

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 5, 2019

The Honorable Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Attorney General Donovan:

As you know, on Tuesday the Chittenden County State Attorney's Office dismissed, without prejudice, three pending cases that alleged violent criminal acts perpetrated against innocent Vermonters:

- the murder of Yogeswari Khadka in 2017;
- the murder of Richard Medina in 2017; and
- the attempted murder of Darryl Montague in 2015.

From a layperson's perspective, and certainly as Governor, I'm at a loss as to the logic or strategy behind this decision to drop all charges – especially considering the fact that the State's Attorney is aware the Department of Mental Health has no legal authority to continue to keep individuals hospitalized when they do not meet the legal criteria for hospital level of care. These cases are among the most violent crimes committed in Vermont in recent memory, and with their dismissal, there is no longer a possibility of supervision by the Department of Corrections or conditions of release to protect Vermonters.

I believe the victims, their families, and the public deserve a full review to ensure justice is served and public safety has been considered. Therefore, I respectfully request you conduct a thorough review to determine if your office should re-file any, or all, of these charges.

The top priority of government is public safety, and I certainly don't take this obligation lightly. A civil society cannot function properly when a heinous violent crime is not properly adjudicated, and the public is put at risk.

Please evaluate these cases and assure Vermonters that justice is, in fact, served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor