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**FAIRFAX COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO RELEASES Q1 PRETRIAL DATA**

*Prosecutors continue to recommend release for most individuals charged with nonviolent offenses, continuing trends from last year*

Fairfax County, VA — Today, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano released additional data for the OCA's [bond data dashboard](#), showing that in the first quarter of 2023, **prosecutors recommended most individuals accused of nonviolent offenses be released pretrial, continuing the trend we saw in Q4 of 2022.** Over the same period, prosecutors continued to recommend detaining defendants accused of violent felonies much more often than the courts.

The OCA attributes these continued upward trends to consistent, intentional training efforts that have resulted in even closer adherence to the office's bond policy. Specifically, prosecutors recommended release in 90% of bond review hearings for nonviolent misdemeanors in the first quarter of 2023. Prosecutors have also continued to increase the percentage of release recommendations during bond review hearings for individuals accused of nonviolent felonies.

"Research shows that releasing more individuals pretrial is likely to serve the community's long-term safety interest," CA Descano said. "After our first analysis of pretrial data, we saw an opportunity to better align our pretrial detain/release recommendations with office bond policy. We then focused staff training time on these recommendations, asking attorneys to focus primarily on dangerousness when making recommendations for nonviolent offenses."

Jaime Michel, PhD, Data Director, is looking forward to developing comprehensive data tools for other prosecutor decision-points. "Data is a tool for us as well as the public," she said. "We use our data in real time to shape ongoing, iterative training efforts that ensure policies are being put into practice to make the community safer and more equitable."

CA Descano released the office's first-ever bond dashboard in October 2022 as part of the office's plan to build a sophisticated data program to drive decision-making and promote transparency.

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