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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOINT STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF
SEX ABUSE IN GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Greensboro, NC – Our firms are currently investigating whether administrators and employees within the Guilford County Schools were aware of sexual abuse and assault complaints against local Guilford County Schools teacher’s assistant and coach, Christopher Arnell Holland, prior to his arrest on March 12.

Holland has been indicted on charges including multiple counts of statutory rape, statutory sex offenses with a child by an adult, and indecent liberties with a child, among other charges. Holland is in custody pending trial, and news reports state that additional charges may be forthcoming.

Holland served as a teaching assistant and assistant basketball coach at Dudley High School from approximately August 2014 until his resignation on March 11, 2020.

“In addition to the criminal case that is proceeding, our firms have been engaged to sue Holland in a civil action and to determine whether the school district had received any prior complaints concerning him,” said Joel R. Rhine, of the Rhine Law Firm, P.C., in Wilmington, NC.

“If evidence shows that there were complaints made by parents, teachers or students prior to the time that Holland is alleged to have committed such horrific acts on our clients, we will file suit against the district for its failure to report and take action.”

Rhine’s firm is one of two currently leading a similar charge in two class actions against the New Hanover County Board of Education over similar allegations involving students there for assaults committed by a middle school teacher and high school teacher over a 20-year period.

“On April 14, we issued a Freedom of Information Act and Public Records request to Dr. Sharon Contreras, Superintendent of Guilford County Schools, for certain documents related to our investigation of the school board and Holland. To date, we have received no response,” adds Martin Ramey, another attorney with the Rhine Law Firm.



“Our investigation is separate from any investigation by law enforcement and could expose deficiencies within the school system relating to the handling of complaints and sexual assaults by teachers on students,” he adds.

“The protection of predators by the school system is a grave injustice to our youth and must be stopped,” says Rhine. “Members of our local school boards have a duty and an obligation as a school system and community to protect our children, and to not allow them to be treated as a sexual object by teachers.”

As victims continue to come forward, the attorneys ask that the media and public respect the privacy and sensitive nature of the injuries involved. Many victims are reliving their injuries as a result of the recent media coverage and investigations involving Holland.

We would also like to remind victims of sexual assaults in general, that in December of 2019, Governor Roy Cooper signed new legislation extending access to justice through our courts for victims of childhood sexual abuse. Under the current law, the statute of limitations is extended from 21 years of age to 28. It also allows for a revival of stale claims through December 31, 2021, regardless of when the assault occurred. We encourage anyone who was a victim of sexual assault to avoid delay in holding their abuser(s) accountable.

There are resources available to those who have been affected by sexual assault, including:

- [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#), tel.: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673). This group connects victims of sexual assaults to sexual assault service providers in their community.
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#), tel. : 1-800-273-8255. This group provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources.

We will be available for further comment once we conclude our investigation. Our thoughts are with the victims of this tragedy.

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