



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION DIVISION

File No: 37-20188 _____

Date: 06/14/2018 _____

Complainant: Clark Matthews _____

SSN: _____

DOB: 10/22/1969 _____

Address: 6183 Jonathan Alaric _____

Email: cjmatt69@me.com _____

City: Gonzales _____

State: LA _____

Phone: Cell: (225) 268-0369 _____

Complaint Received By: Phone _____

Complaint / Consult

Alleged perpetrator of crime: [REDACTED] & several members of
the Ascension Parish Sheriffs Office _____

Date of Crime: 05/31/2018 _____

Authorities contacted by Complainant: Ascension Parish Sheirffs Office

Details of Complaint

On Thursday June 14, 2018 at 8:40 Am Special Agent Amos was notified by constituent services of a complaint from an individual who identified as C.J. Matthews. Special agent Amos called Mr. Matthews and inquired as to the nature of him complaint. Mr. Matthews identified himself as a police captain with the Ascension Sheriff's Office and wanted to report several members of that office for being malfeasant in their duty as police officers.

Captain Matthews recalled that on May 31, 2018 he was monitoring the firearms training for the aforementioned agency and noted that one of the supervisory juvenile detectives failed to show for training. A time later he (Capt. Matthews) would be informed that this supervisor was not present for training due to a case involving then Deputy [REDACTED]. Deputy [REDACTED] was a School Resource Officer for Ascension Parish. Capt. Matthews learned that Deputy [REDACTED] had been identified by a 16 year old student at an [REDACTED] in Ascension Parish. The student had informed investigators that she had an inappropriate relationship with Deputy [REDACTED] which may have involved a physical relationship but did involve sexting. The young female would show such digital contact between her and Deputy [REDACTED] via her cell phone. As that investigation progressed, Lt. Michael Sonjier of Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office would make contact with Deputy [REDACTED] via the female's phone and arranged a location for the two to meet for a tryst.

As deputies for the Sheriff's Offices moved to the arranged location to meet up with Deputy [REDACTED] they observed him leaving the area where the meeting was to take place. Deputy [REDACTED] would later be called into Chief Deputy Bobby Webber's office where [REDACTED] and Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED] met with Deputy [REDACTED] and one of them removed his cell phone from his person. Deputy [REDACTED] cell phone was taken to Gerald Whelton of the Investigative Services Division for the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office. Deputy Whelton would conduct a digital forensic examination of Deputy [REDACTED] phone, and relayed his findings back to Lt. Colonel [REDACTED] and Chief Deputy [REDACTED]. The findings of the forensic examination and the monitored acts of the juvenile investigators resulted in the resignation or dismissal of [REDACTED] as an Ascension Parish Sheriff's Deputy. The complainant was unsure of just how [REDACTED] left the department but he was certain that no law enforcement action was taken against him for crimes of indecent behavior with a juvenile, sexting, or attempted carnal knowledge of a juvenile. The failure of Lt. Colonel [REDACTED] and the Chief Deputy [REDACTED] to act as peace officers with the knowledge of a criminal act in hand is malfeasant, according to Capt. Matthews.

Additionally, Capt. Matthews alleged that a misappropriation of money from the auto repair shop for the Sheriff's Office was also occurring. Capt. Matthews noted that it is common practice that if a deputy is if found at fault for an accident in a parish vehicle, that the deputy is usually found to be financially responsible for a portion of the damage to repair that vehicle. Furthermore, an itemized list for the repair is done with billable hours for labor. Matthews stated the mechanics employed by the parish are salary employees, thus leaving only the parish prisoners who work in the garage to be billed for the worked hours. .

Investigator: Marc Amos

Reviewed By: _____

Date: _____

Comments:

Recommendation:	<u>Refer to:</u>
	<u>Response / File</u>
	<u>No Response / File</u>
	<u>Preliminary Inquiry</u>
	<u>Open Investigation</u>

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INVESTIGATION DIVISION

INVESTIGATIVE MEMORANDUM

Date: 8/13/2018

File No.: 37-20188

To: FILE
From: Ike Vavasseur
Title: Clark Matthews

On June 14, 2018, Clark Matthews, a captain with the Ascension Sheriff's Office (ASO), filed a complaint with Special Agent Marc Amos. In his complaint, Matthews reported that ASO Deputy [REDACTED] was allowed to resign from the department following the discovery that he was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a juvenile female student while assigned as a school resource officer. Matthews alleged that the investigation of the incident by ASO Chief Deputy [REDACTED] and Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED] disregarded evidence of criminal conduct by [REDACTED] and allowed [REDACTED] to resign and not face criminal charges.

On June 26, 2018, and in follow up to these allegations, Resident Agent In Charge (RAC) Ike Vavasseur and Deputy Director (DD) John Bosco met with ASO Sheriff Jeff Wiley and Chief Deputy [REDACTED] at the Sheriff's Office. From this meeting it was learned that [REDACTED] was in fact allowed to resign from the department as a result of his questionable conduct with a student during his assignment as a school resource officer. Sheriff Wiley explained that [REDACTED] had denied the allegations made against him and was allowed to resign from the department after it was determined that he was untruthful about some information that was not considered evidence of criminal wrongdoing. Sheriff Wiley stated he was awaiting the findings of the criminal investigation to determine if evidence existed for criminal charges, and the findings of the criminal investigation could also change [REDACTED] separation of employment status from voluntary resignation to an involuntary classification.

On July 19, 2018, RAC Vavasseur and Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Matt Vasquez met with ASO Major Craig Beaman to review the findings of the criminal investigation of [REDACTED]. Major Beaman reported the findings of the criminal investigation failed to establish sufficient evidence to merit criminal charges against [REDACTED]. Major Beaman explained the efforts and findings of the investigation to agents in great detail. Major Beaman added that the findings of the investigation were presented to First Assistant District Attorney Larry Buquoi of the 23rd Judicial District Attorney's Office who agreed that sufficient evidence of criminal wrongdoing did not exist in this case and charges could not be pursued. Major Beaman provided a copy of his official report that shows the investigative conclusion of the ASO investigation (refer to attachment). Other details of the criminal investigation can be found in ASO official reports.

Additionally, Major Beaman stated he was advised by Sheriff Wiley that certain facts revealed through the criminal investigation indicated [REDACTED] had violated ASO policy. And for that reason, [REDACTED] resignation would be amended to termination and a letter sent to the Louisiana Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to report an involuntary termination by [REDACTED] from the department.

RAC Vavasseur believes that based on information learned from the examination of the investigative actions taken by ASO and the legal review by the Ascension Parish District Attorney's Office that concurs with the ASO investigative findings that sufficient evidence does not exist to merit criminal charges, the allegations made by the complainant should be considered unfounded.



On August 3, 2018, RAC Vavasseur contacted the complainant and informed him the findings listed in this report. The complainant maintained that he believes the matter was not adequately investigated by ASO and that he believes [REDACTED] should have been charged in this case. The complainant also questioned the extent of the inquiry by RAC Vavasseur on behalf of the Louisiana Bureau of Investigations.

Attachment:

- Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Report filed by Major Craig Beaman



On 7-12-18, Major Craig Beaman along with Lt. Mike Songy, Lt. Gerald Whealton, SSgt. Mike Brunner, SSgt. Kelly Brown, and SSgt. Bob Escamillia reviewed Case # 18-24056 involving allegations made by a sixteen year old female against former Ascension Parish Sheriff's Deputy

██████████ The purpose of the review was to establish if any crimes had been committed in accordance with Louisiana law. After reviewing the case collectively, it was a consensus that there was no evidence to support a criminal charge against ██████████

On 7-12-18 at approximately 10:30 am, the same group of investigators met with First Assistant District Attorney Larry Buquoi of the 23rd Judicial District Attorney's Office. After reviewing the case, Mr. Buquoi advised investigators that we did not have any evidence which would allow him to prosecute a criminal charge against ██████████

Major Craig Beaman



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Criminal Investigations Division
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ok
Jules
7-18-19



Jeff Landry
Attorney General

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LOUISIANA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE
70804-9005

October 31, 2018

Sheriff Jeffrey Wiley
Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
828 S. Irma Blvd.
Gonzales, Louisiana

Subject: Disposition of LADOJ/LBI complaint number 37-20188

As you are aware, the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation received a complaint directed at high ranking members of your agency relative to potential malfeasance in office. Specifically, the complaint names senior deputies in command positions, [REDACTED]. Both are alleged to have failed to meet their lawful obligation and initiate a criminal investigation on a deputy (employee) when warranted. The complainant alleges a deputy sheriff, (now former) [REDACTED] engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a juvenile while employed as a school resource officer. Louisiana Bureau of Investigation agents were assigned to review the complaint and determine if cause existed to open an investigation into the matter. Upon meeting with your staff, it was learned that a criminal investigation was already underway, initiated by your detectives and during the interim and as a result of an administrative investigation, [REDACTED] was dismissed from his position. Our agents learned from the initial meeting with your investigators that advancement of the criminal case was pending additional information.

At a later date, your staff contacted our supervisory agent, Ike Vavasseur and informed them the criminal investigation did not yield sufficient evidence to support an arrest in the matter. While we both will agree that our investigative division does not possess supervisory or oversight authority over your organization, we acknowledge your effort of seeking prosecutorial review of the matter with the district attorney. Article V Section 26 (B) of the Louisiana State Constitution mandates the district attorney shall have charge of every criminal prosecution within his judicial district and there is no indication that District Attorney Babin has requested investigative or prosecutorial assistance in the matter.

It is the determination of this office that no action is required by members of the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation based upon your office's initiation of the investigation and subsequent review by the district attorney's office. In closing, our office has closed the complaint filed under file number 37-20188 as unfounded and notified the complainant accordingly.

Respectfully,

Jeff Bergeron
Special Investigations
Louisiana Bureau of Investigation