

## STATEMENT

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**SHERIFF JOHN C. GARCIA**

### STATEMENT FROM ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN C. GARCIA

"I want to thank Niagara County District Attorney Brian Seaman, his staff and the staff of the Buffalo Police Department Internal Affairs Division for their work on the investigation into the April 11, 2024 crash involving D.J. Granville.

"As has been previously stated, Granville was involved in a multi-vehicle property damage accident. Erie County Sheriff's Office personnel were never called to the scene, and we never participated in the criminal investigation. Granville informed us about this accident approximately 8-9 hours after its occurrence. Chief Granville stated that he was working, that there were no injuries, that he wasn't intoxicated, that he received a summons for driving the wrong way on a one-way street and that the Buffalo Police Department prepared an accident report. As acknowledged by his lawyer in court today, just days before the incident, Chief Granville sought medical treatment for physical and mental health issues. Soon after the motor vehicle crash, he availed himself to our Employee Wellness Program. This is not a matter I could previously disclose for obvious reasons. There is a need for confidentiality regarding employee wellness programs, as we need people to come forward when they are struggling. There are also HIPAA parameters by which we need to abide. I was unable to speak to this earlier. However, D.J. – through his attorney - made it public in court today.

"I, for one, do not feel he – nor anyone – should have his career defined by one night. In my 3 ½ years as Sheriff, D.J. Granville has presided over numerous investigations that have culminated with massive seizures of cocaine, fentanyl, meth, the seizure of more than 150 illegal firearms and the seizure of more than \$3.5 million in ill-gotten proceeds. His efforts have undoubtedly saved countless lives in our community and taken many bad actors off of our streets.

"Chief Granville has had a stellar career, but he obviously used terrible judgment when this accident occurred. Everyone at the Erie County Sheriff's Office, especially those in command positions, needs to be held responsible for their actions. While he should have taken responsibility sooner, D.J. has done so today.

"As our internal investigation continues, he is being suspended without pay effective immediately, based upon his guilty plea."