RAETHELLA JONES Clint - Civil Division

E.J. KING, JR. Chief Investigator

## CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY BRAZORIA COUNTY

May 3, 2024

Pursuant to our responsibilities as set forth in the Texas Rules of Professional Conduct, I am issuing the following statement.

Recently, one or more of our employees were responsible for the release of a Grand Jury Indictment to The Facts newspaper before the defendant named in the indictment had been arrested. In short, the Brazoria County Grand Jury had returned an indictment, the indictment had been filed with the District Clerk, a District Judge had reviewed the indictment, set a bond amount, and caused a warrant to be issued for the named defendant. It is sometime after this process, that a person or persons from our office caused the indictment to be released to the press before the defendant had been arrested.

Because of this mistake, we are undertaking a complete review of our policies and procedures regarding the handling of Grand Jury Indictments after they are returned, but, before service of the Indictment or execution of the warrant.

This is a policy and criminal procedure violation in our office and not a criminal law violation. At no time, were any Grand Jury secrecy laws violated. As such, it is now an employment matter. Accordingly, we will have no further comment.

Tom Selleck

Brazoria County District Attorney