Investigative Report



City of Fairview Police Department

Detective Tameka Sanders
Detective Kevin Sheldon



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On March 4, 2016 Detective Sheldon and I were assigned to investigate allegations of criminal behavior on the part of employees at the Fairview Police Department. It was rumored that an Officer committed a burglary on a call for service and that there was at least one officer who witnessed the burglary.

Detective Sheldon and I began our investigation on March 7, 2016 by interviewing employees from the police department at the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. Each employee was interviewed separately.

Interviews with all other employees of the department were conducted at the Fairview Police Department (except for three officers who were on Administrative Leave) during the same week. While most officers shared something they were concerned about, there were very few that had information about criminal conduct. Because the focus of this investigation was to determine if any crimes were committed, this report will only include allegations of criminal conduct and the findings.



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Lieutenant Pat Stockdale

Allegation:

Assault, Filing a False Report

Date:

05-14-2006

Location:

Lake Road, Fairview, TN

An employee with the City of Fairview Police Department reported as a new officer they were asked to respond to an address on Lake Road to serve an outstanding arrest warrant with Pat Stockdale. The employee advised that upon arresting the suspect, Lt. Stockdale ran him into every door jamb in the residence. Once on the deck at the rear of the residence, the employee reported that Lt. Stockdale pushed the arrestee off of the deck while handcuffed behind his back and intoxicated. The employee stated that the arrestee was non responsive and an ambulance was called to check him out. The employee added that injuries were observed on the arrestee's head and leg and that they and another employee who was on the scene told Lt. Stockdale several times that the arrestee needed to be checked out before he actually agreed to call an ambulance. The arrestee was transported to Williamson Medical Center. The employee could not advise what happened at the hospital and stated the report written by Lt. Stockdale was not a true account of what was observed and what led to the call for an ambulance. At the time of the offense, the employee stated Pat Stockdale was the shift Corporal

Allegation:

Burglary type offense

Date:

After 05-14-2006

Location:

Cox Pike, Fairview, TN



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An employee with the City of Fairview Police Department reported that sometime after May 14, 2006 the alarm continued to go off at a Cox Pike address. The employee responded with Pat Stockdale. According to the employee, Lt. Stockdale got upset that the alarm kept going off, turned around and kicked the door open. The employee stated that Pat Stockdale referred to his foot as the "Hickman Express." The employee looked to see if there was any damage to the door after it was kicked open and didn't see any. The employee stated Lt. Stockdale walked around the residence and they left the scene.

Allegation: Burglary-type offense

Date: Between May 2011 and October 2011 (excluding time period between July 4 -

10, 2011)

Location: Roundtree, Fairview, TN

An employee with the City of Fairview Police Department stated they responded to a loud music call with Lt. Pat Stockdale. When no one came to the door, Lt. Stockdale popped the lock with a credit card and opened the door. When the employee saw him open the door, they stated they stepped back and could not state whether or not Lt. Stockdale went inside. The employee stated they believe the source of the noise was a television. I asked the employee how they were able to remember the address and the employee stated they responded to that particular address a lot for the same type of call. The employee didn't believe anyone was home at the time.

Allegation: Burglary-type offense

Date: Between May 2011 and October 2011 (excluding time period between July 4 -

10, 2011)

Location: Unknown



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Sergeant Ronnie Conner

Allegation:

Falsifying a Government Document

Date:

February 5, 2016

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police Department)

During an interview with Pat Stockdale on March 18, 2016, he shared that he was made aware that Sgt. Ronnie Conner was filling out secondary employee forms for officers who'd worked at Apex Security and was backdating the forms to show that they were filled out and signed on January 1, 2016. As a result, Pat Stockdale suspended Sgt. Conner and contacted General Kim Helper with the District Attorney's Office. Lt. Stockdale also provided me with a copy of the statement Sgt. Conner wrote when questioned about backdating the forms.

Findings: Based on the statement written by Sgt. Conner, he backdated the employment forms after being directed to do so by Chief Terry Harris. On May 20, 2016, Terry Harris verified that he had in fact instructed Ronnie Conner to back date the forms. Additionally we learned that the secondary employment forms are filled out once a year and in past years when it is realized the forms have not been filled out, they are backdated. This is a common practice in the police department and is not a criminal act.



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Lieutenant Shane Dunning

Allegation: Questionable behavior

Date:

Mid February 2016

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

An employee with the City of Fairview Police Department reported that Shane Dunning cursed and threatened a confidential informant. The employee stated Shane Dunning told the informant that if they didn't get 3 buys from a particular individual in a week he would have their probation violated. The employee stated that he constantly threatens confidential informants. The employee also shared information about agents from the TBI coming to the department because Lt. Dunning used phones seized from defendants to make drug arrangements on other cases. The employee stated the TBI came to the department in the summer of 2015.

Allegation: Questionable behavior

Date:

February 2, 2016

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

An employee with the City of Fairview Police Department reported the day after the arrest of Ronnie Williams, they were called into Lt. Dunning's office. The employee stated they were accused of cutting corners on Ronnie Williams' background check and that Shane Dunning produced a criminal history that indicated he'd been arrested which was not in the employee's background report summary. Upon further review of the produced document, it was discovered that the criminal history was



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run eight years prior by the TBI. Sometime after their meeting, the employee learned from Shane's wife that the night before their meeting, Assistant Chief Mark Sutton came to their home and was heard saying "We've got problems" before the two went to another part of the home. In speaking with Shane Dunning, the employee believed that there were records that were not provided during the initial background check in 2014 added to Ronnie Williams' file in order to lay blame on the employee if the media questioned why he had been hired. The employee also stated that they had not been told to do another background check on Ronnie Williams after it was decided that he would be hired full time.

Allegation: Filing a false report, Conspiracy to file a false report, Official

misconduct

Date:

July 8, 2015

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

During an interview with an employee with the City of Fairview Police Department, the employee shared that Fairview resident Robert Hamilton reported to him in March of 2016 that he was arrested on July 23, 2015 and believed the arrest was the result of a disagreement he'd had with a friend of Assistant Chief Mark Sutton's. After obtaining a copy of the report written by Lt. Dunning which indicated he was conducting an investigation into stolen weapons in the city of Fairview, we began to do research on where the gun may have been reported stolen since it was not indicated in the report.

Detective Sheldon and I met with and interviewed Robert Hamilton about his arrest and asked why he thought the arrest was designed to get back at him for a



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disagreement he'd had with a friend of Mark Sutton's. Mr. Hamilton reported that for many years he ran a tire shop in Dickson, TN and that a few years ago Byron Anderson, a friend of Mark Sutton's and an acquaintance he'd known for many years asked if he would lease a portion of the property for him to use as a tow lot for his wrecker business. Mr. Hamilton agreed to do so at a rate of \$450 per month not realizing at the time that he did not have the authority to do so since he was leasing the property himself. Mr. Hamilton stated that Mr. Anderson was often late on his rent and would get several months behind. During those times, Mr. Hamilton stated that Mr. Anderson would offer a car or some other item as payment for the debt. Mr. Hamilton agreed to take the items so that he could sale them to get some type of payment from Mr. Anderson's use of the property.

In early 2015 when Mr. Anderson was approximately \$2000 behind, he offered a Stagg Arms AR-15 as payment and told Mr. Hamilton that he could accept the gun or nothing at all. Mr. Hamilton accepted the gun despite the fact that he is a convicted felon, something that Mr. Anderson also knew.

A few months later Mr. Hamilton received an eviction notice from the landlord and believes that Mr. Anderson went behind his back and made false claims to the landlord that resulted in the landlord wanting him out of the building. When asked what benefit Mr. Anderson would gain from such an act, Mr. Hamilton stated Mr. Anderson wants the entire building instead of the lot area.

Mr. Hamilton advised there were several court appearances surrounding the eviction until finally he agreed to vacate the building. During the same time, Mr. Hamilton's attorney sent Mr. Anderson a letter evicting him from the property. Approximately one week after the delivery of that letter, Mr. Hamilton stated his nephew, Alex Hamilton, began receiving calls from Lt. Shane Dunning with the Fairview Police Department demanding that both of them meet with him or be arrested.



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During an interview with Lt. Pat Stockdale (accompanied by his attorneys – Georgia Feldner and Venus Niner), he reported that after the arrest of Ronnie Williams a statement was prepared in the event that news media called with inquiries. He advised on February 3, 2016 he got a call from a representative from Channel 4 news and read the prepared statement. While he was reading the statement, Assistant Chief Sutton came into his office and was making a gesture with his finger across his neck indicating he needed to end the call. Once the call was complete, Lt. Stockdale stated Assistant Chief Sutton made three phone calls from his cell phone. Based on what he could hear Assistant Chief Sutton say, he could tell the call was made to Auxiliary officer Billy Gross. Lt. Stockdale questioned Assistant Chief Sutton's reason for contacting Billy Gross once he hung up. The question enraged Sutton. Lt. Stockdale stated that Sutton yelled and cursed him and told him he would get on board or find another job and that Billy Gross would remain a part of the department. When Lt. Stockdale stated he was going to speak with the city manager about what was going on, Sutton began to "foam at the mouth" because he was so angry. Lt. Stockdale stated Assistant Chief Sutton stood in the doorway and refused to let him exit the room. He stated they were in each other's faces but he was trying to leave in order to deescalate the situation. He stated other officers finally intervened and he was able to leave the office only to have the assistant chief follow him. He stated Assistant Chief Sutton also told him if he told the city manager and TBI as he'd stated, he would never draw another paycheck from the city of Fairview. Lt. Stockdale was asked if he wished to pursue criminal charges as a result of the incident. He advised he did not.



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Allegation:

Filing a false report, Conspiracy to file a false report, Official

misconduct

Date:

July 8, 2015

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

This allegation was made by Robert Hamilton and was lodged against both Assistant Chief Sutton and Lt. Shane Dunning. Mr. Hamilton believed that an investigation that led to his arrest was based upon a lie and was orchestrated by Assistant Chief Sutton and his friend, Byron Anderson. Mr. Hamilton believed that a disagreement between him and Mr. Anderson was the reason for the action and that Assistant Chief Sutton directed Lt. Dunning to take action against him. Lt. Dunning denied that Assistant Chief Sutton directed him to take unwarranted action against Mr. Hamilton and that Assistant Chief Sutton had him to take a report from Byron Anderson and to take lawful action if applicable.

Findings:

There were no criminal acts committed by Assistant Chief Sutton

based on this allegation



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Allegation:

Filing a false report, Conspiracy to file a false report, Official

misconduct

Date:

July 8, 2015

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

This allegation was made by Robert Hamilton and was lodged against both Assistant Chief Sutton and Lt. Shane Dunning. Mr. Hamilton believed that an investigation that led to his arrest was based upon a lie and was orchestrated by Assistant Chief Sutton and his friend, Byron Anderson. Mr. Hamilton believed that a disagreement between him and Mr. Anderson was the reason for the action and that Assistant Chief Sutton directed Lt. Dunning to take action against him. Lt. Dunning denied that Assistant Chief Sutton directed him to take unwarranted action against Mr. Hamilton and that Assistant Chief Sutton had him to take a report from Byron Anderson and to take lawful action if applicable.

Findings:

There were no criminal acts committed by Assistant Chief Sutton

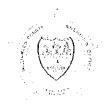
based on this allegation

Note: Assistant Chief Sutton was not interviewed because there were no criminal acts to interview him about



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Conclusion

All facts of this investigation have been shared with District Attorney Kim Helper. She has determined that there is no evidence to support the prosecution of any party. This case is closed.



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Mr. Hamilton stated he contacted his attorney, Shawn Sergio who went to the police department. Mr. Hamilton stated he joined them later the same day and was questioned about having the AR-15 by Lt. Dunning. He stated initially he lied about possessing it, but under the advice of his attorney, admitted he had it. Mr. Hamilton stated Lt. Dunning wanted the weapon in order to make sure it was not stolen and led him to believe if he cooperated, he would not be arrested. Mr. Hamilton left the police department with that belief and was surprised when he was arrested later in the month and believes the stolen weapon investigation was a rouse orchestrated by Byron Anderson and Mark Sutton as retaliation for evicting Mr. Anderson. Mr. Hamilton made additional allegations against Lt. Dunning that did not happen in his presence and were relayed to him by Alex Hamilton. We were never able to make contact with Alex Hamilton to validate the claims made by Robert Hamilton. We met with Byron Anderson who acknowledged he and Assistant Chief Mark Sutton are friends. Mr. Anderson verified that he did rent a space from Mr. Hamilton and did trade him a weapon as payment for rent. He explained that prior to renting the property, he and Mr. Hamilton had a deal to hunt land in Hickman County, TN. Mr. Anderson had the land cleared and worked on and once everything was complete, the cost was approximately \$10,000. He and Mr. Hamilton were to divide the cost but when Mr. Hamilton never paid anything toward his half, he began deducting his monthly rent from the amount Mr. Hamilton owed him. After several months, Mr. Hamilton told him those were two separate deals and wanted payment for the months he didn't pay rent. The two agreed on items for trade as payment. Mr. Anderson admitted that he knew that Mr. Hamilton had a felony on his record but saw him with a gun on one occasion and asked him about it. He stated Mr. Hamilton told him that he and his wife were able to pay an attorney a lot of money and got something done that made it okay for him to possess a firearm.



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Mr. Anderson showed us a text message sent from Robert Hamilton in which he asks "Do you want to drop off a check, money or gun at the shop?" Mr. Anderson stated he would send a check in response. It is important to note that during the meeting with Mr. Hamilton, he stated he never wanted a gun for payment; that he accepted it after Mr. Anderson insisted he take it because he didn't have anything else to offer.

Mr. Anderson admitted after having to go to court because of Mr. Hamilton, he was angry with him. He went to the TBI website to see if he was classified as a convicted felon. When he discovered he was, he decided he would report him for being a felon in possession of a gun. He decided to make the report to Mark Sutton because he is a friend and he trusts him and because Mr. Hamilton lives in Fairview, TN. Mr. Anderson stated he was also concerned because Mr. Hamilton told him that a Smith and Wesson handgun he'd purchased from Alex Hamilton was stolen and that he knew for a fact that it was stolen and that he'd given it to Alex Hamilton. Mr. Anderson was concerned that Mr. Hamilton may report him for possessing a stolen weapon so he also asked Mark Sutton to make sure the weapon was not stolen. Mr. Anderson stated he went to the police department and that Mark took him to Lt. Dunning's office to take care of the report. Mr. Anderson stated he is familiar with Lt. Dunning but they are not friends. He advised he made Lt. Dunning aware of the statement Robert Hamilton made about the handgun he'd gotten from Alex Hamilton being stolen and knowing for a fact that he'd possessed the AR-15 because he'd provided it to him as payment for rent.

Mr. Anderson admitted that he turned Mr. Hamilton in because he was angry with him because he kept having to go to court due to Mr. Hamilton's lies.

Detective Sheldon and I interviewed Shane Dunning about this incident. Lt.

Dunning remembered the case well and stated that his focus was on the fact that there was a felon in possession of a gun who also lived near a school. He stated he



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didn't focus much on the stolen weapon and couldn't remember if he ran the serial number of the weapon since his focus was to get the gun. He advised in order to verify whether or not Mr. Hamilton was a convicted felon, he ran his criminal history, contacted the county where the crime took place and consulted the district attorney's office about the appropriate charge and got clearance to make an arrest for a felon being in possession of a firearm. Lt. Dunning stated he did not let Mr. Hamilton know he was investigating him for being a felon in possession of a gun when they met because his focus was on taking possession of the weapon. He stated that aside from bringing him to his office, Mark Sutton never directed him to do anything and they did not create a story for the purpose of arresting Mr. Hamilton. I asked Lt. Dunning if he searched Mr. Hamilton's residence and he advised he asked but was denied and stated he could've done a search warrant but did not. I was able to verify with the District Attorney's Office that Lt. Dunning did in fact seek guidance in this case. Research by the criminal analyst with the Sheriff's Office supported that Lt. Dunning's initial searches related to this case were about Mr. Hamilton's background and not about a stolen weapon. There was also a check conducted by a member of the Fairview Police Department to determine whether or not the weapon was stolen around the time of Mr. Hamilton's arrest. Detective Sheldon and I met with the landowner of the property leased by Mr. Hamilton. The landowner advised that he rented property to Mr. Hamilton and from 2013 through 2015 he was working out of town. When he returned people in the community told him about things that were going on at the shop he'd rented to Mr. Hamilton. He advised there was a lot of damage to the shop, that Mr. Hamilton was no longer running his business out of the shop and that there was drug activity. The landowner gathered information about the new tenants, Alex Hamilton who was running his own tire shop and Byron Anderson who was using a portion of the property as a tow lot and began eviction proceedings against Robert Hamilton. The



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landowner did not know Byron Anderson before beginning the proceedings and had him and Alex Hamilton subpoenaed to court as proof that Robert Hamilton subleased the property to them which violated his lease agreement. The landowner advised that Robert Hamilton lied to him and told him that he and Byron Anderson were business partners which meant he had not violated the lease agreement. During our interview with Byron Anderson he mentioned Mr. Hamilton asking him to say they were partners and also showed us a text message in which he instructed Mrs. Anderson to stop writing "rent" in the memo portion of the check and to write "partnership payment" instead. The landowner advised it took approximately nine months to get his property back and that Mr. Anderson would not lie for Mr. Hamilton about being business partners. The landowner stated because of that, he has allowed Mr. Anderson to rent the tow area and has never had a problem with him making his payments on time. He showed us a copy of a check that was returned by the bank for insufficient funds that Mr. Hamilton provided as rental payment and stated there was a host of other problems with Mr. Hamilton with dishonesty being one of them.

Findings:

At this time, based on our investigation, we do not have any proof that Lt. Dunning committed a crime. It is clear that Lt. Dunning wrote a report that did not illustrate all that he did on this case. According to his report he was investigating stolen weapons. Based on his statement and our investigation, the focus of his investigation was a felon in possession of a weapon. It is also important to note that Robert Hamilton was arrested in July of 2015 and likely made multiple court appearances but did not report this allegation until sometime after February, 2016 when a spotlight was cast on the police department about another officer.



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Robert Hamilton is a felon and committed a crime that makes it illegal for him to possess a firearm.



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Assistant Chief Mark Sutton

Allegation:

Questionable behavior

Date:

Between February 2-5, 2016

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)

Several employees made mention of a situation that "blew up" following the arrest of former city employee Ronnie Williams. During our investigation we learned that Billy Gross was hired as an auxiliary officer around the same time as Ronnie Williams and the two are friends. Both of them run separate security companies and employed City of Fairview Officers at those companies. During the week following Ronnie Williams' arrest, Mark Sutton continued to have contact with Billy Gross. According to employees with the City of Fairview, Mark Sutton shared information with Mr. Gross about what was happening in terms of when the media was made aware of Mr. Williams' arrest. Based on their observation, Assistant Chief Sutton didn't seem to believe there was a problem with officers at the department continuing to work security jobs for Apex and UPS (Mr. Gross' company). When Lt. Stockdale told him that it didn't look right and ties needed to be cut, Asst. Chief Sutton became very angry. One employee stated the two argued loud enough for anyone who was in the department at the time to hear. The employee stated that Mark Sutton got in Lt. Stockdale's face and stood in the door of Lt. Stockdale's office to prevent him from leaving when Lt. Stockdale said he was going to call the TBI and wanted to leave to go upstairs to tell the City Manager about what was going on. It was reported that one employee got between them to try to deescalate the situation while another employee physically pushed Assistant Sutton out of the



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way so that Lt. Stockdale could get out of the office. Once Lt. Stockdale left the area, Mark Sutton went into Lt. Dunning's office and began to argue with him after Lt. Dunning agreed with Lt. Stockdale's position.

We were able to verify that an employee got between Assistant Chief Sutton and Lt. Stockdale in an attempt to deescalate the situation.

Another employee who spoke about the near physical fight shared that they were on the phone with a citizen discussing a case and could hear the yelling and had to terminate the call because of it. The employee stated that when they realized that another employee was trying to break them up, they told the employee to get out of the middle of it.

An employee who was in the meeting with Lt. Dunning when he accused another employee of cutting corners on Ronnie Williams' background check stated they asked to take a closer look at the criminal history and noticed it was run by TBI long before Mr. Williams came to work at their department.

An employee who was not in the meeting mentioned that they believed Assistant Chief Sutton and Lt. Dunning conspired to blame the employee who did the background check on Ronnie Williams for any questions that may arise with the check because Assistant Chief Sutton would have been the only one to have possession of the paperwork that was alleged to have been discovered after the 2014 background check when Mr. Williams applied to be an auxiliary officer.

Allegation: False Imprisonment

Date:

February 3, 2016

Location:

7100 City Center Way, Fairview, TN (The Fairview Police

Department)