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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“THE MURDER OF CHILDREN BY GANG AND GUN VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED”**

**ORANGE COUNTY, FL** – The Office of the State Attorney is deeply saddened and disturbed by the recent tragic shooting death of a 6-year-old child, with the child's mother also injured by gang and gun violence. This devastating incident has sent shockwaves through our community, leaving families in mourning and instilling fear among our residents. In response, we issue this resolute statement to make it abundantly clear that “gang and gun violence in our community will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” said State Attorney Bain. Additionally, when the facts require resolutions outside the capacity of the Department of Juvenile Justice, State Attorney Bain will treat dangerous juveniles as adults.

“It is our job in the 9<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit to prosecute and keep the community safe. Early diversion helps juveniles stay off the streets, and we are investing more resources in programs that work. Diversion is twofold, and our office will take a tough stance on violent crime. When we charge teenagers as adults, we are deterring and addressing these acts of violence early to hold individuals accountable. Enough is enough,” said State Attorney Andrew Bain.

The path to a safer community begins with swift and decisive action against violent criminals and those responsible for heinous crimes, such as the one that has recently occurred. The lives and well-being of our residents are of paramount importance, and we stand united in our commitment to address this alarming trend that threatens public safety and challenges the very principles of peace and unity that we hold dear.

Our community leaders, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens are all joined in the effort to combat gang violence and to create a safer environment for everyone who calls our community home.

The Office of the State Attorney wishes to commend the Orlando Police Department for their unwavering dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts in swiftly making arrests in connection with this tragic incident. These arrests are a testament to the commitment of law enforcement agencies to maintaining peace, safety, and order in our community.

We recognize that the pursuit of justice is a collective effort, and it is through our collaboration with law enforcement and our community that we can identify and bring to justice those individuals who pose the greatest threat to our community. We are steadfast in our resolve to hold

the most dangerous and violent offenders accountable for their actions and ensure that they face the full consequences of the crimes they have committed.

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