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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTH EAST MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFTER TRIAL

On Friday, January 17 2020, the Honorable Brenda Sexton of the Cecil County Circuit Court sentenced John Joseph Scott Jr, to a total of 25 years suspending all but 10 years. A Cecil County Jury found Mr. Scott guilty of unlawful use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, first degree assault and related offenses. Maryland Sentencing Guidelines recommended a sentence of 5-10 years for the firearm charge and 5-10 years for the first degree assault. The prosecutor recommended a sentence of 25 years suspending all but 12 years to serve. Mr. Scott will be on supervised probation for 5 years upon release. Conditions of probation include no contact with the victim and completion of an approved Domestic Violence Abuser Intervention Program.

In June 2019, the Cecil County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for service in North East. Upon arrival, deputies met with the victim and her family who reported that the Defendant held the victim at gunpoint and would not allow her to leave the apartment the two shared. Three firearms were recovered from the Defendant's home.

At sentencing, Assistant State's Attorney, Emma L. Hohner, presented a letter written by the victim's mother. The victim also provided a victim impact statement to the Court indicating she believed the Defendant was going to kill her. She expressed that the events of June 2019 still haunt her and affect her daily. She expressed hope the Defendant would be held accountable for his crime and be rehabilitated.

Cecil County State's Attorney, James A. Dellmyer, stated: "Statistics show that domestic violence is more likely to result in death when an abusive partner has access to firearms. The presence of a gun in domestic violence cases increases the risk of homicide of women significantly. My administration has prioritized the prosecution of domestic violence cases by creating a Special Victims Unit to handle these sensitive cases. This Unit includes prosecutors and victim support personnel with special training."

