

*** JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PARTIES ***

The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation (ACLU), Christopher Sharp, and the Baltimore City Police Department are pleased to announce that they have reached an agreement that will enhance police practices and will settle a longstanding lawsuit alleging violation of a citizen's right to record police activity in public and illegal search and seizure. The lawsuit was brought more than two years ago, on behalf of Mr. Sharp, who alleged that Police Department officers deleted personal videos, including many of his young son, from his cell phone after he had used the phone to record Police Department officers arresting a female friend at the 2010 Preakness.

Under the settlement, the Police Department has agreed to institute a new policy that confirms citizens' rights to photograph as well as video- and audio-record police activities in public or wherever citizens have the right to be. In addition, every officer will be trained on the new policy, and the Department will track complaints of misconduct to ensure adequate training for compliance with the new policy.

The ACLU and Mr. Sharp recognize that the Baltimore Police Department's current leadership has agreed to take steps to address the issues raised by this lawsuit and has engaged in diligent efforts to resolve this lawsuit in a positive and constructive manner. They applaud those efforts and the Department's willingness to implement the new policy and take the steps necessary for training, as set forth in this agreement. The Department recognizes that Mr. Sharp, in bringing this lawsuit, has focused on the need for systemic reforms that the parties all believe will improve policing in Baltimore.

The parties believe that it is in their best interests, and the best interest of the Baltimore community, to bring finality to the case. The parties all want to ensure that Baltimore citizens enjoy the full freedoms guaranteed to them by law, and all want effective and lawful policing. The parties all believe that police respect for the citizens they serve and adherence to the Constitution, along with training to aid the officers in doing so, are essential to achievement of their collective goal of making the Baltimore community a safer one. Mr. Sharp and the Department are gratified that this chapter has been brought to a close, and look forward to working together to realize the promise of the settlement announced today.

"We are proud to join with the Baltimore Police Department to announce a resolution to Christopher Sharp's case that upholds the First Amendment rights of all in Baltimore while supporting public safety," said Deborah A. Jeon, Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation. "The ACLU is grateful to Mr. Sharp for his courage in taking a stand for the fundamental, democratic right of citizens to use technology to hold government officials accountable for their actions in the public sphere."

"We are thankful for the hard work and creative thinking that was necessary to create this agreement. The policy developed through this agreement is reflective of our mission to

work closely and corroboratively with stakeholders in the community, to include the ACLU and Justice Department. We will continue to develop and implement practices, policies, and training that will set the standard for best practices for law enforcement agencies throughout the country.” said Police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts.