

Resolution No. 66

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions

**Re: Censure of Anne Arundel County State's Attorney
Anne Colt Leites**

1 WHEREAS, IAFF Local 1926 represents
2 approximately 133 active and retired members of the
3 Annapolis Fire Department who proudly serve and
4 protect the residents, visitors, and workforce of
5 Annapolis, Maryland; and

6 WHEREAS, the City of Annapolis is the capital
7 of Maryland and serves a diverse population of
8 approximately 41,000 residents, who rely daily upon
9 the professional emergency services provided by the
10 members of IAFF Local 1926; and

11 WHEREAS, the members of IAFF Local 1926
12 respond to thousands of emergencies annually and
13 are committed to providing professional,
14 compassionate, and evidence-based emergency
15 medical care to all persons regardless of race,
16 ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or background; and

17 WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, Annapolis Fire
18 Department Firefighter III / Paramedic, Sister
19 Bridgett Weiss responded as part of a multi-unit
20 emergency medical response involving Renardo
21 Green; and

22 WHEREAS, approximately twenty months after
23 the incident, on February 16, 2023, Anne Arundel
24 County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leites charged
25 Sister Bridgett Weiss with Misconduct in Office

26 arising from issues related to the content of Leitess'
27 Special Incident Report concerning the June 1, 2021
28 incident; and

29 WHEREAS, the charge carried a potential penalty
30 of up to ten years imprisonment and was filed nearly
31 one year beyond the statutory period during which
32 misdemeanor charges may generally be brought in
33 the State of Maryland, resulting in significant
34 professional, financial, and personal hardship to
35 Sister Weiss; and

36 WHEREAS, the unprecedented decision to pursue
37 a criminal misconduct charge against a firefighter-
38 paramedic for matters relating to documentation
39 represented an extraordinary expansion of
40 prosecutorial authority and created significant
41 concern among fire fighters, paramedics, and
42 emergency medical providers throughout Maryland
43 and across the International Association of Fire
44 Fighters; and

45 WHEREAS, Sister Bridgett Weiss had established
46 a reputation throughout the Annapolis Fire
47 Department and the emergency medical services
48 community as a highly respected, dedicated, and
49 exemplary paramedic and public servant; and

50 WHEREAS, the criminal case against Sister
51 Bridgett Weiss was ultimately dismissed by the
52 Circuit Court; and

53 WHEREAS, on July 27, 2023, State's Attorney
54 Anne Colt Leitess elected to appeal the dismissal
55 rather than accept the ruling of the court; and

56 WHEREAS, the appellate courts of the State of

57 Maryland subsequently upheld the dismissal of the
58 charges against Sister Bridgett Weiss; and

59 WHEREAS, the prolonged legal actions
60 undertaken by Anne Colt Leitess created a chilling
61 effect upon emergency medical providers who must
62 make critical patient care decisions under stressful
63 and rapidly evolving circumstances; and

64 WHEREAS, the continued pursuit of criminal
65 prosecution against Sister Bridgett Weiss contributed
66 to her resignation from the Annapolis Fire
67 Department, depriving the citizens of Annapolis and
68 the State of Maryland of an experienced and highly
69 regarded Advanced Life Support provider; and

70 WHEREAS, the actions of Anne Colt Leitess
71 demonstrated a disregard for the realities of
72 emergency medical operations and undermined the
73 confidence of fire fighters, paramedics, and
74 emergency medical personnel who serve the public
75 every day; and

76 WHEREAS, IAFF members throughout Maryland
77 Maryland and across North America depend upon
78 fair treatment, due process, and the support of elected
79 officials who understand and respect the difficult and
80 often life-or-death decisions made by emergency
81 responders; therefore be it

82 RESOLVED, That the Delegates assembled at the
83 58th Convention of the International Association of
84 Fire Fighters formally censure Anne Arundel County
85 State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess; and be it further

86 RESOLVED, That notice of this resolution be
87 disseminated to Anne Arundel County State's

88 Attorney Anne Colt Leites, the Anne Arundel
89 County Executive, the Anne Arundel County
90 Council, the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association,
91 the Maryland Democratic Party, the Professional Fire
92 Fighters of Maryland, the Maryland AFL-CIO, the
93 AFL-CIO Executive Committee, and all IAFF
94 Affiliates.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 1926, Annapolis Professional
Firefighters

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt
CONVENTION ACTION: