



Office of the

Commonwealth's Attorney

for Dinwiddie County



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June 1, 2023

W. Kevin Massengill, County Administrator
Post Office Drawer 70
Dinwiddie, Virginia 23841

Dear Mr. Massengill:

In an unexpected dream come true, I have accepted an offer of admission to study in France for a master in International Governance and Diplomacy at the Paris School of International Affairs at L'Institut des Études Politiques. Sciences Po, as it is known, is one of the top 3 schools in the world for studies of political and international affairs, and I will be moving to Paris this summer. Accordingly, pursuant to Va. Code § 24.2-228.1, I ask that you accept this letter as official notice of my intent to resign from my elected office as Commonwealth's Attorney. I intend to end my status as a constitutional officer and county employee effective June 21, 2023. My last day of work will be June 20.

Since 2014 I have had the honor and privilege of serving as Commonwealth's Attorney for Dinwiddie County. My work here, as part of a wonderful team, included the successful prosecution in 2016 of Russell Brown for murdering Master Trooper Junius Walker as well as many other aggressive but heartbreaking prosecutions in cases with children and otherwise vulnerable victims. In 2019 I was grateful to be reelected after running unopposed. Our office has prosecuted thousands of felonies and misdemeanors in those years in the interest of the public safety of this community.

I am a worker, not a politician, and I have always focused on prosecution and not politics. The independence of the prosecutor is inherent in the balance and separation of powers set forth in the constitutions. An elected prosecutor fights to insulate the discretion afforded to the office from outside interference and respects the will of the voters as an expression of community self-governance in the election for the office. Decision-making support for independent prosecutors, their office staff, and their law enforcement teammates is good governance because doing so promotes public safety, stability, and justice for all. This includes fair funding for dedicated workers and fair treatment for honest efforts.

In a world of competing interests, limited resources, and shared humanity, I hope I have shown myself to be willing to make tough choices and to do so with integrity, courage, kindness, and compassion. The decision to leave this office was not an easy one but I am certain that it is time to go.

I believe that justice is universal and the fight for justice is eternal. I look forward to continuing to seek justice wherever my path takes me. I am profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to seek justice on behalf of the Commonwealth in Dinwiddie County the past nine years. I thank you and offer my best wishes to the public servant who will step in next.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Cabell Baskervill

cc:

Dr. Mark Moore, Board of Supervisors Chair
Hon. Joseph M. Teefey, Jr., Chief Judge, Dinwiddie Circuit Court
Hon. Ray P. Lupold, III, Chief Judge, Dinwiddie General District Court
Hon. Cheryl Wilson, Presiding Judge, Dinwiddie Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court