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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

April 27, 2023

Re: Dismissal of Cause Number CR58382, CR58383, CR58384, or CR58385

On April 25th, Sgt. Jenny Alonzo was called by Assistant District Attorney, Jennifer Lively, to testify about Sgt. Alonzo's role as the lead investigator in what has become known as the "Trinity Case." During her testimony, Sgt. Alonzo repeatedly testified about a meeting held between her, Sgt. Rosemary Sharp, Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Jennifer Lively, and me. Sgt. Alonzo further testified that I, Laura Nodolf, acting as the Midland County District Attorney, directed her to obtain warrants against the administrators at Trinity School. This testimony is categorically false. No such meeting ever occurred.

It is common for members of the Midland County District Attorney's Office, including myself, to offer legal advice and opinions regarding active investigations. However, neither myself, nor any prosecutor in my office, possess the authority to direct any law enforcement agency to arrest, or not arrest, any suspect in a case. When a crime is reported to law enforcement, similar to the way the complaint was made in the Trinity Case, law enforcement is not required to clear a case through the Midland County District Attorney's Office prior to an arrest being made. Regarding the arrest warrants and complaints in the Trinity Case that were drafted and signed by Sgt. Alonzo, the only discussion between the Midland County District Attorney's Office and Sgt. Alonzo was when ADA Jennifer Lively offered to review any warrants prior to them being signed by a judge. ADA Lively was never asked to review any arrest warrants. ADA Lively and I both learned that the warrants had been served both through local news outlets.

Based on the testimony presented by Sgt. Alonzo, the prosecutors assigned to the case, including ADA Lively, unanimously agreed that Sgt. Alonzo's testimony had compromised the case the point that it could no longer be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. When a case cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, the just result is to dismiss the case.

Respectfully,

Laura A. Nodolf