

STATE OF MARYLAND

\* IN THE

\* CIRCUIT COURT

v.

\* FOR

ADNAN SYED,

\* BALTIMORE CITY, PART 23

*Defendant.*

\* Case No.: 199103042

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER**

In order to ensure a fair hearing in this case, and to preserve the dignity of the Court while accommodating the interests of the public and the media and in order to cause minimal disruption of and to maintain a safe and secure environment for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and its neighbors, it is this 31st day of January, 2025, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, **ORDERED** as follows:

1. A hearing in the above captioned case is scheduled to be conducted in Courtroom 203M (“the Courtroom”), of the Clarence M. Mitchell Courthouse, located at 100 N Calvert St, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“the Courthouse”). The presiding judge shall be the Honorable Jennifer Schiffer
2. Nicholas Cavey, Public Information Officer, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs, State of Maryland Judiciary, shall be designated as the Court’s Media Liaison for purposes of this Order and can be reached at 410-260-1488, email address: Nicholas.Cavey@mdcourts.gov. In his absence, Terri Charles, Assistant Public Information Officer, Office of Governmental Relations and Public

Affairs, will act as the Court's Media Liaison and can be reached at 410-260-1564, email address: Terri.Charles@mdcourts.gov.

3. All media inquiries shall be directed to the Court's Media Liaison.
4. All persons within the Courthouse shall remain subject to the occupancy limits and security measures established by Sheriff Sam Cogen of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff"), who can be reached at 410-396-1155, email address: Sam.Cogen@baltimorecity.gov, and the Chief Fire Marshal for Baltimore City ("Fire Marshal"), who can be reached at 410-396-5752, email address: FireMarshal@baltimorecity.gov.
5. All persons entering the Courthouse shall: adhere to the security procedures as directed by the Sheriff; pass through electronic security devices; submit their equipment and other effects to search procedures at the discretion of the Sheriff's Deputies; and show a valid media credential to security personnel when requested. To expedite entry, all persons are requested to refrain from bringing excess bags or backpacks into the Courthouse.
6. No audio or video recording equipment, including media cameras, or transmitting equipment shall be permitted in the Courthouse, except as provided in this Order. Pursuant to Md. Rule 16-208, no person may use an electronic device to take screen captures, screenshots, photographs, videos, audio recordings or make other electronic recordings within the Courthouse, and no person may transmit, publish, or otherwise disseminate any such electronic audio or video recording, except as

provided in this Order.

7. All electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, and tablets, must be turned off (not in silent or sleep modes) while inside the Courtroom, unless express permission is given by the Court, or as provided in this Order. Pursuant to Md. Rule 16-208(b)(2)(E), attorneys and their agents representing parties in the proceedings may make reasonable and lawful use of an electronic device in connection with the proceedings.
8. Electronic devices and equipment sought to be used or employed by members of the media must comply with the operational requirements established under Md. Rule 16-607, unless approved by the Court.
9. Limited seating will be available in the gallery of the Courtroom, as determined by the Court, the Sheriff, and the Fire Marshal. The Court may apportion the available seating. Where necessary, the Court shall make overflow seating arrangements in another space within the Courthouse, to view the proceedings via video live feed. All persons within any space designated for overflow seating are subject to the same prohibitions on electronic audio or video recordings, and the same prohibitions on publication of electronic audio or video recordings, except as provided in this Order.
10. There shall be limited, reserved seating for members of the media in the Courtroom. Members of the media may indicate their desire for a seat within the Courtroom by contacting the Court's Media Liaison. The

Court's Media Liaison may allocate seats based on requests received and shall communicate to the Sheriff's Office the names of media members allotted seats reserved for media. The remaining seats shall be made available to members of the public on a first-come/first-served basis.

11. The Sheriff will establish procedures to govern orderly entry to the Courthouse and to the Courtroom and exit therefrom. Only those members of the media whom have been granted and possess a media credential identification card from the Sheriff's Office shall be permitted in the Courtroom during the proceedings. Persons who leave the Courtroom during these proceedings shall not be readmitted until the next recess, except as permitted by the Court.
12. After the proceedings are adjourned, exhibits that have been admitted into evidence may be made available for viewing purposes only to members of the media for a maximum of 30 minutes in the Courtroom, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The exhibits shall be available only one at a time to be viewed by members of the media.
13. The courtroom clerk assigned to the Courtroom for the proceedings shall serve as coordinator of the viewing of exhibits and as custodian of the same. Sheriff's Deputies shall be present during the viewing of exhibits.
14. Limited video or still photography of the exhibits may be permitted in the Courtroom as directed by the Court.
15. No "live" television, telephone, radio, or other broadcasts of exhibits shall be permitted during the viewing of exhibits.

16. The Sheriff's Deputies shall accompany the approved electronic devices into the Courtroom and will remain during the viewing of exhibits. Sheriff's Deputies may inspect any electronic device at any time for misuse, and, if necessary, confiscate the device if it appears to be in use or operated in violation of this Order. Sheriff's Deputies and other court personnel are not liable for any damages to or loss of electronic devices confiscated pursuant to this Order. *See* Md. Rule 16-208(c). Authorized members of the media are permitted to use such electronic equipment in the overflow seating spaces. Such devices cannot be used for audio or video recording or still photography in any location in the Courthouse. All personal belongings and work equipment shall be removed at the end of the hearing.
17. Members of the media shall not use cellular telephones within one-hundred (100) feet of the Courtroom during the course of the proceedings. Unless authorized by the Court, all electronic devices shall be turned off during court proceedings. The Court's Media Liaison shall be permitted to have electronic equipment for any important messages or emergencies that may arise.
18. Counsel for the parties shall be allowed to be present for any activity permitted by this Order.
19. No persons shall be permitted to enter the Courtroom or remain therein during the proceedings who is wearing any item on their person or exhibiting any sign which, in the opinion of the Court, may tend to affect

the orderly administration of the proceedings.

20. No food or drink is permitted in the Courtroom. The use of any lighted tobacco products or electronic vaporizers is strictly prohibited within the Courthouse.
21. No members of the media are permitted to contact, record, photograph, film, interview, or speak with any witness during the course of the proceedings regardless of the location of such witnesses pursuant to Md. Rule 16-606.
22. Court personnel or court-approved specialist shall not be recorded, photographed or otherwise depicted in conjunction with the showing of the exhibits.
23. Court personnel and court-approved specialist shall not be interviewed regarding the above captioned matter or the proceedings.
24. Media conferences or interviews with the Court's Media Liaison shall be permitted in a designated space within or around the Courthouse. Members of the media will be advised of the designated space at the start of the proceedings by the Court's Media Liaison.
25. No media conferences or interviews with attorneys, parties, or witnesses shall be conducted within the Courthouse or within fifty (50) feet of any entrance of the Courthouse. No persons may impede foot traffic on the sidewalks in front of the Courthouse or obstruct access to the Courthouse.
26. If members of the media believe that any aspect of this Order is unworkable or inappropriate, they may request modification(s) only if



Mr. Lionel Moore, Court Administrator