I rebuke you in the name of Jesus.”

Grayson, directing her to put down a pot of boiling water, drew his gun and fired three times, striking Massey with a shot below the left eye.

At a Department of Justice Community Relations Service hearing before 500 people, Campbell said the department "failed the community. We failed Sonya. We failed Sonya's family and friends." He also asked the gathering for forgiveness.

Campbell, who has been sheriff since 2018 and next stands for election in 2026, reiterated Thursday that he wasn't resigning. Marc Ayers, Tony DelGiorno and Kevin McGuire, all Democrats on the Republican-dominated county board, have all publicly called on Campbell to resign.

"I was elected sheriff to lead this office and protect the people of the county through good times and bad," Campbell said. and "We're going through a rough time right now, and for me to abandon the sheriff's office now would be irresponsible.

"We're certainly suffering, and the community is suffering, and I want to be here to help lead out of this situation."

Campbell said he had never met Grayson, then a deputy at the Logan County Sheriff's Department, before he came in to interview in Springfield.

Campbell did acknowledge that Scott Butterfield, a former Sangamon County sheriff's deputy was listed as a reference for Grayson and that he was contacted prior to Grayson employment with the county in May 2023.

In Grayson's personnel file, released to the public late Wednesday afternoon, Butterfield, who spent 25 years in the department, wrote that his daughter was dating Grayson.

Campbell, 60, has publicly described himself as "a legacy" in the sheriff's office. His father, Jim Campbell, was with the sheriff's office 20 years and rose to sergeant and his great-uncle, Hugh Campbell, who was sheriff.

"Certainly, I would have confidence in somebody I know recommend somebody," Campbell said of Butterfield as a reference. "I think every employer gets a level of comfort if they have a connection with a potential employee."

Campbell said he "couldn't speculate" on how Grayson and the other deputy knew about Massey's mental health history or about previous calls made by and about Massey the hours leading up to the fatal shooting.

Massey's mother, Donna, detailed in a 911 call the morning of July 5 that her daughter was having "a mental breakdown."

Massey did go to HSHS St. John's Hospital later that afternoon "to seek treatment of her mental state" after an alleged confrontation with her neighbor.

Massey's family members have admitted on several occasions that she had mental health challenges.

Mental health training and crisis intervention training is mandated under the SAFE-T Act "and all of our deputies at the police academy get that," Campbell said.

Mental health problems "rapidly are increasing around the entire country and we're no different here in Sangamon County," he acknowledged. "I am interested in anything that could help the people we're going to assist as well as our deputies to keep them safe, too. Anything we can do to improve the relationship with and how we interact with those people who have mental health problems, I'm all for that."

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Supporters at Sonya Massey rally in Springfield: 'Keep our eye on the prize'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:25 p.m. CT July 28, 2024 | **Updated 8:10 a.m. CT July 29, 2024**

Dameon Johnson of Springfield said he didn't know Sonya Massey.

But when Johnson, president of the East Springfield Community Center Commission, got word that a group out of New York City was putting together a nationwide effort for a National Day of Mourning for Massey, the 36-year-old Black woman who was fatally shot in her home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township on July 6, he knew he had to act.

"All that I've read, all that I've seen, she seems like she's my little sister and I took personal attachment to this issue, to this tragedy," Johnson said to a crowd of about 300 to 350 people at Comer Cox Park Sunday. "Look, this is ground zero (for this). If you look around here, this is truly amazing."

Many of the attendees were wearing purple, Massey's favorite color, and wearing "Say Her Name: Sonya Massey" shirts.

Afterwards, it was reported that about 80 to 100 members of the crowd marched to Bunn Park, shutting down Clear Lake Avenue for about 45 minutes.

Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson, 30, was charged with murder and pleaded not guilty in Sangamon County Court on July 18. He remains in custody.

The chaotic and sometimes gruesome body camera footage, released to the public on July 22, brought on a U.S. Department of Justice investigation.

K.J. Moore of Springfield said she lived several blocks away from Massey.

Moore had a daughter, like Massey, who had a mental crisis last spring.

Springfield Police came twice to Moore's residence in 48 hours,- she said, but "they showed compassion. If I had not been an advocate or voice for her, the same thing could've happened. It was a totally different scenario.

"Mental illness is real and as part of police training, that is something that is pertinent."

Police had been to Massey's home the day before the shooting for a mental health episode. A family member at a press conference last week said Massey was diagnosed was "paranoid schizophrenia."

Joe Feiden of Springfield came to Sunday's rally with a "Campbell resign" sign, a reference to Sheriff Jack Campbell, who has been under scrutiny for his hiring of Grayson.

"The Illinois State Constitution doesn't allow for impeachment," Feiden said. "A sheriff can be removed if there's a lynching when a person is in his custody. I would argue that this is a modern-day lynching."

State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, grew up knowing members of the Massey family.

While she said she was proud of how the Springfield community has been respectful in its response to the shooting, "we will do what we need to do to hold everyone accountable, every single person accountable, because there are layers to this thing. We're going to peel back this onion."

Austin Randolph, president of the Springfield NAACP, said there was "no excuse, no explanation, no reason for Ms. Massey not to be here today.

"We must peaceful. We must be positive. We must help each other, but we must keep our eye on the prize."

Massey's mother, Donna, thanked the crowd for its support.

"This is not just for Sonya," she said. "This is for all of us. We still haven't gotten justice and it's time."

Union Baptist lead pastor, the Rev. T. Ray McJunkins, said while he lauded the peaceful nature of the protests in Springfield, "we're still ignoring the fact that we're hurting and that we're grieving. (The listening session) allows us to come forth and express: 'I'm shocked that in this day and time something like this is still happening.'

"I want the community to speak out because it's so easy to point the finger and blame someone."

Moore said she is glad Massey's story has gone national.

"I believe that sweet, petite, beautiful soul has made something bigger than what occurred," she said. "It needed to put a microscope on this area."

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Three Sangamon County Board members call on sheriff to resign in wake of Massey shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 9:28 a.m. CT July 31, 2024 | **Updated 5:36 p.m. CT July 31, 2024**

At least three Sangamon County Board members have now publicly asked Sheriff Jack Campbell to resign.

It comes after the July 6 fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson, who has been charged with her murder.

Grayson pleaded not guilty in Sangamon County Court on July 18. He remains in custody.

Marc Ayers, Tony DelGiorno and Kevin McGuire, all Democrats on the Republican-dominated board, called on Campbell to step down.

Campbell has been sheriff since 2018 and is next up for election in 2026.

Ayers and DelGiorno said they were swayed by public comments Campbell made at a Department of Justice Community Relations Service listening session at Union Baptist Church Monday. Campbell said his resignation "would resolve nothing."

"(Asking for Campbell's resignation) was the easiest decision I ever made," said Ayers, reached Wednesday. "We're human beings before we're county board members and if this doesn't rattle you to your core, I don't know what will."

Ayers said that trust in Campbell "has been decimated" and that Campbell's hiring of Grayson "showed a lack of judgment and character that must be addressed."

DelGiorno said that Campbell "has lost the confidence of the community to trust that he would and could affect the systemic change necessary in county law enforcement."

Campbell's comment about not resigning, DelGiorno added, "showed a hubris that is unbecoming to the office and is not respectful to the community that is hurting in this situation."

McGuire, speaking to The State Journal-Register Wednesday, said Grayson shouldn't have been hired by the county in the first place, given what it knew about his track record with the Logan County Sheriff's Department and the Auburn Police Department.

Grayson was the subject of two driving under the influence convictions, one while he was enlisted in the U.S. Army. He worked for several smaller police departments around the Springfield area both on a full-time and part-time basis.

The department, McGuire said, needs to be revamped

"The community is in pain due to the culture of law enforcement that just desperately needs reform, I believe," McGuire said. "In order for the community to heal, (Campbell) needs to resign."

McGuire said the board could take a vote of "no confidence" at its Aug. 13 meeting, but the board doesn't the power to remove him.

U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski, D-Springfield, at Lincoln Land Community College on Wednesday, said she paying "very close attention" to the situation but stopped short of asking the sheriff to resign.

"I think there are hard questions that we need to answer," Budzinski admitted.

Campbell said Monday that his department "failed the community."

"We did not do our jobs," Campbell said. "We failed Sonya. We failed Sonya's family and friends. I offer up no excuses."

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Sonya Massey case: A timeline of events from officers being called to release of autopsy

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:31 a.m. CT July 22, 2024 | **Updated 3:38 p.m. CT July 26, 2024**

Body camera footage in the fatal Sonya Massey shooting was released on Monday. Here's a timeline of the events in the fatal shooting.

Timeline

Around 12:50 a.m., July 6: Two Sangamon County Sheriff's deputies, including defendant Sean P. Grayson, were called to a home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township for a possible intruder. According to court documents, they made contact with the 911 caller, Sonya Massey, who appeared to be "calm, perhaps unwell, not aggressive."

While another deputy was clearing the house, Grayson began "aggressively yelling" at Massey to put down a pot of boiling water she removed from her stove, although he had given her permission to do so.

More: Crump: Body camera footage in Sonya Massey shooting will 'shock the conscience of America'

Despite being in another room, Grayson drew his weapon and threatened to shoot Massey in the face. According to documents, Massey put her hands in the air, said "I'm sorry" and ducked for cover.

Grayson fired three shots, striking Massey once in the face.

1:21 a.m., July 6: According to a Sangamon County news release, deputies reported the shots were fired at this time.

1:42 a.m., July 6: According to Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, the case is referred to the Illinois State Police for an independent investigation.

1:47 a.m., July 6: Massey is taken to HSHS St. John's Hospital emergency room where she is pronounced dead, according to Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon.

9:20 a.m., July 6: Sangamon County issues its first news release about the case. By this time, the case had been referred to the Illinois State Police by Sheriff Jack Campbell.

July 8: Allmon said Massey died of a single gunshot wound, according to autopsy findings.

July 11: Civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump announced he has been retained by the family of Massey.

July 12: A two-hour protest at Sangamon County Building demanding the release of body cam footage and transparency in the case is staged. More protests recur on July 15-16.

July 17: Massey family members review the body cam footage of the sheriff's deputies. A Sangamon County grand jury indicted Grayson on five counts, including three counts of first-degree murder. He is arrested and surrenders to police. Campbell said Grayson was terminated as a deputy. It was announced that body cam footage would be released July 22. A protest rally draws about 200 supporters to the Springfield NAACP Building.

July 18: Grayson makes a first appearance in Sangamon County court before Presiding Judge Ryan Cadagin. Grayson pleads not guilty to all five counts. Cadagin denied Grayson's petition to be released according to the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

July 19: Massey's funeral is held at Ruby Funeral Services & Chapel. Eulogizing Massey, Crump said the body cam footage would "shock the conscience of America," similar to images of Emmett Till, a teenager whose lynching in 1955 galvanized the Civil Rights Movement.

2 p.m., July 22: Sangamon County releases sheriff's deputies' body cam footage.

3 p.m., July 22: Protesters march in Massey's memory from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church to Comer Cox Park on South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Morning, July 23: Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton meet with members of the Massey family at Union Baptist Church in Springfield

Morning, July 23: At press conference at Springfield NAACP Building, Ben Crump says the U.S. Department of Justice has opened an investigation into the Sonya Massey case.

July 24: A GoFundMe page is set up for the Massey family.

July 26: Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon releases the autopsy report. The bullet entered beneath Massey's left eye and exit through the posterior left surface of her upper neck.

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The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Family member: Police had met with Massey over mental health issue day before shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 1:48 p.m. CT July 26, 2024 | **Updated 8:35 p.m. CT July 27, 2024**

In Springfield again Friday, Civil rights attorney Ben Crump said he was made aware of two unsubstantiated allegations of excessive unnecessary force by the shooter of Sonya Massey, former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean P. Grayson.

Both allegations, Crump said, predated Grayson's employment in Springfield.

Grayson, 30, who has been charged with Massey's murder and fired by the department, worked for five different departments before coming aboard with Sangamon County in May 2023.

More: Records: Sheriff's office knew about Sean Grayson's DUIs. Were there any other red flags?

Crump said he and his legal team representing the Massey family have also talked to the U.S. Department of Justice about Grayson. An investigation into the case was opened earlier this week.

The DOJ's community relations service will host a community healing and listening session at Union Baptist Church, 1405 E. Monroe St., from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday. It is free and open to the public.

Sunday was declared a national day of mourning for Massey, with rallies in New York, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Washington, D.C., among other places. The Rev. Al Sharpton, along with Massey family members, will participate in a rally in Chicago Tuesday evening, Crump confirmed.

Springfield will stage its rally at Comer Cox Park, 301 S. Martin Luther King Dr., at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with Massey's family members in a phone call on Friday, her office said.

Crump said it may be possible that both persons who made allegations against Grayson could come forward.

"A lot of minorities in America don't come forward for many reasons," Crump said Friday. "They don't call police for many reasons because things normally don't turn out good for us when we call the police.

"Obviously, Sonya Massey is Exhibit 1."

Previous encounter with police

Malachi Hill Massey, Massey's son, said Friday that Massey had an encounter with police over a mental health issue the day before the shooting.

Jeff Wilhite, a Sangamon County spokesman, confirmed that at least one sheriff's deputy was at Massey's home on July 5. It was neither one of the deputies who responded July 6, he added.

Crump said Massey had driven herself to HSHS St. John's Hospital seeking help but had returned home later that day.

Earlier in the week, at another press conference, a family member said Massey was "paranoid schizophrenic."

While Massey was dealing with mental health issues, "she needed a helping hand, not a bullet to the face," Crump said.

Autopsy released

Grayson shot Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman beneath the left eye, an autopsy report released Friday by the Sangamon County Coroner's Office revealed. Massey was in her home in an unincorporated area of Woodside Township after making a 911 call about a possible intruder.

The chaotic and sometimes gruesome video, released to the public on Monday, has caused international outrage.

Crump said Massey's family didn't know until 24 hours after her death that the person who had shot her was a sheriff's deputy.

Hill Massey learned in graphic detail about his mother "but (police) never told him who," Crump said. Other family members who showed up at Massey's house also weren't told about Grayson's role in the shooting.

Wilhite admitted he didn't know when the family was told about Grayson. He said the sheriff's office requested that Illinois State Police initiate and handle an independent investigation before Massey was declared dead.

"Per standard protocol, ISP would take over all aspects of the investigation, including identifying family and providing them with all information they felt should be shared at the time," Wilhite said.

"(The family is) suspicious of everybody and of everything. Wouldn't you be if this happened to your daughter? Your mother?"

USA Today contributed to this story. Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

CRIME

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More: Records: Sheriff's office knew about Sean Grayson's DUIs. Were there any other red flags?

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Crump said Massey's family didn't know until 24 hours after her death that the person who had shot her was a sheriff's deputy.

Hill Massey learned in graphic detail about his mother "but (police) never told him who," Crump said. Other family members who showed up at Massey's house also weren't told about Grayson's role in the shooting.

Wilhite admitted he didn't know when the family was told about Grayson. He said the sheriff's office requested that Illinois State Police initiate and handle an independent investigation before Massey was declared dead.

"Per standard protocol, ISP would take over all aspects of the investigation, including identifying family and providing them with all information they felt should be shared at the time," Wilhite said.

"(The family is) suspicious of everybody and of everything. Wouldn't you be if this happened to your daughter? Your mother?"

USA Today contributed to this story. Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Official fundraiser set up for Sonya Massey's family following fatal shooting

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:16 p.m. CT July 25, 2024

An official fundraiser has been set up for the family of Sonya Massey after she was fatally shot by a now former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy on July 6.

Massey's father, James Wilburn, set up a GoFundMe page for the family. The family is asking for $100,000 to cover mental health counseling, supporting for the family, travel costs and household support as the family works to pursue justice for Sonya, according to the page.

“Sonya is remembered as caring and loving mother to her two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter,” the family wrote on the donation page. “Sonya loved cooking, doing hair, nurturing her children, and spending time with her family. She was also a devoted church member.”

As of Thursday afternoon, the fundraiser had reached about $4,000.

Several scam pages set up previously on the site claiming to help the Massey family have been shut down by the GoFundMe team, with funds collected by the pages being transferred to the Wilburn and Massey’s page.

Records: Sheriff's office knew about Sean Grayson's DUIs. Were there any other red flags?

Now former deputy Sean P. Grayson shot and killed Massey, who was unarmed, after deputies were called to Massey's house for a suspected prowler.

The family is also accepting cards, letters of encouragement and check contributions by mail at Elks Grand Lodge, James Wilburn, P.O. box 159 Winton, North Carolina, 27986.

Claire Grant writes about business, growth and development and other news topics for The State Journal-Register. She can be reached at CLGrant@gannett.com; and on X (Formerly

known as Twitter): @Claire_Granted

The State Journal-Register

STATE

Everything to know about Illinois bodycam laws after fatal Sonya Massey shooting

Patrick M. Keck
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:25 a.m. CT July 24, 2024 | **Updated 9:24 a.m. CT July 24, 2024**

The fatal shooting of Sonya Massey by a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy has prompted questions of law enforcement in terms of hiring guidelines, training protocols and body camera use.

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, was shot and killed in her own residence on July 6 after making a 911 call from her home in Woodside Township. Now former Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson of Riverton has been fired from the force and charged with five counts, including first-degree murder, in the shooting.

It was an outpour of reaction from state and federal lawmakers, including President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, when the footage was released Monday afternoon. For Democratic lawmakers in Springfield, the shooting showed the importance of the police reforms contained in the SAFE-T Act.

More: 'Where is the humanity?' Reacting to release of the Sonya Massey bodycam footage

One of the leading proponents of the SAFE-T Act, state Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, called the video "sickening" and said the law's language surrounding body camera requirements and the end of cash bail were proven first steps at justice. Grayson, 30, was denied pretrial release under the Pretrial Fairness Act portion of the law.

In the case involving Grayson, he did not have his body camera turned on initially, but his partner did. Grayson turned his body camera on immediately after the shooting.

Here's what you need to know about body camera law in Illinois.

When does a law enforcement officer have to turn their body camera on?

Under the Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act, officers assigned to wear body cameras must have their camera on at all times when they are on-duty, wearing articles of clothing signifying they are with law enforcement and are responding to a call for service or in any law-enforcement encounter.

What does a call for service include?

Those calls and activities include such things as traffic and pedestrian stops, arrests, searches, interrogations, traffic and crowd, pursuits and more.

When can an officer have their body cameras off?

An officer is not required to have their camera on when they are filing paperwork alone or are solely in the presence of another law enforcement officer. The cameras can also be turned off when the officer is inside a patrol car, courthouse or correctional facility that have a functioning camera system.

More: Who are Illinois' highest paid state workers? Here's the top 10

Are there any conditions where a bodycam must be turned off?

Yes, a bodycam must be turned off if requested by a victim or witness of a crime. The camera must also turn off when an officer is interacting with a confidential informant or an official with the Illinois Department of Revenue, or is at a department facility, when personal financial information could be exposed.

There are exceptions, however. An officer with "reasonable articulable suspicion" that a victim, witness or confidential informant committed or is in the process of committing a crime can still keep their camera on. The officer must inform that affected party that their camera is still recording despite their request.

When can bodycam footage be used to discipline officers?

For an officer to be disciplined, either a formal or informal complaint must be filed, a use of force must have occurred, or the footage could be used as part of an investigation.

What law enforcement agencies are required to have bodycams?

The SAFE-T Act created a five-year timeline for all law enforcement agencies in the state to have body cameras. The requirement started first with agencies with larger populations, topping 500,000 residents, in 2022 and will apply to all remaining agencies regardless of population on Jan. 1, 2025.

Is the state helping fund bodycam funds?

Yes. Included in the $53.1 billion state operating budget for fiscal year 2025 is a $60 million grant program administered by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. The funding will go to local governments to place cameras inside law enforcement vehicles and training for officers on how to use bodycams.

Contact Patrick M. Keck: pkeck@gannett.com, twitter.com/@pkeckreporter.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

President Biden, Illinois lawmakers react to bodycam footage of Sonya Massey shooting

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:27 p.m. CT July 22, 2024 | **Updated 5:02 p.m. CT July 22, 2024**

Illinois lawmakers are calling the body camera footage from the Sonya Massey case "shocking, horrifying and heartbreaking" following the 36-minute video released to the public Monday afternoon.

The 36-minute bodycam footage shows the rapid escalation that led to Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson shooting Sonya Massey in the head. Video shows Grayson, who has been charged in Massey's murder, saying “This f***ing b***h was crazy” with other officers and, "I can't take hot boiling water to the f***ing face" after he fired three shots.

The latter remark was in reference to Massey, who was retrieving a pot of water from her stove Grayson had told her to move, as he didn’t want to start a house fire.

The graphic video was released on Illinois State Police's YouTube channel Monday, and has reached international attention, receiving statements from congressmen and representatives across Illinois and out-of-state.

More: Video shows deputy in fatal Sonya Massey shooting say, 'I'll shoot you in the face'

President Joe Biden releases statement on the bodycam footage

President Joe Biden weighed in on the release of the footage Monday, saying "Sonya’s family deserves justice. I am heartbroken for her children and her entire family as they face this unthinkable and senseless loss. Jill and I mourn with the rest of the country and our prayers are with Sonya’s family, loved ones, and community during this devastating time."

Biden commended the swift action taken by the Sangamon County State's Attorney's office and asked for prayer to comfort the grieving family. The statement then went on to call for Congress to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act as a fundamental commitment to justice.

Illinois lawmakers react to Sonya Massey bodycam footage

Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield:

State Sen. Doris Turner said Monday she stands with the Massey family, and calls for justice and peace.

“Nothing could prepare our community to see such a blatant disregard for human life. Sonya deserved so much more. We need to come together to seek justice and do all we can to prevent another Black man or woman from being unjustly killed. I stand with the Massey family in their calls for justice and peace.”

Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield:

“I watched the video footage this afternoon, and I am shocked and horrified by what transpired. My heart goes out to Sonya and her family, who will remain in my thoughts and prayers. They deserve justice. I commend the Sangamon County State’s Attorney for swiftly charging the Deputy with murder. When I was a prosecutor, I viewed hundreds of hours of police interactions and I never saw anything like this. The Deputy who committed this murder is exactly where he belongs, in jail.“

U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski, D-Springfield:

Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski voiced her support of the family in a statement as well.

“On July 6th, Sonya Massey called 911 out of concern for her safety. Instead of receiving help, she was gunned down by an officer who was sworn to serve and protect her.

“Like everyone who has seen the footage of Sonya Massey’s murder, I’m shocked, horrified and heartbroken. This was an act of senseless and unjustifiable violence — and it is an affront to our humanity.

"I join my constituents in Springfield and Americans across the country in demanding full accountability from our justice system. And while justice for Sonya Massey will allow our community to begin healing – we must end the systemic use of excessive force against unarmed people of color.

"My heart continues to go out to Sonya's children, her family and friends and everyone in our community who is still reeling from this tragedy. Sonya Massey should be alive today."

Attorney General Kwame Raoul:

In Chicago Monday, Attorney General Kwame Raoul offered his deepest sympathy to the Massey family as they relive a moment no family should experience.

"As the community reacts to the release of the footage, I urge calm as this matter works its way through the criminal justice system.

"In Illinois we have made sure that the law mandates independent investigations after officer involved shootings. In this matter it appears that the investigation by the Illinois State Police and the subsequent referral to the Sangamon County State's Attorney's office have complied with the letter and spirit of the law by providing the appropriate transparency and moving toward accountability."

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

"The killing of Sonya Massey is inexcusable, disgraceful and an abhorrent disregard of basic humanity. Sonya's murder is a heartbreaking injustice against her, her loved ones and all who see themselves represented in her story. She was a mother, daughter and a human being whose memory will not be forgotten."

Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher

Buscher issued a video statement regarding the release of the bodycam footage related to the death of Sonya Massey, saying her heart was broken by the senseless act and loss to the Springfield community.

"I want to make it unequivocally clear that this Sangamon County deputies actions do not reflect the values and integrity of our Springfield Police Department," Buscher said. "We also share in your outrage, and we stand firmly with you. There is no excuse for this violent act.

And we demand accountability and justice for Sonya. As your mayor I want to thank the Illinois State Police and the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office for swiftly investigating this event and taking the necessary actions to seek justice for Sonya."

"The shock, pain and grief her family and friends felt from learning of her death and from going through the process of burial is something that will never ever fade away. We as a community need to always be here for them."

Claire Grant writes about business, growth and development and other news topics for the State Journal-Register. She can be reached at CLGrant@gannett.com; and on X (Formerly known as Twitter): @Claire_Granted

The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Video shows deputy in fatal Sonya Massey shooting say, 'I'll shoot you in the face'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:04 p.m. CT July 22, 2024 | **Updated 9:25 a.m. CT July 24, 2024**

A situation that led to a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy shooting Sonya Massey escalated rapidly body camera footage released Monday afternoon showed.

The 36-minute video showed Deputy Sean P. Grayson, who has been charged with Massey's murder, as saying "I can't take hot boiling water to the f***ing face" after he fired three shots.

That was a reference to Massey retrieving the pot of water from her stove as Grayson told her he didn't want a house fire.

Grayson initially did not have his body camera on, though another deputy with Grayson did.

When the other deputy said he was going to get his medical kit, video shows Grayson saying, "No, a head shot dude, she's done."

Later on in the video, Grayson calls Massey "f***ing crazy."

The video was released on Illinois State Police's YouTube channel.

“My prayers are with the family of Sonya Massey, and I commend the Illinois State Police for conducting an expedited investigation into her tragic death,” said Sangamon County State’s Attorney John Milhiser. “The State’s Attorney’s Office is dedicated to pursuing justice through the prosecution of this case.”

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell issued the following statement following the release of the video:

"Sonya Massey lost her life due to an unjustifiable and reckless decision by former Deputy Sean Grayson. Grayson had other options available that he should have used. His actions were inexcusable and do not reflect the values or training of our office. He will now face judgment by the criminal justice system and will never again work in law enforcement.

"Ms. Massey needlessly lost her life, and her family deserves answers. I trust the legal process will provide them. This incident does not reflect the values or actions of our law enforcement community. It was a tragic decision made by an individual who had the training, tools, and experience to know better. We are committed to upholding a standard that prevents such tragedies from occurring in the future."

At Massey's funeral on Friday, civil rights attorney Ben Crump said the video would "shock the conscience of America like the pictures of Emmett Till after he was lynched."

The lynching of the 14-year-old Till in Mississippi helped galvanize the Civil Rights movement.

Crump also predicted the video would garner similar reactions to Laquan McDonald, who was shot by police 16 times in the back in Chicago, and George Floyd, who was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer during an arrest.

"It is that senseless, that unnecessary, that unjustifiable, that unconstitutional," Crump said. "This video is tragic in every sense."

More: Sonya Massey case: A timeline of events from officers being called to her funeral

Grayson was arraigned before Presiding Circuit Judge Ryan Cadagin in Sangamon County Court Thursday on five Massey called the police in the early morning hours on the report of a possible intruder.

Grayson, a Riverton resident who had been with the sheriff's department since May 2023 before being terminated from his job by Sheriff Jack Campbell on Wednesday. Grayson has worked in law enforcement since August 2020. He was with the Logan County Sheriff's Office before being hired by Sangamon County in May 2023.

An expert in the field of "use of force" reviewed the body cam footage as part of the Illinois State Police investigation and concluded that Grayson was not justified in the use of deadly force.

The case has generated international attention and led to a number of protests, including one that drew about 200 people to the Springfield NAACP Building Wednesday afternoon.

Campbell, in a statement Wednesday, said Grayson "did not act as trained or in accordance with our standards" and his actions "do not reflect the values and training of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office or law enforcement as a whole."

To view the video, click here.

Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

The State Journal-Register

CRIME

Massey family meets with Pritzker; DOJ opens investigation into fatal shooting

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:14 p.m. CT July 23, 2024 | **Updated 9:24 a.m. CT July 24, 2024**

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump said Tuesday that the Sonya Massey fatal shooting case is now part of a U.S. Department of Justice investigation.

The high-profile attorney who has been retained by the Massey family confirmed at a press conference at the Springfield NAACP Building that Massey's mother and father and Massey's two children were among those who met in private with Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton on Tuesday. It was open "but emotional at times," Crump admitted.

The meeting came after Sangamon County officials released on Monday sheriff's deputies' bodycam footage from the chaotic and gruesome scene.

Both Pritzker and Stratton, Crump acknowledged, reviewed the bodycam footage.

Crump said the DOJ investigation is "welcome" given concerns of the family about the case.

In a statement Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris said that Massey “deserved to be safe” after she called the police for help. Harris called Massey's death "senseless," but that the footage "confirms what we know from the lived experiences of so many."

Massey was shot by now-former Sangamon County Sheriff’s deputy Sean Grayson inside of her home in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township early on the morning of July 6. Massey had called 911 about a possible intruder. Grayson, who has been charged with murder, remains in custody.

Crump said Harris is set to talk to the Massey family.

Crump further said Tuesday that he could not rule out a civil lawsuit in the case, saying the legal team planned to explore "every possible legal remedy to get full justice for Sonya

Massey."

Crump is no stranger to Springfield. He filed a wrongful death lawsuit against former emergency medical services workers Peggy Jill Finley and Peter Cadigan, both of Springfield, and the ambulance service they worked for in early 2023. Finley and Cadigan were charged with the murder of Earl Moore Jr.

Crump said he didn't know the exact scope of the DOJ investigation into the Massey case or who might `be involved.

"I've done a lot of cases all across America and I've seen it done in a variety of ways," said Crump, in answer to a question from a State Journal-Register reporter. "Sometimes, they just say they're going to overlook what the local law enforcement does, like they were doing with Breonna Taylor, and then they sometimes do like George Floyd where they actually put boots on the ground, like they did with Ahmaud Arbery, Tyre Nichols.

"So, we don't know what the scope is. We just know they've opened an investigation file on Sonya Massey. Obviously, with the family's guidance, if the family wants them to go deeper, we're going to advocate for them to go deeper."

Crump and his legal team were involved in the Taylor, Arbery and Nichols cases.

Sheriff Jack Campbell said he would welcome a DOJ investigation and will "fully cooperate."

Crump said Pritzker gave his commitment that the state will be "partners in justice because they understood that often times the Sonya Masseys of the world don't get due process of the law.

"They were committed to saying this is going to be a fair and transparent investigation and process at every level."

Recounting the meeting, Crump said Massey's father, James Wilburn, said he didn't understand why Grayson was hired by the sheriff's department in 2023 in the first place and that it should have known about Grayson's past, which included two DUIs in Macoupin County prior to him joining law enforcement "if they did any kind of investigation."

Wilburn also pushed the governor, Crump said, to consider legislation that prevents law enforcement officers with blemishes on their records to be able to resign without having any findings and then go to the next law enforcement agency.

Several family members Tuesday insisted they weren't able to get a straight version of what happened to Massey at the scene.

A transcript of the scanner transmission provided by Crump's office said the wound was "self-inflicted."

Jimmie Crawford, the father of Massey's youngest daughter, Jeanette "Summer" Massey, said at the press conference that a family friend heard police telling HSHS St. John's Hospital nurses that Massey killed herself.

"Not once was I told the officer did it," Crawford said. "They tried to make me believe it was a neighbor or somebody who did it."

Crawford said the family was aware Massey had a problem with a neighbor.

Wilburn said he only found out that it was an officer-involved shooting after his brother read an article online.

"If it wasn't for the camera footage," Wilburn said, "(the sheriff's department) would have lied their way right out of this."

To view the full video, click here.

Contact Steven Spearie: 217-622-1788; sspearie@sj-r.com; X, twitter.com/@StevenSpearie.

Help communities impacted by the wildfires in Southern California. Donate now

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7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL

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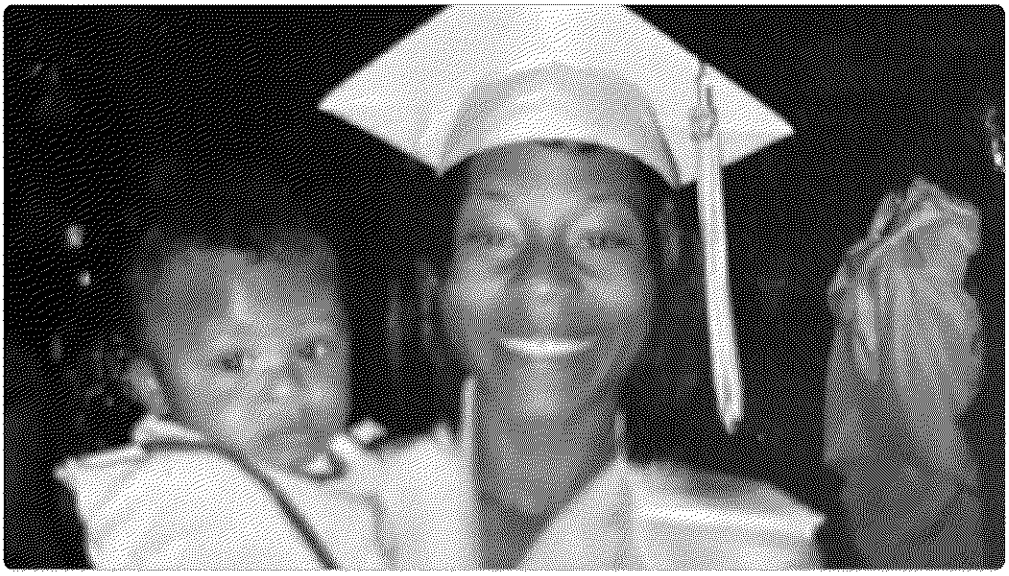

Justice for Sonya Massey

James Wilburn and Raymond Massey is organizing this fundraiser.

Donation protected

***UPDATE MESSAGE* 7/30/2024- Thank you all for your continued support as we pursue justice for Sonya Massey. Your contributions have been instrumental in our fight and will help us all heal after this tragedy. The work is far from over though, and we hope that you will continue to say Sonya's name and keep her legacy alive!**

This is the official GoFundMe established in Sonya Massey's honor to help provide Sonya's family with financial support during this difficult time.

On July 6, 2024, 36-year-old Sonya Massey was taken away from her family. Officers responded to Sonya's 911 call for a prowler in her backyard, and shortly thereafter shot her in the face and killed her after she said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." In mere moments, Sonya's family lost a mother, a daughter and sister.

Sonya is remembered as caring and loving mother to her two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter. Sonya loved cooking, doing hair, nurturing her children, and spending time with her family. She was also a devoted church member.

The outpouring of love and support has been tremendous, but our family needs financial support as we fight for justice. Our family will likely need mental health counseling and support, money for travel costs and money for household support as we miss work to pursue justice for Sonya Massey.

This GoFundMe was started by me, James Wilburn, the father of Sonya Massey, and Raymond Massey, the brother of Sonya's mother, Donna Massey.

Anyone wishing to send cards, letters of encouragement or contributions in the form of a check may do so by mail at:

Elks Grand Lodge

Exhibit 3

Attn: James Wilburn
P.O. Box 159
Winton, North Carolina, 27986

All checks must be made out to: James Wilburn

Commonly asked questions:
1. Who we are: James Wilburn (Sonya Massey's father) and Raymond Massey (Sonya's mother's brother)

2. Where you're from? Springfield, IL

3. Your relationship to the parties you're raising funds for? Family of Sonya Massey.

4. How the funds will be spent? Funds collected here will be used by Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Massey to cover medical costs and other costs associated with pursuing justice for Sonya.

5. How you intend to get the funds to those in need? All funds collected on this website will be withdrawn to "The Sonya Massey Memorial Fund," a bank account established by Mr. Wilburn.

NOTICE: All imposter pages have been or will be shut down and the funds collected by those pages will be transferred to this #gofundme page.

73

Updates (1)

July 30th, 2024
by ,

Thank you all for your continued support as we pursue justice for Sonya Massey. Your contributions have been instrumental in our fight and will help us all heal after this tragedy. The work is far from over though, and we hope that you will continue to say Sonya's name and keep her legacy alive!

Donate | Share

Donations (15.1K)

See top

This fundraiser is located near you

Lakisha Rodwell-Geeen
$10 · 4 d

Debbie Rieden
$10 · 17 d

Lanai McAuley
$5 · 20 d

Jade Berg
$25 · 1 mo

Stephanie Salas
$50 · 1 mo

See all

Organizer

James Wilburn and Raymond Massey
Organizer
Woodside, IL

Words of support (28)

Please donate to share words of support.

Dominican Duh
$5 · 5 mos
I am sorry for your loss, but SHE DID THROW THE POT. MAY SHE FOREVER REST IN PEACE

Paradise bka Dise
$25 · 6 mos
Praying for justice & healing

Kim Dyer
$25 · 6 mos
Justice for Sonya. Lord, may this never happen again. Give peace and comfort to her family knowing she is with You. I'm so sorry for the loss of your daughter, mother, sister and friend

Yolanda Hunt
$25 · 6 mos
I don't have much, however; I would send a million dollars if I could. A lot of horrible police shootings have occurred over my lifetime, but this right here? I have no words! Mr. Wilburn, whenever I see your face pop up on my feed, I cry. I am so sorry to you, Ms. Donna, Malachi and Summer, and your entire family! You have my sincerest sympathies. Y. Hunt, Atlanta, Ga.

Matthew Johns Foundation
$100 · 6 mos
Your grief matters. Check out the Matthew Johns Foundation to learn more.

Gene Tanaka
$10 · 7 mos

Linda Stefkovic
$25 · 7 mos
Rest in Peace, Love, and Power, Ms. Massey. May beautiful memories of you comfort your loved ones and heal them during this painful time of grieving.

kevin turley
$20 · 7 mos
I am shocked and appalled that this tragedy happened to Sonya Massey. She should still be here. My prayers and thoughts with the Massey family.

Godsgirls United
$60 · 7 mos

Dear Sonya Massey, The hearts of Godsgirls United are deeply grieved by your untimely passing. We stand in solidarity with your family, mourning a life taken too soon. Your memory fuels our resolve to seek justice, love, and compassion in a world that desperately needs healing. May your soul find peace, and may your legacy inspire us to create a more just and loving society. With heartfelt sympathy and prayers, Godsgirls United

Ronald Gibson
$10 · 7 mos
I am so sorry for your loss. I'm holding back the rage and hurt I'm feeling because I know the Massey family is feeling it more. God bless you all. Justice will be served.

EBONY C
$25 · 7 mos
Rest In Peace, Love and Power Sonya. I am praying for your loved ones and I hope your memory will live on! You did NOT deserve that demise and the world will know it.

darby morrison
$25 · 7 mos
my love and support to the whole family

Amy Stanley
$50 · 7 mos
For Sonya's children and family, I pray for God's peace, comfort and provision.

Ariel Glass
$25 · 7 mos
I pray for justice for Sonya and her family.

DOUGLAS DELEON
$10 · 7 mos
In the early 1990's, when I was still married, I lived in a small three bedroom home with my wife and two children. This house had some kind of spiritual connection as I had many visits there. They would wake me up between 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning and I could feel their presence with tingles on my neck. I would walk to the couch, sit and close my eyes. They werre little energies of light, like fairies, that flew all around me and in me. I couldn't communicate with them and just thought they were saying Hi and checking in on me. One day I woke up around 4:30 in the morning to the phone ringing. As soon as I woke I was engulfed in a cloud of human spirits. The tingles where all over my body. There were hundreds of them and it was like they were at a huge picnic celebration and they were incredibly happy and loving. I walked to the phone and it was my wife's sister calling us from the hospital. She said that Grammy was going to pass soon and get to the hospital right away. All along I was still engulfed in the cloud of spirits. They were all around me. I woke my wife and children to tell them all that I was experiencing but I knew they could not understand. My wife and children drove to the hospital but I could not go. I sat at the kitchen table for a while seeing all these hundreds of spirits with my spiritual eyes. The Joy, Happiness and Love they felt there was something I had never felt before. They had gathered to escort Grammy home and they were so happy to see her again. As the cloud faded I started to cry very deeply. Not because Grammy was passing but because I could not go with her. I wanted to go where this place was too but I could not go and had to stay. Grammy waited unitl my wife and children got there to say goodbye and passed. I have never had this experience again. Even at the passing of my Mother and Father. I knew Heaven gave me this experience to share one day. That day is today and it is for Sonya and her family. She is in a beautiful place now and very happy. She is so touched by those that have supported her family and loved her and she will be excited to escort all of her family home too when it is their time.

Jasmine Roberts
$100 · 7 mos
Sending love and absolutely anything else I can do to help.

Doug Deleon
$25 · 7 mos
This loss of a beautiful daughter of Heaven hurt me deeply. I have been grieving with the family since it happened with many tears. I am a Christian who believes in the Providence of God and prayed for insight into why this was allowed to happen. I felt it had to be very important. Since that prayer it is becoming more clear. Sean Grayson is a psychopath with a monster hiding inside him. He thought he would get away with this because his body cam was off but Heaven made sure his partner's was on. We would have never known what really happened without his partner's cam on. Heaven is going to use this event to create change in police departments that will help thousands in the future. Showing the corrupt nature some police officers have to try and shield this shooter is sickening. There has never been a body cam video like this one and it is being distributed to millions around the world. This psychopath will never see the light of day again. It is written, "Vengeance is mine saith the LORD." Sean Grayson has committed a most horrendous sin against Heaven and has unleased a tsunami of vengeance that is coming in this life and the next until he has paid for what he has done and then he will be allowed to work for forgiveness. Sonya is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus not having to battle her mental illness anymore and I know she is very touched to see so many people who love her. Her family will be financially taken care of with the lawsuit settlements that will come and change is coming to America in many ways including the election of President Kamala Harris. Please continue to donate to this cause because those financial settlements will take time. This is all I had to give this month but will give more next month and every month until they receive those settlements. Sonya will be rewarded by Heaven for this sacrifice and we will all see her again when we pass. I connected to Sonya in my spirit when I saw the body cam like I did with Nancy Holloway after her death in Aruba. I never met her but I love her as a friend and sister of Heaven. I have her picture now on my computer and phone and I will always remember her through this life. I would like to dedicate this song to her. It is, "I could have done more." from the movie Schindler's List. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY9FeF_4Bhw

Heather Maurer
$50 · 7 mos
Sending love and justice to you.

Leah Norris
$25 · 7 mos
What happened is so heartbreaking and senseless. She seemed so sweet. I wish I could have known her.... but now Sonya is impacting this country in a powerful way. I won't forget her.

Mei J
$50 · 7 mos
Rest in Power Sonya

J R
$5 · 7 mos
Wishing your family healing and justice. Rest in power, Sonya

Kathryn Rowan
$40 · 7 mos
May Justice roll on like a river.

shaneque kemp
$50 · 7 mos
Justice for Sonya!!

Susan Sisson
$100 · 7 mos
Sending love and light.

Cicley Gay
$500 · 7 mos

Fiera Michele Smith
$20 · 7 mos
We will remember YOU & fight for you, Sonja. You and your family are in my heart.

Texxas T Mayes
$25 · 7 mos
So sorry for this devastating loss! Praying that justice is served

daniela rs
$15 · 7 mos
my heart is broken over your loss and i cannot imagine how painful your grief is. i pray sonya gets the justice she deserves.

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$528,730 raised
$600K goal · 15.1K donations

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ILLINOIS

GoFundMe account for Illinois woman killed by deputy after 911 call seeks $100,000

Sonya Massey's survivors request help with counseling, travel, legal and household expenses

by: BJ Lutz
Posted: Jul 25, 2024 / 02:58 PM CDT
Updated: Jul 25, 2024 / 03:07 PM CDT

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Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
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Update Aug. 2: The $100,000 goal was quickly reached and the account has since surpassed $500,000 in contributions.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The father and uncle of a woman who was shot and killed by a deputy after she called 911 for help have established a GoFundMe account to help with expenses.

Exhibit 3A

The 'Justice for Sonya Massey' account, established Thursday, seeks $100,000.

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"Our family will likely need mental health counseling and support, money for travel costs and money for household support as we miss work to pursue justice for Sonya," the description on the funding page reads, in part.

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| **Body-cam video in Sonya Massey shooting reveals chaotic scene** >

Massey, 36, was killed in the early morning hours of July 6 after she'd called 911 to report a suspected prowler. In a sudden escalation captured on the law enforcement officers' body cameras, Deputy Sean Grayson shot Massey three times, with one fatal blow to the head, as she worked with a boiling pot of water.

"Sonya is remembered as caring and loving mother to her two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter," family members wrote on the GoFundMe page. "Sonya loved cooking, doing hair, nurturing her children, and spending time with her family. She was also a devoted church member."

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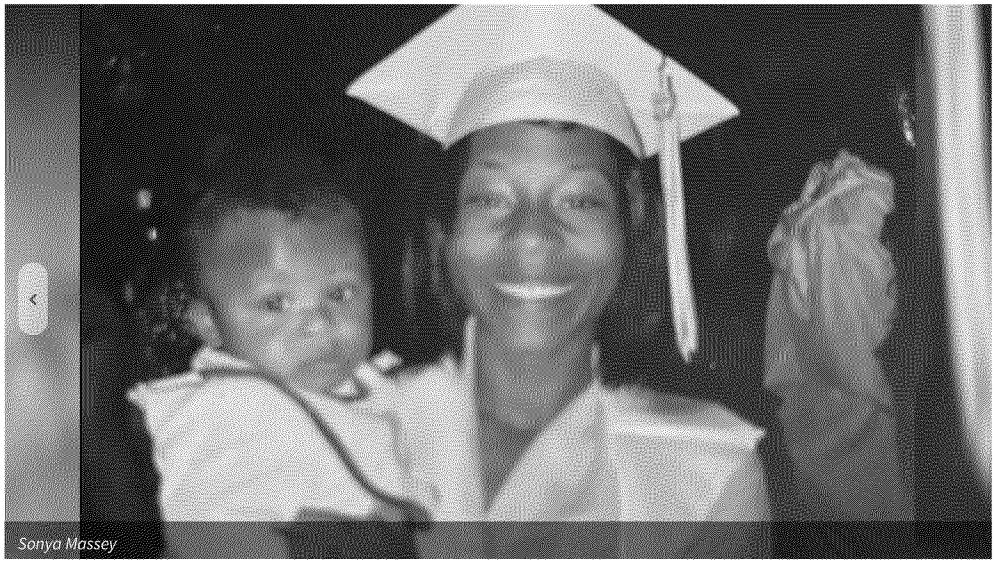
"If it weren't for that camera footage, they would have lied their way right out of this," Massey's father said earlier this week during a news conference with civil rights attorney Ben Crump.



Grayson, 30, has been terminated from the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office. An Illinois grand jury indicted him last week. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct. State records show he worked for six different law enforcement agencies since August 2020.

In a statement, a Department of Justice spokesman said the agency was "aware of and assessing the circumstances" surrounding Massey's death and would "continue to track the criminal case opened by the Sangamon County State's Attorney."

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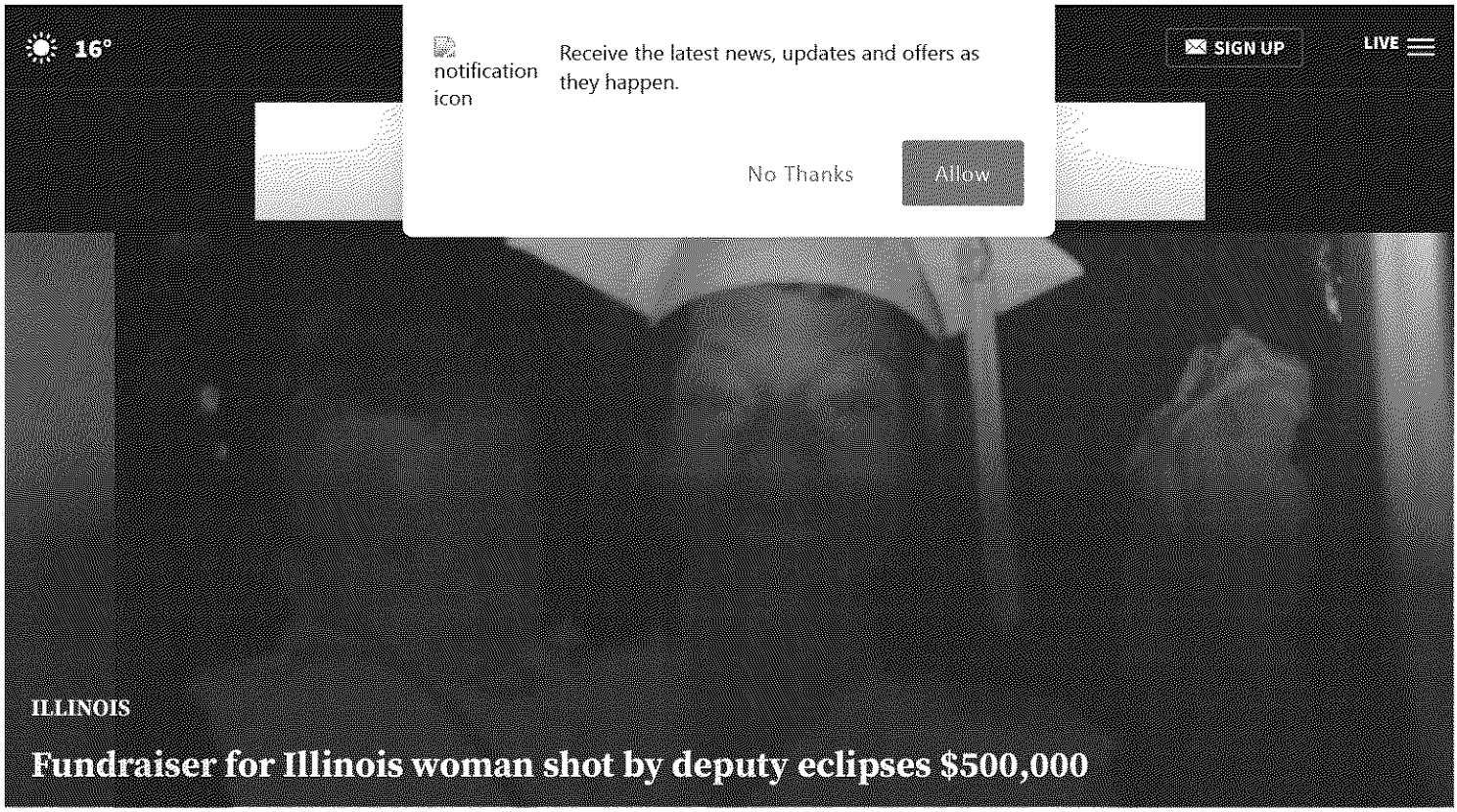

ILLINOIS

Fundraiser for Illinois woman shot by deputy eclipses $500,000

Sonya Massey

'Justice for Sonya Massey' GoFundMe account originally sought $100,000. The new goal is $600,000.

by: BJ Lutz
Posted: Aug 2, 2024 / 03:23 PM CDT
Updated: Aug 2, 2024 / 03:23 PM CDT

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This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.

CHICAGO — An online fundraiser to assist the family of an Illinois woman who was killed in a deputy-involved shooting eclipsed $500,000 in contributions Friday.

The GoFundMe account in Sonya Massey's name, established just eight days earlier, originally sought $100,000 to assist her survivors with counseling, travel, legal and household expenses. It quickly reached that goal and was subsequently increased. The account now posts a fundraising goal of $600,000.

"Your contributions have been instrumental in our fight and will help us all heal after this tragedy," reads an update posted to the 'Justice for Sonya Massey' fundraiser earlier this week. "The work is far from over though, and we hope that you will continue to say Sonya's name and keep her legacy alive!"

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Massey, 36, was killed in the early mor wler. In a sudden escalation captured on law enforcement officers' body can y three times, with one fatal blow to the head, as she worked with a boiling

Grayson was terminated and indicted in the wake of the shooting. He's pleaded not guilty to the charges.

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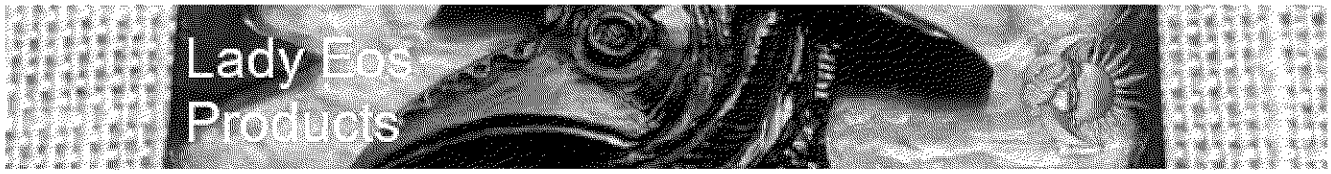

GoFundMe launched for the Massey family

Money raised will go towards mental health counseling, travel and support.

BY TOM WRAY • CENTRAL ILLINOIS • JULY 25, 2024

SPRINGFIELD – Sonya Massey's family has started a GoFundMe to support the family as the case works through the system.

Money raised through the effort will go to mental health counseling and support, travel costs, and household support of the family for missed work. The GoFundMe was started by Massey's father James Wilburn and uncle Raymond Massey.

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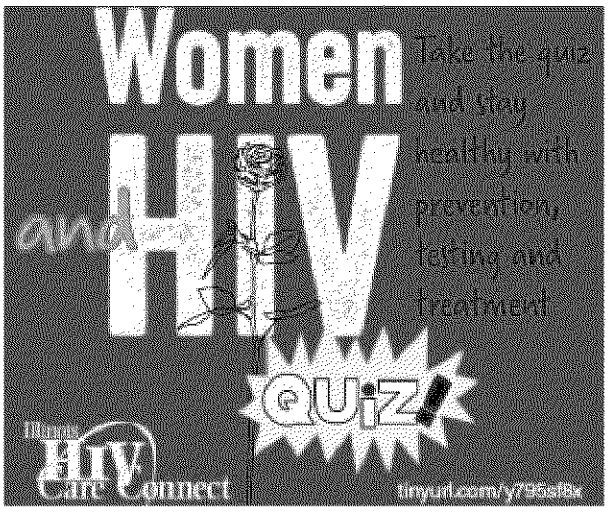

Anyone wishing to send cards, letters of encouragement or contributions in the form of a check may do so by mail at:

Grand Lodge
Attn: James Wilburn

P.O. Box 159
Winton, North Carolina, 27986

All checks must be made out to: James Wilburn

All funds collected on this website will be withdrawn to "The Sonya Massey Memorial Fund," a bank account established by Wilburn.

Massey was killed early in the morning of Saturday, July 6. She had called police because of an intruder in her home. Since the address was in unincorporated Sangamon County, sheriff's deputies responded. During the incident, Massey was shot and pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Illinois State Police (ISP) completed its investigation last week with the family watching the body cam on Wednesday. Sean Grayson, the Sangamon County Sheiff's deputy that is alleged to have shot Massey, was arrested that same day. A grand jury had indicted him on three counts of first-degree murder along with aggravated battery with a firearm, and official misconduct. He was not given pretrial release.

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Author

TOM WRAY

Tom Wray is the founding editor-in-chief and publisher of the Illinois Eagle. He lives in Springfield.

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Community Rallies to Support Family of Sonya Massey, Raising Over $500K

Tacuma Roeback, Managing Editor
August 2, 2024

The community has united in an extraordinary display of solidarity, raising more than $500,000 through a verified GoFundMe campaign for the family of Sonya Massey. The 36-year-old mother was fatally shot by a sheriff's deputy on July 6, after she called 911 to report a prowler in her backyard. This substantial outpouring of support arrives as the family intensifies their quest for justice in the wake of her tragic death.

An update posted to the fundraiser on Tuesday reads: "Your contributions have been instrumental in our fight and will help us all heal after this tragedy. The work is far from over though, and we hope that you will continue to say Sonya's name and keep her legacy alive!"

The GoFundMe campaign was created by Massey's father, James Wilburn, and her uncle, Raymond Massey. The funds will be used to cover legal fees, mental health counseling, and other expenses associated with seeking justice for Sonya Massey.

The fatal incident occurred when officers responded to Massey's 911 call reporting a prowler. Shortly after their arrival, Massey was shot in the face after uttering the words, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Her sudden death has left her family devastated, losing a beloved mother, daughter, and sister in an instant.

Sonya Massey is remembered as a devoted and caring mother to her two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter. She cherished cooking, doing hair, nurturing her children, and spending quality time with her family. Sonya was also an active and committed member of her church.

Despite the overwhelming support received so far, the family continues to need financial assistance to cover ongoing costs. These include mental health counseling, travel expenses, and household support as they miss work to pursue justice.

Privacy - Terms

James Wilburn, who started the GoFundMe, emphasized the importance of the community's support: "This is the official GoFundMe established in Sonya Massey's honor to help provide Sonya's family with financial support during this difficult time. The love and support have been tremendous, but our family needs financial support as we fight for justice."

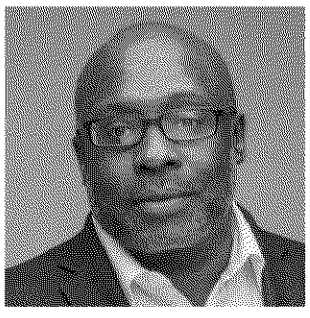
Anyone wishing to send cards, letters of encouragement, or contributions in the form of a check may do so by mail at:

Elks Grand Lodge
Attn: James Wilburn
P.O. Box 159
Winton, North Carolina, 27986

All checks must be made out to James Wilburn.

The GoFundMe campaign also addresses common questions to reassure donors about the legitimacy and purpose of the funds. The funds will be managed by Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Massey to cover medical and legal costs associated with pursuing justice for Sonya Massey.

About Post Author



Tacuma Roeback, Managing Editor

Tacuma R. Roeback is the Managing Editor for the Chicago Defender.

His journalism, non-fiction, and fiction have appeared in the Smithsonian Magazine, San Francisco Chronicle, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Tennessean, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Phoenix New Times, HipHopDX.com, Okayplayer.com, The Shadow League, SAGE: The Encyclopedia of Identity, Downstate Story, Tidal Basin Review, and Reverie: Midwest African American Literature.

He is an alumnus of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Chicago State University, and Florida A&M University.

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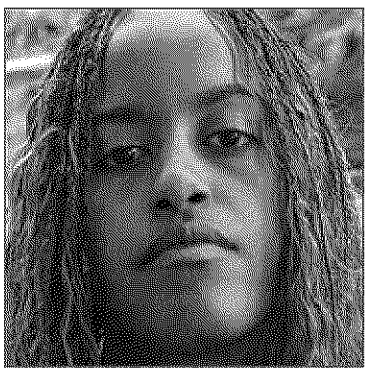

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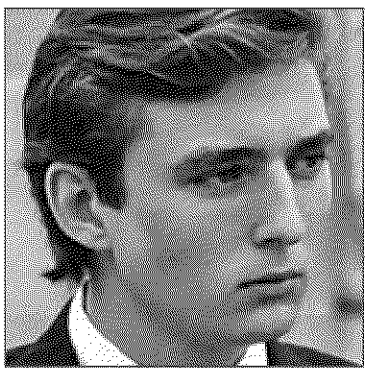

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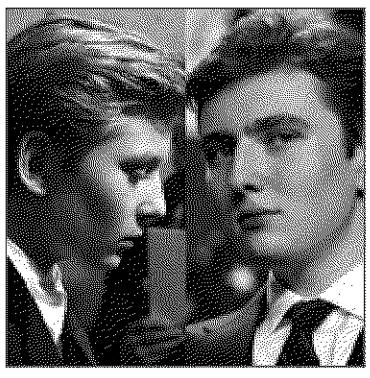

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Official fundraiser set up for Sonya Massey's family following fatal shooting

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 3:16 p.m. CT July 25, 2024

An official fundraiser has been set up for the family of Sonya Massey after she was fatally shot by a now former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy on July 6.

Massey's father, James Wilburn, set up a GoFundMe page for the family. The family is asking for $100,000 to cover mental health counseling, supporting for the family, travel costs and household support as the family works to pursue justice for Sonya, according to the page.

“Sonya is remembered as caring and loving mother to her two children, a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter,” the family wrote on the donation page. “Sonya loved cooking, doing hair, nurturing her children, and spending time with her family. She was also a devoted church member.”

As of Thursday afternoon, the fundraiser had reached about $4,000.

Several scam pages set up previously on the site claiming to help the Massey family have been shut down by the GoFundMe team, with funds collected by the pages being transferred to the Wilburn and Massey’s page.

Records: Sheriff's office knew about Sean Grayson's DUIs. Were there any other red flags?

Now former deputy Sean P. Grayson shot and killed Massey, who was unarmed, after deputies were called to Massey's house for a suspected prowler.

The family is also accepting cards, letters of encouragement and check contributions by mail at Elks Grand Lodge, James Wilburn, P.O. box 159 Winton, North Carolina, 27986.

Claire Grant writes about business, growth and development and other news topics for The State Journal-Register. She can be reached at CLGrant@gannett.com; and on X (Formerly

known as Twitter): @Claire_Granted

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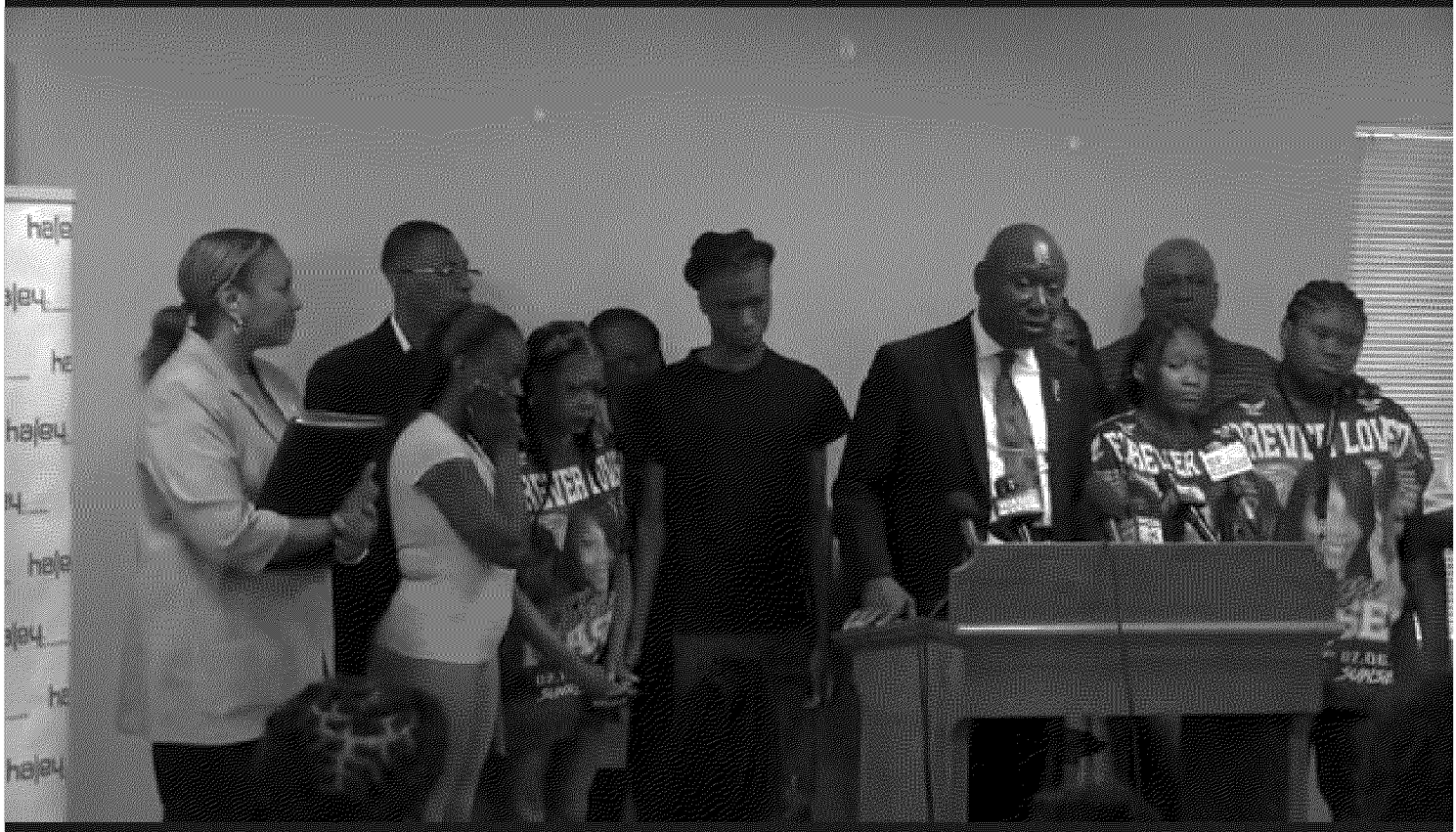

ILLINOIS

GoFundMe account for Illinois woman killed by deputy after 911 call seeks $100,000

Sonya Massey's survivors request help with counseling, travel, legal and household expenses

by: BJ Lutz
Posted: Jul 25, 2024 / 02:58 PM CDT
Updated: Jul 25, 2024 / 03:07 PM CDT

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Update Aug. 2: The $100,000 goal was quickly reached and the account has since surpassed $500,000 in contributions.

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The 'Justice for Sonya Massey' account, established Thursday, seeks $100,000.

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"Our family will likely need mental health counseling and support, money for travel costs and money for household support as we miss work to pursue justice for Sonya," the description on the funding page reads, in part.

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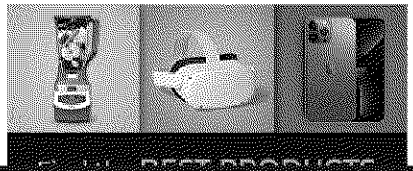

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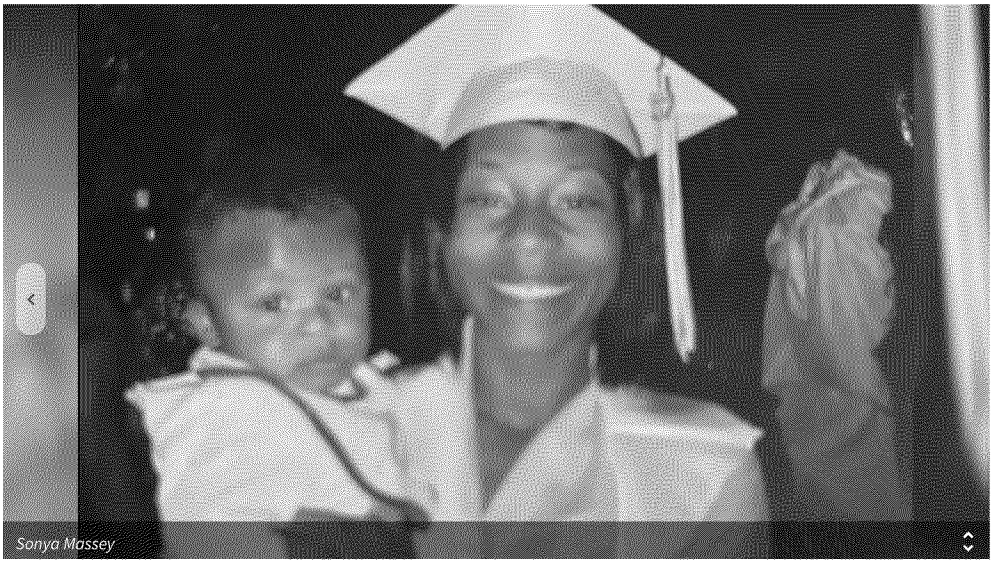

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In a statement, a Department of Justice spokesman said the agency was "aware of and assessing the circumstances" surrounding Massey's death and would "continue to track the criminal case opened by the Sangamon County State's Attorney."

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AP | TOP STORY

Lawyers for Sonya Massey's family say $10M settlement 'first step;' await trial, legislative changes

Attorneys for the family of Sonya Massey say a $10 million settlement from county officials in Illinois is the “first step in getting full justice” for the Black woman fatally shot by a sheriff's deputy

By JOHN O'CONNOR - Associated Press
Feb 12, 2025

An image of Sonya Massey and former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson from released body-worn footage.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A $10 million settlement between county officials in Springfield, Illinois, and the family of Sonya Massey is the “first step in getting full justice” for the **Black woman fatally shot in her home last summer** by a sheriff's deputy, lawyers said Wednesday.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump told reporters the settlement, approved Tuesday night by the Sangamon County Board, is poignant, particularly because Massey would have turned 37 on Wednesday and because a criminal trial and legislative changes await.

"It is bittersweet," Crump said in an online news conference. "This is our first step in getting full justice for Sonya Massey. ... We want civil accountability, criminal culpability and we want legislative changes. We want the laws to prevent something like this from happening again."

Ex-sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson, 30, faces a first-degree murder charge in the shooting after responding to a call from Massey, who suffered mental health challenges, about a suspected prowler. He shot her while she was moving a pot of hot water from her stove.

Joining Crump, his associates and family members was state Rep. Justin Slaughter, a Chicago Democrat who has introduced legislation to **provide more accountability** to the hiring of police officers in part by ensuring their records at previous departments are fully disclosed. Grayson **worked for six police departments** in four years and had some disciplinary and legal problems.

"My heart is heavy today," said Massey's father, James Wilburn, who thanked Slaughter and Springfield Democratic state Sen. Doris Turner for their legislation to rein in "frequent flyers who go from one department to another" so "no one else would have to feel the kind of hurt that we are feeling today."

Sangamon County officials said they would pay the award from a settlement account and reserves from other county funds. Disbursement of the money will be decided by a court but will go to Massey's two teenage children, attorney Antonio Romanucci said. A court also decides compensation for attorneys, but "the lion's share will go to the family," Crump said.

The case has drawn national attention as another **example of police shooting Black people** in their homes. It forced the **premature retirement** of Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, who hired Grayson, and prompted an **agreement with the Justice Department** for more training on non-discriminatory policing, de-escalation techniques and dealing with mental health disabilities.

Massey, whose mental health issues **were the subject of several 911 calls** from herself and her mother in the days leading up to the shooting, called emergency responders early July 6 to report a suspected prowler. Grayson and another deputy responded. During a conversation in her living room, Grayson noticed a pot of water on the stove and directed the other officer to remove it.

Massey retrieved the pot and joked with Grayson about how he backed away from it, then told Grayson, **"I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."** Grayson **yelled at her to drop the pot** and drew his weapon. Massey apologized and ducked behind a counter. Grayson fired three shots, **striking her just below the left eye**.

Grayson remains jailed despite **a unanimous 4th District Appellate Court ruling** in November that his pre-trial detention was improper. The panel of justices said prosecutors failed to show there were no conditions under which Grayson could be released without posing a threat to the community. Illinois eliminated cash bail in a law Slaughter sponsored which took effect in 2023, allowing judges to order detention only with sufficient cause.

The Illinois Supreme Court is considering an appeal of that ruling.

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Family of Sonya Massey, Black woman shot in home by sheriff's deputy, accepts $10M settlement

County officials in Springfield, Illinois, have agreed to pay $10 million to the family of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman shot and killed in her home last summer by a sheriff's deputy responding to her call for help

By JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press
February 12, 2025, 9:38 AM

National headlines from ABC News Catch up on the developing stories making headlines.
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- County officials in Springfield, Illinois, have agreed to pay $10 million to the family of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman shot and killed in her home last summer by a sheriff's deputy responding to her call for help.

The Sangamon County Board approved the settlement Tuesday night, allowing taxpayers to avoid a drawn-out and likely traumatic lawsuit over the summertime shooting by former deputy

Sean Grayson.

The county maintains a settlement fund with a balance of $1.5 million. But according to local news reports, county administrator Brian McFadden said the rest of the payment will come from reserves in other county funds.

"To pay for this particular settlement, we will not be raising taxes, we will not be issuing additional debt, we will not be cutting services," McFadden said. "We can handle this through what is in place in those reserves."

Massey's family had scheduled a news conference for Wednesday morning.

Grayson, 30, is charged with first-degree murder in Massey's death after her exchange with Grayson over removing a hot pot from a stovetop.

The case has drawn national attention as another example of police shooting Black people in their homes. It forced the premature retirement of Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, who hired Grayson, and prompted an agreement with the Justice Department for more training on non-discriminatory policing, de-escalation techniques and dealing with mental health disabilities.

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Massey retrieved the pot and joked with Grayson about how he backed away from it, then told Grayson, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Grayson yelled at her to drop the pot and drew his

weapon. Massey apologized and ducked behind a counter. Grayson fired three shots, striking her just below the left eye.

Grayson remains jailed despite a unanimous 4th District Appellate Court ruling in November that his pre-trial detention was improper because prosecutors failed to show there were no conditions under which Grayson could be released without posing a threat to the community. Illinois eliminated cash bail in a law that took effect in 2023, allowing judges to order detention only with sufficient cause.

The Illinois Supreme Court is considering an appeal of that ruling.

Sonya Massey's family and Sangamon County agree to $10M settlement over fatal shooting

By Karina Tsui, CNN

2 minute read · Updated 8:30 PM EST, Tue February 11, 2025

A photo of Sonya Massey, flowers and candles were displayed on the front porch of her home after her death last year. Trevor Hughes/USA Today Network

(CNN) — Officials in Sangamon County, Illinois, have agreed to a $10 million settlement with the family of Sonya Massey — a Black woman who was shot and killed by law enforcement in her home last year.

The agreement was reached last week after mediation between lawyers representing both

parties, according to a resolution posted by the Sangamon County Board.

The settlement was unanimously approved by the county board Tuesday evening.

Massey, a 36-year-old mother of two, was killed July 6 after two Sangamon County sheriff's deputies responded to her 911 call about a possible prowler at her home. She was shot and killed following a dispute with one of the responding deputies involving a pot of boiling water in her kitchen, body camera footage showed.

Massey's family has said she struggled with mental health issues, and dispatch records showed the sheriff's department had been told she was experiencing a mental health crisis.

One of the deputies, Sean Grayson, was fired and remains jailed on a first-degree murder charge. He has pleaded not guilty.

Massey's death has led to renewed calls for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would set up a national database for tracking officers' disciplinary issues or criminal offenses. Grayson's issues with the law, the military and his work in policing spanned six agencies in four years.

Last month, the US Department of Justice announced a deal with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office in response to an inquiry into violations of federal anti-discrimination law in Massey's shooting death. The deal would involve a series of remedies, including more training and use-of-force data reporting, so that policing activities would be carried out in a "nondiscriminatory manner."

CNN's Taylor Romine contributed to this report.

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LOCAL

Crump: $10M settlement in Sonya Massey case 'bittersweet'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 11:33 a.m. CT Feb. 12, 2025 | **Updated 4:14 p.m. CT Feb. 12, 2025**

Key Points

- Attorneys for the Sonya Massey estate called the $10 million settlement 'very significant.'
- Sonya Massey would have turned 37 years old Wednesday.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump on Wednesday called an out-of-court civil settlement between Sangamon County and the estate of Sonya Massey "bittersweet" and hoped pending legislation in the Illinois General Assembly could address "constitutional failures" in the case.

The Sangamon County Board unanimously agreed to a $10 million mediated settlement at its meeting Tuesday evening.

It is believed to be the largest single payout in the county's history.

More: County board OKs $10M Massey settlement; critics say it was 'woefully inadequate'

The settlement, said County Administrator Brian McFadden on Tuesday, will be paid out through cash reserves.

Members of Massey's family attended Tuesday's board meeting.

Wednesday marked the 37th birthday of Massey, a Black woman and the mother of two children who was fatally shot in her home by a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy, Sean P. Grayson.

Grayson, who is white, was charged with first-degree murder, and remains jailed. His next court appearance is March 24.

Antonio Romanucci, a Chicago attorney working with Crump, called the settlement "monumental and historic."

"We're in Sangamon County," Romanucci said. "This settlement is in best interests of (Massey's children)."

But county board member Marc Ayers told The State Journal-Register that the payout was "woefully inadequate."

A bill by State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, to strengthen background checks and increase transparency in law enforcement hiring was expected to be introduced Wednesday.

Grayson's hiring by the county in May 2023 has brought up questions, particularly his criminal history, including two DUIs before he became a police officer, and a separation from the U.S. Army listed as "misconduct (serious offense)."

Grayson worked for six different police agencies in four years.

Speaking from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on the Zoom call, Massey's father James Wilburn, said his heart was "heavy," and maintained that Grayson was "a rogue cop" who should have never been hired by Sangamon County.

"No one should feel the hurt we're feeling today," Wilburn said.

Sonya Massey's mother, Donna Massey, was on the call but did not speak.

Crump, a high-profile attorney who represented the family of George Floyd, and, locally, Earl Moore Jr., said it was the hope of Massey's family that her death could bring change "so no one ever needlessly loses their life again when all they are asking for is help.

"This (settlement) is only the first step in the journey for justice for Sonya Massey."

(This story was updated to add new information and a video.)

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U.S. NEWS

$10 million settlement in Sonya Massey shooting case gets final approval

Officials in Sangamon County, Illinois, approved the payout after Massey was killed in her home last summer by a sheriff's deputy. She had called for help.

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Feb. 12, 2025, 12:40 PM CST

By Janelle Griffith

Officials in Sangamon County, Illinois, have agreed to a $10 million settlement with the family of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman who was shot and killed in her home last summer after she called police for assistance.

The agreement reached last week between lawyers for Massey's family and attorneys representing the county was unanimously approved Tuesday evening by the Sangamon County Board.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Massey's family, held a virtual news conference Wednesday on what would have been her 37th birthday.

Crump said it "is only the first step in the journey for justice."

"We want civil accountability, criminal culpability and we want legislative changes," Crump said. "We want the laws to prevent something like this from happening again."

He and Antonio Romanucci, another family attorney, called the settlement "historic."

"It's our understanding that this, by far, is the largest settlement reached in Sangamon County of any kind, let alone a civil rights case such as this one," Romanucci said.

He pushed back against criticism that the amount was too low, saying it came to 50% of the sheriff's office's annual budget.

"This settlement is magnanimous, and it's very relevant, and it's very significant, because, as Ben knows, we're not in Minneapolis, we're not in Memphis, we're not in Louisville," he said, referring to other cities where he and Crump have negotiated or are negotiating settlements for the families of Black people killed by police. "We're in Sangamon County."

— Donna Massey, the mother of Sonya Massey, at New Mount Pilgrim Church in Chicago in June.
Scott Olson / Getty Images file

The county administrator, Brian McFadden, said at the meeting Tuesday that it is the largest settlement in his memory. County officials have said the $10 million would be paid from a settlement fund and reserves from other county funds.

Romanucci said the money would go to Massey's two children, adding that a court will decide compensation for attorneys.

Massey called 911 early on the morning of July 6 to report a suspected prowler outside her home. Then-Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson and another deputy, who has not been identified, responded, according to body-camera footage.

Grayson, who is white, pointed out a pot of boiling water on the stove, and as Massey retrieved it and was handling the pot, she twice said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Grayson yelled at her to drop the pot, and as she ducked, he fired three shots at her, one of which struck her beneath her left eye.

Grayson said in a report written three days after the shooting that he feared "great bodily harm" or death because Massey said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

Sonya Massey. Courtesy Ruby Funeral Services

Prior to the shooting, Grayson had worked for six law enforcement agencies in central Illinois in four years. Nearly two weeks after Massey's killing, he was fired and charged with first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct. He has pleaded not guilty and remains in jail.

His attorney declined to comment on Wednesday.

Sonya Massey's father, James Wilburn, said at Wednesday's news conference that Sangamon County and some of the other agencies where Grayson worked were responsible for his daughter's death.

Records obtained by NBC News indicate documented issues with Grayson's performance at some of his previous employers.

"I think he should have never been hired," Wilburn said.

The sheriff's office did not immediately return a request for comment.

The day before the shooting, Massey's mother, Donna Massey, had called 911 seeking help for her daughter, who she was concerned the police might try to hurt, Donna Massey told a dispatcher in recordings released by the sheriff's department.

After her killing, Massey's name joined a growing list of Black residents fatally shot in their homes by police across the country, including Botham Jean in 2018, Atatiana Jefferson in 2019 and Air Force Senior Airman Roger Fortson last year.

Massey's fatal shooting also forced the premature retirement of Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell, who hired Grayson, after residents and Gov. JB Pritzker called on him to step down.

Pritzker said at the time that Campbell had failed at his job because he hired Grayson despite documented issues with Grayson's performance at previous agencies.

Grayson's employment history, and two DUIs convictions, in 2015 and 2016, led Massey's family and others to question why he was allowed to work in law enforcement. The 2015 conviction led to his premature discharge from the Army the following year.

The Massey case prompted a memorandum of agreement between the U.S. Justice Department and the sheriff's office, in which the county pledged a series of changes, including more training, updates to policies pertaining to nondiscriminatory policing and the reporting of use-of-force data.

The DOJ found no discriminatory practices by the sheriff's office or the county's emergency dispatch operation in connection with Massey's death.

Janelle Griffith

Janelle Griffith is a national reporter for NBC News focusing on issues of race and policing.

The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

Massey family, Sangamon County reach agreement to $10M settlement

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:16 a.m. CT Feb. 10, 2025

Key Points

- The agreement between the county and the Massey family will be taken up at Tuesday's board meeting.
- The settlement would be paid from "reserves and contingency lines within the various funds of county government."

Sangamon County has reached an agreement with the family of Sonya Massey through mediation on an out-of-court settlement.

The settlement, in the amount of $10 million, would need final approval from the county board at its Tuesday meeting.

The agreement followed extensive confidential discussions involving legal representatives for the county and the Massey family.

More: Illinois Supreme Court will take up State's petition on Sean Grayson's detention

A memo discussing the parameters and timeline of the settlement was obtained by The State Journal-Register Friday.

The settlement, agreed upon by both parties on Feb. 4, could avoid a potentially protracted lawsuit.

Through a county spokesman, Sangamon County Administrator Brian McFadden said the settlement would be paid from "reserves and contingency lines within the various funds of county government."

The county, McFadden added, is able "to establish and maintain reserves to cover situations such as this, a large one-time expense outside the normal operations of county government. We anticipate for such instances, and we plan accordingly."

Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman and the mother of two children, was fatally shot in the face inside of her home in the 2800 block of Hoover Avenue of in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield the morning of July 6.

More: 33 Illinois counties explore formation of a new state. Here's what could happen

Sangamon County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the home after Massey called 911 about a potential prowler.

Now former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy Sean P. Grayson shot Massey even as she put her arms in the air and said "I'm sorry" while ducking for cover. Grayson aggressively yelled for Massey to put down a pot of boiling water.

Grayson, who is white, has been charged with first-degree murder. He is currently being jailed in Decatur and is next due in court on March 24.

Video of the shooting, captured on another deputy's body-worn camera, has caused international outrage.

The shooting led to the formation of the Massey Commission, which meets Monday, and an investigation by the U.S. Department of the Justice into race and disability discrimination in policing and dispatch services by the sheriff's office and other county entities.

Under a memorandum of agreement reached with the DOJ on Jan. 16, the sheriff's office will "review and update policies, rules and procedures" with the State's Attorney's Office.

The agreement requires the sheriff's department, dispatch and the county to make reports every six months to the DOJ about any complaints it receives.

In December, speaking before the Massey Commission, Sangamon County Sheriff Paula Crouch outlined an investigation manual for new hires, including the creation of a sheriff's merit commission.

Grayson's hire drew scrutiny because of two DUI offenses before he became a police officer and a separation from the U.S. Army that listed "misconduct (serious offense)" as the reason.

The memo regarding the financial settlement, written by Chairman Andy Van Meter, "takes into account county finances and the use of public dollars and acknowledges what county taxpayers can realistically afford. Due to the long-standing fiscal responsibility of Sangamon County, the settlement will not result in a tax increase, additional debt, or cuts to county services."

Van Meter noted that "no price paid can take back the actions of a rogue former deputy, but this agreement is an effort to provide some measure of recompense to the Massey family for their unimaginable loss. The county remains committed to working with the community to strengthen policies to try to ensure tragedies like this never happen again."

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The State Journal-Register

LOCAL

County board OKs $10M Massey settlement; critics say it was 'woefully inadequate'

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal- Register

Published 4:23 a.m. CT Feb. 12, 2025

Key Points

- The case was mediated by a retired Illinois judge.
- A Sangamon County administrator said taxes won't be raised for the payout.
- Some criticized the settlement as 'woefully inadequate.'

The Sangamon County Board unanimously agreed to a $10 million out-of-court mediated settlement with the estate of Sonya Massey.

The dollar amount, worked out last week in sessions last week in Chicago, was quickly criticized by some board members and Massey family supporters, though they hoped the settlement would move the family forward in the grieving process.

Sontae Massey, a cousin to Sonya Massey, who was fatally shot in her home by a Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy, said he was "disgusted" by the proceeding and left with his fiancée, Margaritta Fultz, before the vote.

More: 'No confidence': Massey family have misgivings about citizens commission

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who represented the Massey family, has a scheduled news conference Wednesday morning. Crump will be joined by members of the Massey family.

Crump was also expected to address legislative efforts of State Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, to strengthen background checks and increase transparency in law enforcement hiring.

Sangamon County Assistant State's Attorney Joel Benoit and two outside attorneys represented the county. The settlement was mediated by retired state judge Kay Hanlon, who is employed by ADR Systems.

Sean P. Grayson, who responded to Massey's home in an unincorporated area of a Springfield neighborhood, shot Massey, a Black woman and the mother of two children, in the face.

Grayson was charged with first-degree murder and remains jailed.

Massey would have turned 37 years old Wednesday.

The settlement, said County Administrator Brian McFadden, will be paid through cash reserves.

The county has 100 funds which have reserves, he said.

"We will not be raising taxes. We will not be issuing additional debt. We will not be cutting services," McFadden insisted.

Marc Ayers, a Democrat who represents District 12, said the payout, believed to be the largest in Sangamon County history, was "woefully inadequate."

"I am pleased how quickly this did come to a settlement and that the family did sign off on the settlement," Ayers said. "I'm at least pleased that there is an end in sight for the family and that they might be able to move on somehow. We shouldn't have been here in the first place and that is the pressing thing about tonight's vote."

Teresa Haley of Haley & Associates also didn't think the settlement was enough.

"Sonya's life was worth so much more because this part of her life, that history, this legacy will go on for generations to experience," she said.

"How can you provide restitution or make whole someone or family that has experienced a significant loss?" asked Reggie Guyton, who was sworn in as a new board member representing District 21. "There's no way to make whole when someone has been needlessly, senselessly taken."

While the settlement is a start, Guyton acknowledged, "we need to consider there is much distrust, much hurt that a community at large is feeling and we have an obligation to make things right."

Ayers hoped it was a wakeup call to the community, to attend more county board and Massey Commission meetings.

"We owe it to taxpayers and the Massey family to not stop this fight and to continue these reforms wherever we can," he said.

Guyton appointed to the board

Guyton, an actor and singer, now represents which encompasses the south-central part of Springfield.

Guyton's predecessor, Clyde Bunch, was recognized as the longest-serving county board member in Illinois when he died on Dec. 3. Bunch was first elected to the board in 1978.

Turner presented a proclamation about Bunch from Gov. JB Pritzker to the board.

Guyton has been vocal in calling for police reform.

"I feel I can provide a different perspective and hopefully sway the board to make some choices that are beneficial in the long run," Guyton said Monday, prior to the Massey Commission meeting. "I think people know me as at least thoughtful.

"We have to do work, and I want to dig in."

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Killing of Sonya Massey

On July 6, 2024, **Sonya Massey**, a 36-year-old Black woman, was shot and killed in her home by **Sean Grayson**, a white deputy of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office in Woodside Township near Springfield, Illinois, United States.[2][3][4]

Massey called 911 about a possible prowler. Grayson and an unidentified deputy responded and found nothing after searching the vicinity. Moving inside her house, the deputies requested her ID, and Massey began searching for it. The situation escalated quickly when a deputy asked Massey to remove a pot of boiling water from the stove. Massey lifted the pot and said twice, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Grayson threatened to shoot her in the face and drew his service pistol. His partner did the same and Grayson repeatedly yelled, "Drop the f*cking pot," and Massey apologized. Grayson then shot her three times, hitting Massey in the head and ultimately killing her. The unidentified officer stated that he was going to get their medical kit, but Grayson told him not to.

Following the shooting, Grayson was fired from the Sangamon County Sheriff's office and charged with three counts of first-degree murder, among other charges.[2]

Killing of Sonya Massey

Massey in an undated photograph

Date	July 6, 2024
Time	1:20:47 a.m. (CDT)[1]
Location	Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois, U.S.
Coordinates	39°45′45.5″N 89°37′48.8″W
Type	Homicide by shooting, police killing
Deaths	Sonya Lynaye Wilburn-Massey (36)
Accused	Sean Patrick Grayson
Charges	▪ First-degree murder (3 counts) ▪ Aggravated battery with a firearm ▪ Official misconduct

Incident

Early on the morning of July 6, 2024, Massey called 911 as she believed that someone had broken into her home.[3] Two deputies, Grayson and the second unidentified deputy,[5] responded and subsequently searched Massey's backyard and the immediate vicinity of her property. Finding no evidence of any suspicious activity or persons, the officers approached Massey's front door and Grayson knocked multiple times to no

Exhibit 4

avail. After approximately three minutes, Massey opened the door and engaged in conversation with the deputies. The deputies informed Massey that they had not found anything of note in their search while Massey used her cell phone. As the deputies prepared to end the exchange, the unidentified officer walked around the side of Massey's house to report the license plate number of a vehicle in her driveway that Massey informed deputies was not hers. Massey and Grayson continued to engage in conversation. After the unidentified officer walked back to Massey's front door, the three entered Massey's residence.[3]

Inside the home, Grayson repeatedly asked Massey to provide her driver's license and discussed the vehicle parked in her driveway. As the unidentified deputy looked around the residence, Massey can be seen looking through a small stack of papers and her purse. At one point, Massey asked Grayson to hand her a Bible. After around a minute and a half of searching, the deputies mention a pot of water boiling on Massey's stove and requested that she check on it, as they "don't need a fire while we're here."[6] After Massey picked up the pot of water and walked from her stove to her sink, the unidentified deputy and Grayson moved backwards. Massey asked the officers what they were doing, as in why are they backing up. Grayson replied that he was distancing himself from the pot of boiling water. Massey repeated her question, and said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."[7] After Massey repeated her statement at Grayson's prompting, Grayson drew his gun and replied, "You better fucking not, I swear to God I'll fucking shoot you right in your fucking face."[8]

The unidentified deputy also drew his gun. Massey immediately apologized by saying: "OK, I'm sorry" and dropped to the floor behind the kitchen counter, however, both deputies advanced from the living room towards the kitchen with their weapons trained on Massey. After several seconds of shouting orders for Massey to drop the pot of water, Grayson fired three shots at her, fatally wounding her.[9] CBS News reported that footage of the shooting showed that "Massey may be holding the pot of water above her head right before the shots are fired."[10] The unidentified deputy radioed that shots had been fired and that there was a woman with a headshot wound. He began to leave to grab his medical kit, however, Grayson told him not to, saying that, "she's done".[5] Massey was later pronounced dead at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.[3]

Body camera footage of the shooting was released to the public on July 22.[11]

People involved

Sonya Massey

Sonya Lynaye Wilburn-Massey was born on February 12, 1988, and was 36 years old at the time of her death. She had a son and a daughter.[12][13]

Sean Grayson

Sean Patrick Grayson, the 30-year-old deputy from Riverton, Illinois, responsible for killing Massey, worked for six different Illinois police departments between 2020 and 2024.[14] Following the shooting incident, Grayson's employment was terminated. While enlisted in the Army, Grayson had

two misdemeanor DUI convictions in 2015 and 2016.[15][16][17] The first DUI led to his discharge from the military in February 2016 for serious misconduct.[18] After his discharge, Grayson resided in Junction City, Kansas.[19]

Grayson falsely arrested Kyle Adkins in 2021. Grayson claimed there was a warrant and evidence against Adkins, which were later proven to be non-existent.[20]

In 2022, Grayson, then a deputy for the Logan County Sheriff's Office, was involved in a high-speed chase where he ignored orders from his superiors to terminate the pursuit. He reached speeds of 110 mph, turned off his lights and siren, and only stopped after hitting a deer.[21][22][23] This resulted in a meeting between Grayson and his superiors about his misconduct and the possibility of firing Grayson. However, the Logan County Sheriff's Office absolved him and never reported the misconduct.[20]

According to his lawyer, Grayson has stage 3 colon cancer, which was diagnosed in the fall of 2023.[24][25] His lawyer also said Grayson was not a threat to the community because he was compliant and turned himself in within a half-hour after his arrest warrant was issued.[24]

Aftermath

In the aftermath of the shooting, the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office opened an investigation of the incident, which was turned over to the Illinois State Police. The investigation was completed within 10 days.[26] Within two weeks of the shooting, the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office fired Grayson.[4] The second, unidentified officer was placed on administrative leave.[27]

On July 17, 2024, a grand jury indicted Grayson on five counts, including three counts of first-degree murder, one count of aggravated battery with a firearm, and one count of official misconduct.[28] Grayson is being held in jail without bail.[27] State Attorney John Milhiser's review did "not support a finding that ... Grayson was justified in his use of deadly force", and prosecutors compared him to "an officer intentionally and unnecessarily putting himself in front of a moving vehicle and then justifying use of force because of fear of being struck".[6]

Massey's family retained Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights attorney who has represented several other victims of high-profile instances of police brutality, including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.[3] The Justice Department is also investigating the case.[29]

According to Massey's family, one of her ancestors, William Donnegan, was lynched in the Springfield race riot of 1908 and pronounced dead in the same hospital as Massey.[30] The 1908 riot led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).[31] Massey's relative stated: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."[32] Massey's father criticized the sheriff's office for hiring Grayson despite the "serious blemishes on his record".[33] Additionally, her family said that police had initially blamed Massey's death on both suicide and a neighbor.[34][35]

County Sheriff Jack Campbell announced he would retire on August 31, 2024 due to the shooting.[36]

In February 2025, Massey's family reached a settlement with Sangamon County for a payment of $10 million.[37]

Reactions

U.S. politicians

President Joe Biden stated "Americans ... should be able to [call for help] without fearing for our lives," and that Massey "should be alive today."[7] Vice President Kamala Harris said "I join President Biden in commending the swift action of the State's Attorney's Office and in calling on Congress to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, a bill that I coauthored in the Senate".[38] She also stated that Massey "deserved to be safe," and that "she was tragically killed in her own home at the hands of a responding officer sworn to protect and serve."[39]

Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker condemned the killing, stating that he was "enraged that another innocent black woman had her life taken from her at the hands of a police officer," and that he was "grateful to the Springfield State's Attorney's office for bringing the appropriate charges in this case".[4] He later called for Sheriff Jack Campbell to resign.[40] Illinois Senator Dick Durbin stated that his "thoughts are with the family and loved ones of Sonya Massey" and "The Illinois State Police conducted a thorough investigation of Sonya's tragic death, and the Sangamon County State's Attorney brought the necessary charges in a timely way."[41]

The City of Springfield announced an increased police presence in response to the killing and subsequent protests by Massey's family and supporters.[4]

Others

Protests were held in the United States, including Hartford,[42] New York City,[43] and Atlanta.[44] The NAACP released a statement that blamed politicians for "empowering" Grayson and advocated for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.[45] Michael Arceneaux stated that Massey's killing was not surprising: "When don't we hear of a white officer shooting a black person?"[46] The 19th said it was "a striking example of how police encounters for black people — even those who call the police for help — quickly erupt into violence."[47]

See also

- List of killings by law enforcement officers in the United States, July 2024
- List of unarmed African Americans killed by law enforcement officers in the United States
- Killing of Philando Castile
- Killing of Atatiana Jefferson
- Killing of Breonna Taylor
- Killing of Tyisha Miller

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External links

- Footage of the shooting: Sangamon County Sheriff's Office July 6, 2024 OIS Incident (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFun2GydGyU) by the Illinois State Police, published on July 23, 2024

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Killing_of_Sonya_Massey&oldid=1275396886"

Springfield's Jefferson Bridge officially renamed to honor Sonya Massey

EFILED
2/26/2025 10:59 AM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL

2024CF000909

Gannett | **CLAIRE GRANT, SPRINGFIELD STATE JOURNAL- REGISTER**
September 19, 2024 at 5:38 AM

"This and our Black Lives Matters signs we put up permanently that we all signed up to, are more than symbolic."

Those were the words Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory said at the Springfield City Council meeting on Sept. 17, after the aldermen unanimously approved the vote to rename Jefferson Bridge to the Massey Memorial Bridge.

Sonya Massey was fatally shot in her home by a former Sangamon County Sheriff's deputy in an unincorporated part of Woodside Township after reporting a possible intruder on July 6.

Former deputy Sean P. Grayson, 30, was charged with Massey's murder. Grayson has pleaded not guilty.

More: 'Your hurting — we've heard it.' Massey Commission holds first listening session

Ordinance 2024-364was originally requested by Gregory, and all other members of the council requested for the vote to pass. The ordinance authorizes the creation of murals on select areas of the bridge over Clearlake Avenue and Jefferson Street.

The council approved on Sept. 10 to commission a mural for the Jefferson Bridge, and work with IDOT to rename the bridge in her honor. This final vote on Tuesday night sealed Sonya Massey's name, and impact on the city for future generations to acknowledge.

Exhibit 3C

Massey's mother, Donna, was in the crowd when the ordinance passed.

"Those that pushed for us did it," Massey said. "She deserves it, and I thank you guys very much."

The inspiration for this vote comes from the resounding mural of Sonya Massey, painted by Springfield artist Austin Wells in late July of this year.

Flowers and balloons left at a Sonya Massey mural in Springfield Friday, July 26, 2024.

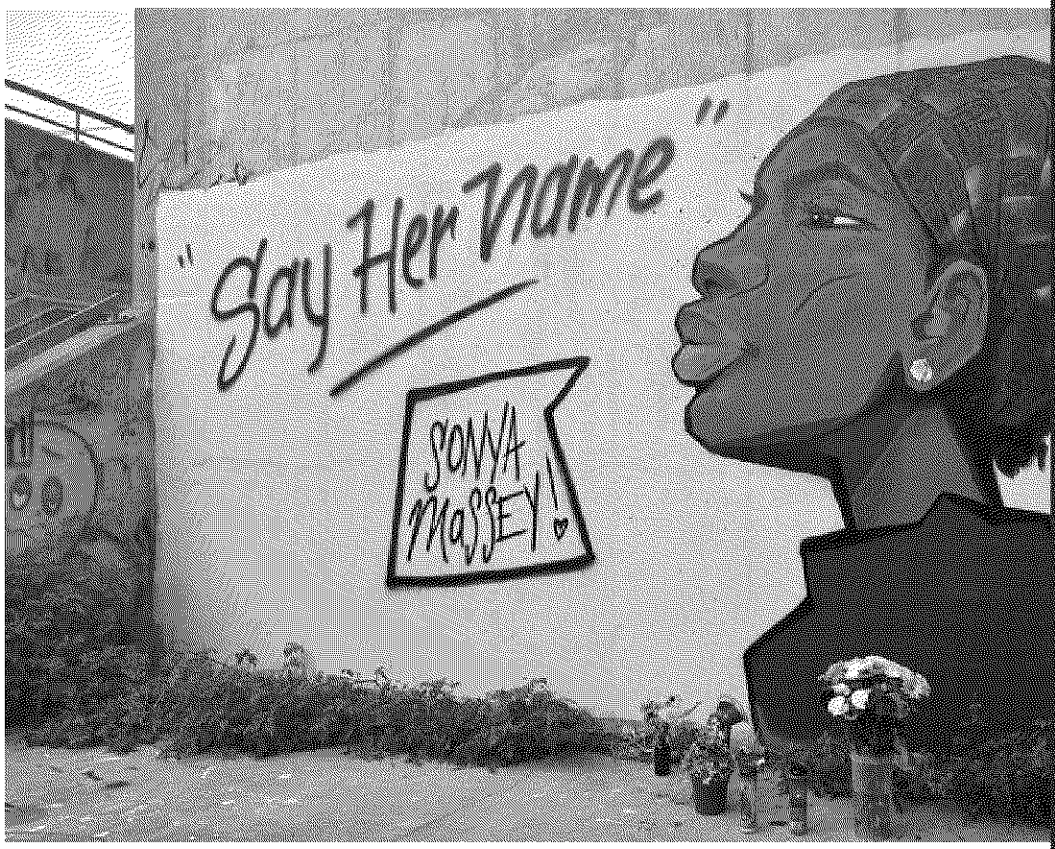
Claire Grant writes about business, growth and development and other news topics for The State Journal-Register. She can be reached at CLGrant@gannett.com; and on X (Formerly known as Twitter): @Claire_Granted

This article originally appeared on State Journal-Register: Jefferson Bridge renamed in honor of Springfield's Sonya Massey

ADVERTISEMENT

Jefferson Bridge set to be renamed Massey Memoria

by WICS/WCCU
Wed, September 11th 2024 at 4:03 PM



Sonya Massey Memorial (WICS)

TOPICS: JEFFERSON BRIDGE MASSEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE SPRINGFIELD SONYA MASSEY

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS) — The Jefferson Bridge in Springfield will soo

The bridge is already home to a mural depicting Sonya Massey.

The measure still needs to be fully approved at next week's City Cou

MORE TO EXPLORE

Woman shot and killed in Springfield

6 essential rules for building your 'forever portfolio'

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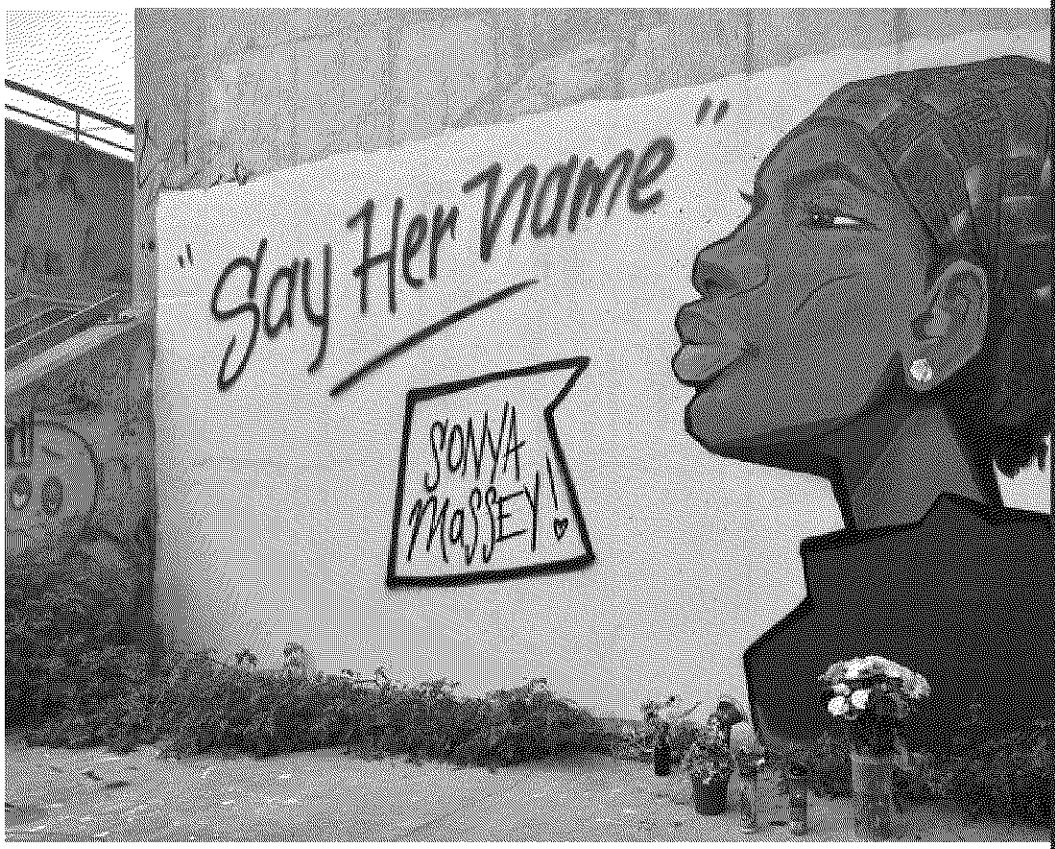

Sonya Massey Memorial (WICS)

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APR 07 2025

12

Joseph B. Rolsak Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois

Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24-CF-909

Sean Grayson

Defendant.

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 8th day of April, 20 25 at 2:00 a.m./(p.m.), at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel:
   Photographer (1), video camera (1)
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   _____ at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   ✓ less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: it's my fault. I missed the 2 week deadline.
5. Notice of this request has been provided to:
   Counsel of record: Daniel Fultz, Mark Wykoff
   Parties appearing without counsel: _____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Maxheimer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Mullins
Signature

Kelsey Mullins
Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

FILED
APR 07 2025
Josh B. Vieck Clerk of the Circuit Court

21

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 8th day of April, 2025 at 1:30 a.m. (p.m.) at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (✓) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

4/7/25
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court

In The Circuit Court
For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois

THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE AND YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO REPORT TO COURT FOR:

	First Appearance
	Plea Hearing
	Preliminary Hearing
	Pre-Trial
	Trial
	Sentencing Hearing
	Status Hearing
	Petition To Revoke Hearing
	Juvenile
X	Other: Scheduling

FILED
APR 08 2025
61
Joseph B. Kozal Clerk of the Circuit Court

HAS BEEN SET FOR 4-23-25 (date) AT 11:30 (time) CADAGIN (courtroom/Judge)

NAME: SEAN GRAYSON

CASE: 2024-CF-000909

OTHER CASES:

☒ DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY

YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON. FAILURE TO APPEAR MAY RESULT IN A BENCH WARRANT BEING ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST OR OTHER SANCTIONS.

NO ONE EXCEPT A JUDGE MAY CONTINUE YOUR CASE. THIS CASE IS ASSIGNED TO JUDGE: CADAGIN

YOUR ATTORNEY IS: MARK WYKOFF + Dan Fultz CLERK: LH

I acknowledge these conditions of release and affirm that I will comply with each condition. I understand that failure to comply with the conditions of release could result in sanctions and/or revocation of my pretrial release. I further understand that I am required to notify the clerk of the court of any change of address within 24 hours.

Defendant's Signature

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE IN PERSON ON _____

☐ PROOF OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, _____ TO DEFENDANT AT _____

_____.

FILED

APR 09 2025

Joseph B. Roesel Clerk of the Circuit Court

23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Illinois
Plaintiff

v.

Case Number: 24-CF-909

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

NEWS MEDIA REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

NOW COMES the undersigned Media Coordinator, who state as follows:

1. This request is being made on behalf of all news media organizations.
2. Extended media coverage is requested in connection with the trial or proceeding scheduled to take place on the 23rd day of April, 20 25 at 11:30 a.m./p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.
3. The type of extended media coverage requested is as follows:
   ✓ Video Camera ✓ Still Camera ✓ Video/Audio Recording ✓ Live Blog
   Include type of equipment and number of personnel:
   Photographer (1), video camera (1)
4. This request for extended media coverage is filed:
   ✓ at least fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above; or
   _____ less than fourteen (14) in advance of the proceeding identified above because: _____
5. Notice of this request has been provided to:
   Counsel of record: Daniel Fultz, Mark Wykoff
   Parties appearing without counsel: _____
   The court media liaison: Suzann Maxheimer
6. I will abide by all the provisions of the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Mullins
Signature

Kelsey Mullins
Media Coordinator (Print Name)

News Media Representative: Kelsey Mullins WICS/WRSP/WBUI
kemullins@sbgtv.com or phone at 217.753.5689

EFILED
4/10/2025 12:06 PM
Joseph B. Roesch
7th Judicial Circuit
Sangamon County, IL
2024CF000909

In the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

Order On Request For
Extended Media Coverage

Illinois
Plaintiff,

V.

Sean Grayson
Defendant.

24-CF-909
Case No.

This matter coming before the Court on a filed request for extended media coverage, the Court hereby orders as follows:

( ) Within the guidelines of the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Local Rule on Extended Media Coverage as Amended Circuit Administrative Order 24-29. The request(s) for extended media coverage for the above case trial or proceeding scheduled for the 23rd day of April, 2025 at 11:30 (a.m.)/p.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, in Springfield Illinois has been ( ) **APPROVED** (X) **DENIED** and for all subsequent proceedings until full conclusions of the case(s) or as otherwise ordered by the court and subject to ruling on any filed objections.

Representatives of the news media are allowed to use the following for courtroom coverage of the above case.

_____Still Photography _____Video Recording (with existing audio recording) _____Audio Recording

The following exceptions and/or additional restrictions shall apply:_____

Live blogging or live streaming on Facebook, Instagram or other social media platform ( ) **IS** or ( ) **IS NOT** allowed.

( ) An Objection of Witness and/or a Party has been filed in this case. A hearing on the request for extended media coverage shall be scheduled on _____ at _____a.m./p.m. in courtroom _____. The Clerk of the Court shall give notice to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the media coordinator and media liaison.

This Court retains jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter herein for enforcement of this order.

4/10/25
Date

Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court