



Gosport Lodge #20, P.O. Box 564, Portsmouth, VA 23705

July 7, 2023

PORTSMOUTH, Va.- The Fraternal Order of Police Gosport Lodge #20 was pleased with the verdict handed down by a Portsmouth Jury on June 6, 2023, in the case of Commonwealth of Virginia v. Vincent McClean. McClean, an active member in good standing with this organization, spent decades protecting and serving the citizens of Portsmouth and our organization believes that the jury verdict on July 6, 2023, was a true testament to his dedication to the Portsmouth Community.

However, this organization was disappointed to learn that while McClean was on trial in this case that the Commonwealth Attorney's Office proceeded with an additional indictment against McClean for an incident that occurred over 4 1/2 years ago, giving the appearance that this indictment was intended to cause McClean and his family considerable undue stress both financially and personally.

It has been a standing rule of this organization to speak up for its members. As such, this organization can no longer remain silent as it is the belief of this organization that there is an underlying vendetta against Portsmouth Police Officers by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for the City of Portsmouth. We do not know the reason, but we do believe that the goal of the Commonwealth Attorney's Office is to keep throwing charges at officers until one sticks, and the officer can be prosecuted and persecuted publicly, and this action must cease.

We are formally requesting that the community rally behind not just McClean, but all Portsmouth Police Officers letting them know that their dedication to their community has not gone unnoticed letting them know the community stands behind them. Being a police officer is not an easy task and these officers are asked to perform under extreme conditions and stressful situations while making split-second decisions that are likely to result in malicious prosecution even when they perform their duty based on the way they were trained to do. Speak up, stand up, and let your police department know you support them.