

Commonwealth of Virginia

COMMONWEALTH'S
ATTORNEY
Stacey T. Davenport

Chief Deputy
Jennifer S. Nesbitt

Deputies
Kenneth M. Chitty
Rhanelle E. Collins-Meredith
Barbara B. Cooke
Benjamin H. Garrison
Melissa H. Hoy
Frank J. LaRuffa

Senior Assistants
Jeffrey L. Einhaus
Shawn A. Gobble
Reneen E. Hewlett
Christopher L. Miller
Stephen P. Sharpe

Administrative Attorney
Melissa N. Ringer



Chesterfield County
Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney

P.O. Box 25, Chesterfield, VA 23832-0025
9500 Courthouse Road
(804) 748-1221 FAX (804) 717-6277

Assistants

Alexander C. Angle
Matthew C. Brenner
Mary-Kate R. Collins
LaToya H. Croxton
Geoffrey A. Easton
Allison K. Farley
Matthew M. Gravens
Bobbi R. Graves
Catherine M. Gray
Kimberly E. Gretes
Brittany E. Hinton
Avery R. Jucksch
Joshua C. Loren
Alexander B. Michev
Luke W. Mitchell
Delaney P. Perdue
Gabriela A. Phillingane
Emily K. Powell
Nancy Y. Simpson
William W. Stanton, VII
Ethan M. Wiley
Sarah E. Wright

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brittany Lilly
Phone: 804-748-1221
Email: CWAMedia@chesterfield.gov

Chesterfield, Virginia; January 13, 2023 -While it is clear that Delegate Tim Anderson wants to continue the public debate over the way the Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office handled the case of Commonwealth v. John Blanchard in 2022, moral outrage is no substitute for evidence, and this office stands by its decision to nolle prosequi the case. The decision was based solely upon the law, the facts of the case, and the professional experience and ethical duties of the prosecutors. Any assertion to the contrary is offensive to every prosecutor in this office and is patently false.

This office prosecuted over 10,000 cases in 2022, so it is inevitable that our office and the Chesterfield Police Department will occasionally disagree on the strengths and weaknesses of individual cases. However, my staff and I take great pride in always discussing those disagreements privately and not allowing them to affect our working relationship. While it is the responsibility of the Chesterfield Police Department to investigate cases, it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to determine whether there is an appropriate avenue for successful prosecution.

The Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office takes great exception to the attempted politicization of this case by Del. Anderson. Any claim that this office is using the Defendant's Petition for Expungement to "silence any political opponents from using published police records" is unwarranted and without merit. Contrary to Del. Anderson's assertion, there exists no "political advantage" for the Commonwealth's Attorney in this or any other expungement process. Every Petition for Expungement received by this office is evaluated and processed pursuant to the law, as was this petition. This office is not motivated by politics. Our only motivation is ensuring public safety while upholding the Constitution of the United States.

About Commonwealth's Attorney Stacey Davenport:

Elected in 2019, Stacey Davenport leads a staff of more than 30 attorneys prosecuting cases in Chesterfield, a county of over 350,000 Virginia residents. A graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Richmond School of Law, Davenport has more than 20 years of experience in criminal law, with extensive expertise in prosecuting cases of violent crimes.

Juvenile Office
7000 Lucy Corr Blvd.
Chesterfield, VA 23832-0520
(804) 748-1341 FAX (804) 717-6275

Victim Witness Program
P.O. Box 554
Chesterfield, VA 23832-0554
(804) 796-7087 FAX (804) 717-6066