

Incident # 2204-0172 (10)

BAILEY, C

Case # 2204-0172

Victim 1: Dwayne Howell

Victim 2: Levi Howell

Suspect: Ryan Williams

Investigator: Lieutenant Detective Carl Bailey

On Thursday July 28, 2022 reporting officer was notified by Police Chief Becker that the Anderson County District Attorney had requested a criminal investigation on case # 2204-0172.

The investigation was conducted it was found that on April 27, 2022 Levi Howell and the son of Ryan Williams had gotten into an altercation on school property. The school official had called the parents Dwayne Howell and the Ryan Williams and requested them to come to the school. Mr. Howell arrived at the school and spoke to the officials. They explained the process and released his son to him and told them they were free to leave. During this time Mr. Williams had arrived and contacted Deputy Abbott out front. Mr. Williams was described as very angry upon arrival. The deputy had not been made aware of any altercation and told Mr. Williams they could go inside and check on the matter. The Deputy began walking with Mr. Williams toward the office when they passed two individuals coming out which was later learned by the Deputy to be Mr. Howell and his son. Mr. Williams stated something and when the deputy started inside, he turned, and Mr. Williams was gone. The deputy continued to investigate the incident that had occurred.

Mr. Howell and his son pulled away from the school and traveled on Hicks Street, a white unmarked police vehicle then approached from behind with its lights on. Mr. Howell pulled over on Hicks Street and was approached by Mr. Williams who appeared angry and aggressive he was wearing some type of shirt or jacket that had Oliver Springs police on it. Mr. Williams told Mr. Howell to step out of his car and step back to his patrol vehicle. Howell told Williams he would go back to the school, and they could talk, and Williams told him he was not going anywhere that his son was being charged with assault. Mr. Howell questioned the authority of an Oliver Springs Police Officer making a traffic stop while in the city of Clinton. Mr. Williams made a phone call while out on the stop and was demanding whoever was on the other end to come to his location. Due to Mr. Williams being so angry and being aggressive toward him Mr. Howell called the Clinton E-911 dispatch. He was told to come to the police department and an officer would speak with him about the matter. Mr. Howell got back into his vehicle left the traffic stop and started to the Clinton Police department but noticed two officers standing in front of the middle school, so he pulled over to them. Howell pulled in and Williams followed Howell approached the deputies and Williams went into the school. Howell spoke with deputies Bannach and Abbott. He was told that he was free to go that the school had handled the matter. Mr. Howell then responded to the Clinton Police Department where he spoke with Lieutenant Bailey and Det. Sgt. Gregory. Det. Sgt. Gregory made a documentation report of the incident and Mr. Howell was told if he wished to file a complaint on the Oliver Springs officer to go to the Oliver Springs Police department and speak with the Chief.

Mr. Howell did go to the Oliver Springs Police Department and did speak with Chief Laxton on May 26, 2022. He explained what had happened he was told that it was all in interpretation. Mr. Howell has not had any further contact with anyone from the Oliver Springs Police Department at the time of this criminal investigation, other than on his sons' juvenile court date he felt he was being intimidated by Mr. Williams. He said Mr. Williams showed up and kept walking by the waiting area and then approached the prosecutor's desk behind the wall. Mr. Howell stated that Mr. Williams son was not present at the time. He felt Mr. Williams was using his authority to receive special treatment.

Reporting officer interviewed Deputies Abbott and Bannach on August 1, 2022, at the Clinton Police Department. It was confirmed that an altercation between two middle school students had occurred. It was confirmed that Mr. Williams was there and was driving a white unmarked SUV Police Vehicle at the time. It was confirmed that Mr. Williams had an article of clothing on that had Oliver Springs Police on it. It was confirmed that Mr. Williams was very angry at the time. It was confirmed that neither of the deputies had asked or wanted Mr. Williams to make a traffic stop and detain Mr. Howell and his son. It

was confirmed that Mr. Howell and his son had been released to leave by school officials. It was confirmed that Mr. Williams did want Mr. Howells son arrested for assault. It was learned during these interviews that Mr. Williams had made a phone call during the traffic stop and he in fact had called Deputy Wendy Garrison.

Reporting officer interviewed Deputy Wendy Garrison on August 1,2022 she advised that she did receive a phone call from Mr. Williams on that date and he was angry and wanted her to come to his location he told her he was near the Chevrolet dealership. She asked what for and she made out that his son had been in an altercation. She told him that she wasn't near there and she would call Deputy Bannach. Deputy Garrison stated she did not know that Williams was out on a traffic stop at the time she did not learn that information until after she arrived at the school.

The reporting officer issued a Judicial Subpoena to the Chief of the Oliver Springs Police department requesting all information that was available about the traffic stop incident. The subpoena was hand delivered to Chief Laxton on August 4, 2022, at the Oliver Springs Police Department. Chief Laxton made a copy of the documentation that he had on the case which was a copy of the Clinton Police Department report and security video footage of May 26, 2022, when the victim came to the Oliver Springs Police Department and spoke to Chief Laxton about incident. Chief Laxton stated that was the first he had heard about the incident. He said he called Assistant Chief Campbell on May 26,2022 and he said he would check with Chief Becker. Chief Becker called him back and said that it had been investigated and been closed. Chief Laxton again stated that May 26, 2022, was the first he heard of the incident. He had received a call from district Attorney advising him that the victim had made a complaint and Chief Becker had been requested to assign someone to investigate and they would be getting into touch with him.

While at the Oliver Springs Police Department reporting officer spoke with Assistant Chief Williams. He was asked if he would like to give a statement about the incident. Assistant Chief Williams stated that he had hired an attorney at those questions be handled through him. He provided contact information for Attorney Charles Burks.

Reporting officer had a follow up conversation with Chief Becker. He stated he had a phone conversation with Chief Laxton around May 26, 2022. Chief Laxton told Chief Becker that Williams had told him about the incident on April 27,2022 Laxton said Williams told him there might be a complaint on me. Laxton during the conversation asked Chief Becker if he needed to do an Internal Investigation. Reporting officer did a follow up phone call with Chief Laxton August 4,2022 in reference to the conversation between he and Chief Becker. Reporting officer to confirm that Chief Laxton was notified and when was asked about the conversation with Chief Becker about Williams telling him that he might be getting a complaint. Chief Laxton stated that's not the way the conversation was worded. That Ryan briefed him that evening of April 27,2022 stating his son had been assaulted at school and Law enforcement had not been notified. Williams stated he ended up having to stop the guy down the road. Chief Laxton stated he did not know nothing about it until the guy walked in and handed him a report on May 26,2022. When asked again why Williams made the stop Chief Laxton stated that when Williams arrived at the school had not called Law enforcement and as he was walking up, he saw the man and boy leaving and he had to stop them to tell them the needed to talk to Law Enforcement. Chief Laxton stated that Williams told him about it the evening that it occurred April 27,2022.

Reporting officer spoke with Attorney Charles Burks by phone on August 5,2022 he is representing Mr. Williams. Mr. Burks stated he was comfortable in giving a statement for Mr. Williams because he had just finished meeting with him. Mr. Burks also stated he would give this statement in writing and provide it to officer. The phone conversation was audio recorded.

Reporting officer spoke with the Clinton Middle School Nurse on August 9, 2022, Melissa Davis. She was the nurse on duty the day of April 27,2022. She checked her records, and it shows that the Williams student was in the office when she made initial contact this confirming that the school was aware of the incident and was handling the issue. She states she walked the student back to the clinic she asked the office about parent contact, and she was told they would at the end of the test. The student informed her that his father had been contacted and was on his way. This confirms that Mr. Williams was contacted by his son of the incident. Mrs. Davis stated she was called by the office stating that the father was there to pick up his son. She walked him back to the office and observed Mr. Williams yelling at Mrs. Owens about his son being assaulted. She made contact with the father and attempted to give him an update he said he and his son was leaving and they wouldn't be stepping back in the building.

Reporting officer spoke with Mrs. Raeann Owens the principal at the time the incident occurred on August 11,2022. She stated she did recall the incident. She recalled her interaction with Mr. Williams he was very irate and very upset with her. He was angry because of the way the school had handled the issue. He thought law enforcement should had handled it. He felt it was a legal issue not a school issue. She recalled Mr. Williams was really upset. He felt the SRO should had been involved and that Mr. Howells son should had been charged before he was allowed to leave. Mr. Williams disagreed with the school's procedure.

After completing the investigation, the reporting officer finds evidence of violation of **TCA # 39-16-402 Official Misconduct** and Violation of **TCA # 39-16-403 Official Oppression**.

Reporting Officer does request this case be presented to the Anderson County Grand Jury to go forward with charges.