

STATE OF MAINE
CUMBERLAND, ss.

UNIFIED CRIMINAL DOCKET
PORTLAND
NO. CUMCD-CR-2023-002381

STATE OF MAINE

v.

MARCEL A. LAGRANGE, JR.,

Defendant

ORDER ON
STATE'S MOTION TO IMPOUND
SENTENCING EXHIBITS

Before the court is the State's Motion to Impound State's Sentencing Exhibits. In addition, Maine Trust for Local News ("MTLN") has moved to intervene for the purpose of opposing the State's Motion to the Impound. The court finds it appropriate for MTLN to intervene for this limited purpose, *cf. In re Maine Today Media, Inc.*, 2013 ME 12, ¶¶ 2, 8, 59 A.3d 499, and therefore considers MTLN's arguments herein.

The public right to access court documents is a "crucial principle" which must guide review of requests to seal documents. *Carey v. Me. Bd. of Overseers of the Bar*, 2018 ME 73, ¶ 12, 186 A.3d 848; *cf. State v. Frisbee*, 2016 ME 83, ¶ 16, 140 A.3d 1230. "The general availability of court documents to the public, however, is subject to 'countervailing interests [that] heavily outweigh the public interests in access.'" *Carey*, 2018 ME 73, ¶ 11, 186 A.3d 848 (alteration in original) (quoting *Rushford v. New Yorker Magazine*, 846 F.2d 249, 253 (4th Cir. 1988)); *see also* M.R.E.C.S. 10(A)(2)(f) ("The court may seal or impound a case or a court record from public access if it finds that a reasonable expectation of privacy substantially outweighs the public interest in public access to the case or court record.").

State's Sentencing Exhibits 1 through 3 consist of footage from Sergeant Timothy Morrell's dashboard camera and Sergeant Aaron Webster's body-worn camera, including graphic footage of the shooting itself and the deceased victims and surviving minor victims in the moments immediately after the crime. The court finds that the privacy interests of the surviving minor victims and all of the victims' families heavily outweigh the public interest in access to these specific exhibits. The court will therefore grant the State's motion to impound Sentencing Exhibits 1 through 3. With respect to the remaining sentencing exhibits, the court finds that no countervailing interest heavily outweighs the public interest in access.

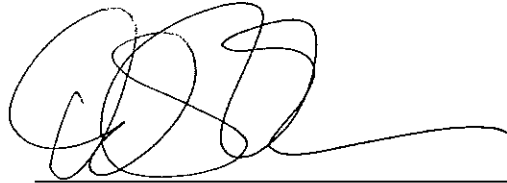
The entry is:

1. Maine Trust for Local News's Motion to Intervene is GRANTED.
2. The State's Motion to Impound is GRANTED with respect to State's Sentencing Exhibits 1, 2, and 3 and DENIED as to all other sentencing exhibits. The clerk is directed to seal State's Sentencing Exhibits 1, 2, and 3.

The clerk is directed to enter this order into the Unified Criminal Docket.

M.R.U. Crim. P. 53(a).

Dated: December 3, 2025



Deborah P. Cashman
Justice, Unified Criminal Docket

Jennifer F. Ackerman, Assistant Attorney General, for the State of Maine

Tina Heather Nadeau, Esq. and Alec Youngblood Avery Esq. for Defendant

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Maine Trust for Local News