

STATE OF MARYLAND

*

IN THE CIRCUIT

v.

*

CIRCUIT COURT

ASTARTE S. HUNT

*

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Defendant.

*

CASE NO. C-03-CR-25-003568

* * * * *

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

The State Prosecutor for the State of Maryland informs and charges the Defendant, ASTARTE S. HUNT, with having committed the following offenses:

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At all times relevant to this Information:

A. Maryland Department of Health Police Department

1. The Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”) is an agency of the State of Maryland that works to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement.

2. Within the operations division of the MDH is the Secured Transport and Investigation Unit (“STIU”), also referred to as the Maryland Department of Health Police (“MDHP”).

3. The MDHP are responsible for policing 11 facilities or hospitals throughout Maryland.

4. Captains within the MDHP are the third highest rank, below the Director/Chief and Deputy Director/Deputy Chief.

5. All officers and employees of MDHP are governed by the STIU and State of Maryland policies and procedures.

B. Captain Astarte Hunt

6. Astarte S. HUNT (“HUNT”) is a certified police officer with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission.

7. HUNT served as a sworn law enforcement officer with the MDHP since 2016. HUNT was promoted to Captain in 2022, a supervisory position within the MDHP.

8. MDHP officers are required to take an oath every three years to be a Special Police Officer with the State of Maryland. HUNT most recently took the oath on October 14, 2022.

9. In April 2022, HUNT became the MDHP Captain responsible for overseeing the operations of all 11 facilities or hospitals operated by the MDH.

10. The primary purpose of HUNT's position was to manage police supervisors consistent with MDHP's goals and mission, and HUNT was accountable for the secure transportation and operations at MDH operated facilities and hospitals.

11. HUNT's office and primary assignment was located at Spring Grove Hospital, in Catonsville, Maryland, in Baltimore County.

12. HUNT's shift with MDHP was Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

13. As a Captain in MDHP, HUNT was assigned a work vehicle, utilized by MDHP and owned by the State of Maryland.

II. COLLEGE COURSES DURING WHILE ON DUTY

14. Paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Information are incorporated as through fully set forth herein.

15. Section III.A. of the STIU Policy titled Reporting for Duty, states that "[a]n employee of the MDH-STIU [MDHP] will not be absent without properly approved leave."

16. Similarly, section III.A. of the STIU Policy titled Neglect of Duty, states that, "An employee will not engage in any activity or personal business while on duty that would cause him/her to neglect or be inattentive to that duty," and that "[a] MDH-Police Officer will not,

without proper authorization, be absent from their assigned place of work during his/her tour of duty.”

17. MDHP officers and employees utilized time keeping software called Workday to record the hours worked with MDHP, and to request time off. Each officer is responsible for submitting their time at the end of each pay period.

18. Beginning in 2019, HUNT was enrolled in college courses at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (“UMBC”), located in Catonsville, Maryland.

19. HUNT enrolled in two psychology courses at UMBC during the Spring 2025 semester. HUNT’s classes were on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. through 11:15 a.m., and from 2:30 p.m. through 3:45 p.m.

20. UMBC’s classes for the Spring 2025 semester began on January 27, 2025. The last day of classes was May 13, 2025.

21. From on or about January 28, 2025 through approximately May 13, 2025, HUNT attended college courses at UMBC during her scheduled shift with MDHP.

22. Beginning on approximately July 1, 2024, HUNT was paid a salary of \$120,140.

23. HUNT submitted timesheets through Workday that reflected that she was working her shift with MDHP, while she was attending college courses at UMBC or completing related schoolwork. HUNT received payment of her full salary for time that she did not conduct work on behalf of MDHP.

COUNT ONE
(Misconduct in Office)

24. From on or about January 28, 2025 through and including May 13, 2025, at Baltimore County, Maryland, ASTARTE S. HUNT, in violation and perversion of her duties as a sworn law enforcement officer, did corruptly commit misconduct in office by knowingly, willfully, and

intentionally acting in her official capacity as a law enforcement officer and attending college courses without authorization or approved leave while representing on time cards that she was at work, in violation of the Common Law of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

Common Law

CJIS Code 2-0645

Penalty: Anything not cruel and unusual

COUNT TWO

(Theft Scheme - \$1,500 to \$25,000)

25. From on or about January 28, 2025 through and including May 13, 2025, at Baltimore County, Maryland, ASTARTE S. HUNT, did, pursuant to one scheme and continuing course of conduct, steal payroll funds from the State of Maryland, having a value of \$5,140.64, at least \$1,500 but less than \$25,000, in violation of Criminal Law Article, § 7-104 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

CR 7-104 Law

CJIS Code 1-1136

Penalty: 10 years and/or \$10,000

III. MISUSE OF STATE-OWNED VEHICLE

26. Paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Information are incorporated as through fully set forth herein.

27. Section 2.3 of The State of Maryland Policies and Procedures for Drivers of State Vehicles states that, “State vehicles are to be used to conduct official State business” and “shall not be used for personal reasons.”

28. MHPD employees are not permitted to take their MDHP vehicles home at the end of a work shift.

29. Nonetheless, throughout April and approximately three weeks of May 2025, HUNT utilized her MDHP vehicle for personal reasons, including on days that she did not work for MDHP.

30. Also, throughout April and the first three weeks of May 2025, HUNT drove her MDHP vehicle to her college courses, and home after each MDHP shift, without authorization or approval.

31. At the end of each month, MDHP officers, including HUNT, are required to submit a Fleet Master Vehicle Mileage Log (the “Log”), indicating the odometer reading at the end of each day, for the State-owned vehicle the officer utilizes. HUNT submitted the Log in April 2025, indicating that the odometer reading did not change on Saturdays or Sundays, despite utilizing the vehicle on those days.

32. HUNT included the odometer change resulting from HUNT’s use of the State-owned vehicle for personal reasons off-duty, into the following Monday’s odometer reading, to appear as if HUNT drove the miles during her scheduled shift.

33. For example, on Sunday, April 13, 2025, HUNT was off duty and indicated on the Log that the odometer reading on the State-owned vehicle utilized by her did not change. However, on this date, HUNT drove approximately 25 miles.

34. HUNT included that 25-mile change on the Log for Monday, April 15, 2025’s odometer reading.

35. On Saturday, April 19, 2025, HUNT was off duty and indicated on the Log that the odometer reading on the State-owned vehicle utilized by her did not change. However, on this date, HUNT drove approximately 25 miles.

36. HUNT included that 25-mile change on the Log for Monday, April 21, 2025’s odometer reading.

37. On Saturday, April 26, 2025, HUNT was off duty and indicated on the Log that the odometer reading on the State-owned vehicle utilized by her did not change. However, on this date, HUNT drove approximately 31 miles, arriving back at her residence after midnight.

38. HUNT included that 31-mile change on the Log for Monday, April 28, 2025's odometer reading.

39. On Sunday, April 27, 2025, HUNT was off duty and indicated on the Log that the odometer reading on the State-owned vehicle utilized by her did not change. However, on this date, HUNT drove approximately 49 miles.

40. HUNT included that 49-mile change on the Log for Monday, April 28, 2025's odometer reading.

COUNT THREE
(Misconduct in Office)

41. From on or about April 8, 2025 through and including May 13, 2024, at Baltimore County, Maryland, ASTARTE S. HUNT, in violation and perversion of her duties as a sworn law enforcement officer, did corruptly commit misconduct in office by knowingly, willfully, and intentionally acting in her official capacity as a law enforcement officer and using her State-owned departmental vehicle for personal use without authorization in violation of the Common Law of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

Common Law
CJIS Code 2-0645
Penalty: Anything not cruel and unusual

Charlton T. Howard, III
Maryland State Prosecutor

By:

/s/

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REQUEST FOR SUMMONS

PLEASE ISSUE a criminal summons in this case for the Defendant, ASTARTE S. HUNT,
to be issued to counsel for ASTARTE S. HUNT, at the following address:

Samuel Seidler, Esq.
2912 Smith Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

/s/
Abigail E. Ticse, Esq.
Senior Assistant State Prosecutor