



# DISTRICT LEGAL GROUP, PLLC

*We protect your interests.*

*163 Waterfront Street. Suite 440*

*National Harbor, MD. 20745*

Tel (202) 780-9144

[www.districtlegalgroup.com](http://www.districtlegalgroup.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 7, 2024**

### **Statement on U.S. Attorney's Office Decision Not to Prosecute Park Police Officer in the Death of Dalaneo Martin**

Today, we received the heartbreaking news that the U.S. Attorney's Office has declined to pursue charges against the Park Police officer involved in the tragic death of 17-year old Dalaneo Martin stating they did not have enough evidence to prove a criminal offense beyond a reasonable doubt because the Officer **could** have been acting in self-defense. The Office further explained that they only bring criminal charges against Police Officers if they can prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt. For non-officer citizens, the standard for bringing criminal charges is probable cause.

This decision is deeply troubling and sends a disturbing message to our community that it is okay for officers to use deadly force against children in the community.

Video footage of the incident shows Dalaneo Martin in a groggy state after being approached while resting in his vehicle. Despite being told not to get into the vehicle, the Park Police officer chose to enter the backseat of the vehicle, fully closing the door behind him. Dalaneo was never posed a direct threat to the officer's safety or to others in the vicinity. Yet, seconds later, he paid the ultimate price in an encounter that never should have ended in the use of lethal force.

The Government also refuses to release the name of the officer who took Mr. Martin's life and the civil claim is still under review at the Department of the Interior.