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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HAMPSTEAD MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR
FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT**

ELKTON- On Monday, March 7, 2022, John Kidwell III of Hampstead, Maryland pled guilty and was sentenced for Assault in the First Degree for an offense in which he attempted to stab a Correctional Officer while being held for the Carroll County Detention Center.

On May 26, 2021, Kidwell III flooded the toilet in his cell. DFC. Thomas Lee reported to the cell and retrieved the Defendant so that maintenance could come and fix the toilet. While maintenance was in the cell, Kidwell III told DFC. Lee, “Lee you are going to be the first cop whacked in Cecil County...” The Defendant was returned to his cell when maintenance was finished. Not long after, DFC. Lee returned to Kidwell III’s cell to retrieve him for recreation time, it was at this time Kidwell III brandished a sharp metal object, commonly referred to as a ‘shank,’ and attempted to assault DFC. Lee with it. Fortunately, DFC. Lee was able to act quickly and successfully subdued Kidwell to avoid further incident. Assisting Officers arrived shortly and helped secure the Defendant; DFC. Lee avoided injury.

Maryland State Sentencing Guidelines recommended between 8 and 13 years of active incarceration. The State, represented by State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer requested that the Defendant be sentenced to 10 years of active incarceration. Circuit Court Judge William W. Davis Jr. imposed a sentence of 10 years to serve in the Department of Corrections. State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer says of this, “Our Correctional Officers face risks each time they begin their shifts in the name of protecting the community. Their jobs are very dangerous and leave no room for error in the event of an emergency; this incident highlights these risks and emphasizes the importance of protecting our Correctional Officers.”

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