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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Attorney Monique Worrell’s Response to Gov. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Rick Scott’s Public Letters Surrounding the Pine Hills Tragedy

ORANGE COUNTY, FL (March 1, 2023) — Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Monique H. Worrell released the following statement yesterday following the tragedy that took place in Pine Hills:

“My office is in receipt of a letter sent from Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office yesterday evening requesting information related to the juvenile record and prosecutions of the individual who perpetrated a senseless mass shooting that took the lives of three of our community members, and injuring two on February 22, 2023, in Pine Hills.

The letter, sent by Gov. DeSantis’ general counsel, asked for a wide range of additional records, documents and information. We are working now to compile all information and records that we are legally able to provide and will send to the Governor’s office in a timely manner. As part of our response to Gov. DeSantis’ request, we will also include specific information regarding how my office is required to respond as it relates to issues of juvenile justice.

There have been a number of misconceptions, some of which are included in the letter we received yesterday, floated by other elected officials in the aftermath of this tragedy that we are continually working to correct. The suggestions and accusations that my office’s “policies” promote crime are empty political statements unsupported by actual facts. During my administration, the police arrested Mr. Moses on a single case – a misdemeanor possession of cannabis charge. Without evidence that conclusively proves Mr. Moses was in possession of illegal marijuana, it is simply not possible to prove a crime occurred. This deficiency of proof in Mr. Moses’ case also prevented us from seeking to revoke his probation for the same arrest.

Thanks to a member of the news media, we are also in receipt of a letter written to me by Sen. Rick Scott. As of today, we have not received the letter in our office. Given that Sen. Scott didn’t send the letter to our office directly, but rather posted it on social media, the State Attorney’s office will not be responding to his request.

Our office remains committed to doing everything in our power to provide justice to the families who lost loved ones or were injured in this tragic shooting.”

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Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.

The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.