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NEWS RELEASE


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DORCHESTER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS CALL FOR APPEAL OF COURT DNA DECISION

(Cambridge, MD) – Dorchester County Law Enforcement leaders call upon the Attorney General to ask the United States Supreme Court to overturn a recent decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Maryland's highest court. That decision, handed down April 24, 2012, reversed a Wicomico County conviction where the State's DNA database was instrumental in solving an unsolved rape case.

The State's DNA Collection Act requires law enforcement to obtain DNA samples from persons who have been charged with certain qualifying crimes. DNA profiles are then created and stored in the State's database where those profiles are compared to profiles from unsolved crimes. This procedure has resulted in dozens of previously unsolved crimes being solved and prosecuted. The legislation was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1994, and amendments in 2008 are considered a cornerstone in Governor Martin O'Malley's efforts to combat crime in Maryland. The Court of Appeals held that the DNA Collection Act was unconstitutional as applied in that case. As a result, most of Maryland's law enforcement community has stopped collecting DNA samples of those persons charged with qualifying crimes.

While Dorchester County's Law Enforcement leaders respect the decision of the Court of Appeals, we respectfully disagree with that decision and urge Attorney General Douglas Gansler to seek review in the United States Supreme Court.

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Dorchester County	Dorchester County	City of Cambridge	Town of Hurlock

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