

County of Dinwiddie

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FOUNDED 1752

March 21, 2023 Statement Regarding the Death of Ivor Otieno

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, and the entire Dinwiddie County community, I offer condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr. Ivor Otieno. We are all deeply saddened by the events that occurred, resulting in his death, at Central State Hospital.

While this tragedy occurred at a State-operated facility on Dinwiddie soil, I want to stress that the Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office was not involved, nor present at the scene. I would like to express appreciation to Dinwiddie County Fire & EMS for their valiant efforts to revive Mr. Otieno, upon arriving on scene. We commend our Commonwealth's Attorney, Ann Cabell Baskerville, for her swift pursuit of accountability and justice.

We pray that God will grant the family of Mr. Otieno, and everyone who has been impacted by this tragedy, peace, strength, and understanding in the days ahead. We are appalled by what appears to be the gross mistreatment of an individual in the midst of a mental health crisis. Tragedies such as this bring vital attention to the need to balance an adequate public safety response with compassionate care and treatment of individuals experiencing a mental health emergency.

We understand that the past few weeks have been difficult and traumatic for many in our community and beyond. As such, the Dinwiddie County Ministers Emergency Response Team (MERT), consisting of local pastors, is offering assistance to those in need of emotional or spiritual support. The Dinwiddie County MERT can be accessed by email MERT@dinwiddieva.us, and will respond within 24 hours. Anyone with an immediate need should contact the District 19 Community Service Board's 24-hour crisis line at (804) 862-8000, or (866) 365-2130.

-Dr. Mark E. Moore, Chair
Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors