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FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC

17 December 2018

In recent weeks Cherokee County and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department have received numerous and voluminous public records requests from media outlets regarding the May 2, 2018 incident at the Cherokee County Detention Center involving George Victor Stokes, a federal inmate; and regarding the death of Joshua Shane Long, a Cherokee County inmate, on June 12, 2018.

Within the scope of the law, both Cherokee County and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office have made diligent efforts to comply with the records requests as prescribed under North Carolina General Statutes. Both matters are under investigation by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation at the joint request of Sheriff Derrick Palmer and District Attorney Ashley Welch. Indeed, District Attorney Welch and Sheriff Palmer have requested an SBI investigation of any and all questioned conduct at the Detention Center that are alleged to have occurred since Sheriff Palmer took office in December of 2014.

Wesley Gage Killian, a former employee of the Cherokee County Detention Center, has been indicted by the Cherokee County Grand Jury as a result of one of these ongoing investigations. These investigations remain open at this time. Mr. Killian and/or anyone else who may be charged are entitled to fair treatment and due process of law in the trial of their respective cases.

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and the Office of the County Attorney has provided records in compliance with North Carolina General Statute Chapter 132 regarding these incidents, but has not released to the public details of the events in efforts to preserve the integrity of the SBI investigation and their ability to conduct interviews untainted by press accounts. All records from the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and the Cherokee County Detention Center were made available to the SBI as a part of their investigation.

Under North Carolina General Statute 132-1.4 it was, and still is, available to the County and the Sheriff's Department the ability to obtain a Court order allowing the withholding of ALL public records if the County or the Department believes that disclosure of the information "will jeopardize the right of the State to prosecute the defendant or the right of a defendant to receive a fair trial or will

undermine an ongoing or future investigation.” The Sheriff and the County have not chosen to petition the Court for such at this time.

After consultation with District Attorney Ashley Welch, Sheriff Derrick Palmer and I, as attorney for Cherokee County, have decided to release to the general public the unedited and unredacted jail incident reports concerning the incidents involving Mr. Stokes and Mr. Long, respectively. While the County nor the Sheriff are under any legal obligation to release anything more than the “nature of a violation or apparent violation of the law reported to a public law enforcement agency,” {NCGS 132-1.4(c)(1)} it is the position of the Sheriff and the County that disclosure of this information is necessary and appropriate.

**Darryl Brown
Attorney for Cherokee County &
Attorney for the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Department**

Jail Incident Report

Incident Number 00002184	Other Number	Printed Date/Time 12/14/2018 11:01
Date and Time of Incident 05/02/2018 22:18	Date and Time Reported 05/03/2018 03:51	Reported By Gunter, Joshua
Location of Incident D-Pod		
Offenses		
14 Refusing to obey a direct order, disobeying an order, or disobeying a general jail rule.		
4 Assault (threatening bodily harm either physically, by gesture, or verbally), battery of any person, or fighting.		
Offenders		
Stokes, George Victor - FED0426		
Victims		
Witnesses		
Hope, Elijah Antwan - 12177		
McCall, Clarence - 12614		
Complainants		
Gunter, Joshua - 172		
Others		
Roberson, Donald - 75		
Incident Narrative		
<p>Sgt. Gunter: At the above date and approximate time I Sgt Gunter and Officer Gage Killian responded to a call from the tower stating there was an issue in cell #D-206. Upon entry of D-Pod I (Sgt Gunter) heard inmate Stokes yelling through the door about the TV. I Sgt Gunter approached the door to cell #206 in D-Pod to try and resolve the situation, Upon opening the cell door Inmate Stokes began to get more aggressive and stated he would throw myself and Officers Killian and N. Roberson over the railing, Inmate Stokes rapidly approached me (Sgt Gunter) after I had the cell door open and I immediately used verbal commands then took defensive actions and used soft hand technique while demanding stop resisting. Inmate Stokes continued to resist so I stepped back and drew my taser and demanded him to place his hands behind his back to be restrained. Inmate Stokes again stated "we will all go over the railing" at this time I deployed my taser which did not make full contact. Officer Killian and N. Roberson then went hands on restraining inmate Stokes to escort him to MAX. While walking through the booking area just before entering D-105 going into medical Inmate Stokes became combative refusing to go to MAX. At this time I had to go hands on with Inmate Stokes again. After the altercation was handled I placed inmate Stokes in Holding cell #127 and contacted Lt. Bresch and Nurse Carry.</p> <p>Officer Killian: On the time and date shown above, while I was in the tower observed a call from inmate Stokes stating to our tower operator Officer Holloway that he wanted to know where the mother fucking dude was with the remote and why he had not gotten a channel change like he had requested. He proceeded to rant on with more obscene profanity. So I Officer Killian, Officer N. Roberson and SGT Gunter responded to the call in a professional manner and went to inmate Stoke s's cell to see if we could come to a resolution on this issue. SGT Gunter and I approached the cell and opened the door and begin talking with inmate Stokes. Inmate Stokes quickly showed signs of anger and frustration and begin to approach SGT in an aggressive manner so SGT Gunter responded with verbal commands then took defensive actions and which ending up him using soft hand techniques to get him into restraints. Inmate Stokes continued to be aggressive so SGT Gunter drew his taser demanding him to place his hands behind his back to be handcuffed. Inmate Stokes refused and stated "we will all go over the railing" and at this time Sgt Gunter deployed his taser which did not make full contact. I Officer Killian and Officer N. Roberson went hands on with inmate Stokes and restrained him with hand cuffs.</p>		

Supplement Date 05/03/2018 10:00	Supplement Prepared By Bresch, Jeremy
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Supplement Narrative
After watching video footage of the altercation in D Pod I see Federal Inmate Victor Stokes arms swing back and forth in the doorway of his cell right in front of Sgt Gunter presence for a few minutes. Afters a couple of minutes of inmate Stokes swinging his arms back in forth Sgt Gunter and Inmate Stokes got into a altercation in cell 206 in D Pod. Sgt Gunter had to deploy his taser on Inmate Stokes to get him to comply with his commands. Once Inmate Stocks was restraints he was escorted up front to the Booking Area and

Jail Incident Report

Incident Number 00002184	Other Number	Printed Date/Time 12/14/2018 11:01
Date and Time of Incident 05/02/2018 22:18	Date and Time Reported 05/03/2018 03:51	ReportedBy Gunter, Joshua
Location of Incident D-Pod		
placed in cell 127A. After reviewing more video footage of the incident since more detail was brought to my attention of Officer Gage Killian kicking Inmate Stokes in the face while he was sitting on the floor with his hands handcuffed behind his back i saw the incident take place in the booking area. After seeing the footage of Officer Gage Killian kicking Inmate Stokes in the face I reported this information to my Capt and then he reported this to the Sheriff. Part time Officer Gage Killian was called in and placed on suspension until the investigation is complete. Killian is not aloud to do any type of work for the sheriffs office until further notice.		
Supplement Date 05/03/2018 01:22		Supplement Prepared By Gunter, Joshua
Supplement Narrative While at Murphy Medical Inmate Stokes again began making threats stating "When I get to prison i have access to cell phones and this wont stay in the jail"		
Supplement Date 05/02/2018 22:45		Supplement Prepared By Bresch, Jeremy
Supplement Narrative After coming in to see what had happen i called the nurse to come in and take a look at Inmate Stokes to see what type of medical attention he needs to receive. Nurse said that he needs to be transported to Murphy Medical Center to get some stitches but in a couple of cuts. Sgt Donnie Roberson was called to come in to transport along with Sgt Gunter. Inmate Stokes was transported to Murphy Medical Center for further medical attention which was stitches in his upper lip then transported back to the Detention Facility.		
Approving Official Name		Reporting Official Name
Bresch, Jeremy		Gunter, Joshua

Jail Incident Report

Incident Number 00002256	Other Number	Printed Date/Time 12/14/2018 10:52
Date and Time of Incident 07/11/2018 23:14	Date and Time Reported 07/12/2018 04:04	ReportedBy Daly, Frank
Location of Incident Hold 127		
Offenses		
Offenders		
Victims		
Long, Joshua Shane - 12807		
Witnesses		
Bolen, Larry - 202 Enloe, Tiffany - 184 Holloway, Glenn - 142		
Complainants		
Others		
Incident Narrative		
<p>At approximately 23:14, I, Sgt. Daly, was in the chase behind medical in the Sally Port when I heard Ofc. Bolen yell for me. He told me that Joshua Long was unresponsive. I went into Booking and saw that Long was laying on his back. We entered the holding cell and tried to get him to respond. He showed no signs of movement. Tower was notified to activate EMS immediately. Ofc. Holloway arrived and started CPR on Long while Ofc. Bolen ran to medical to retrieve the jump bag containing Narcan. Ofc. Holloway continued compressions while I administered the Narcan. No response was noticed so Ofc. Bolen went to retrieve the AED from the hallway. Ofc. Bolen then returned with the AED and started to put it together. I took over compressions while Ofc's Holloway and Bolen prepared the AED for use. The AED pads were placed on Long's chest. EMS arrived at the Holding cell and we let EMS take over emergency medical care. Ofc's Bolen and Holloway remained with EMS to assist where needed. I went to Booking and immediately notified Captain Patterson of the situation. He advised he was en route to the Jail. Lt. Bresch arrived and was briefed on the situation. EMS was cleared to leave with Long and had him flown out to UT hospital in Knoxville. All officers cleaned the scene of the event and returned to normal routines. Nothing further to Report.</p>		
Approving Official Name	Reporting Official Name	
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Jail Incident Report

Incident Number 00002255	Other Number	Printed Date/Time 12/14/2018 10:51
Date and Time of Incident 07/11/2018 23:14	Date and Time Reported 07/12/2018 04:00	ReportedBy Bolen, Larry
Location of Incident Holding Cell 127A		
Offenses		
Offenders		
Victims		
Witnesses		
Bolen, Larry - 202 Daly, Frank - 197 Enloe, Tiffany - 184 Holloway, Glenn - 142		
Complainants		
Others		
Incident Narrative		
<p>Myself, Officer Bolen, was conducting a round when I walked by holding cell 127A and noticed inmate Josh Long laying on the ground on his back not moving. I kicked the cell door and yelled into the cell to see if he was ok, after no response I kicked the door again, and again no response. I ran over to the booking desk and picked up the keys to the holding cell door and went inside and noticed inmate Long was not breathing and his eyes were wide open. I yelled for Sgt. Daly and Officer Holloway to come quickly and checked inmate Long's pulse on his wrist and found he did not have one. When Sgt. Daly arrived I explained what had happened, himself and Officer Holloway began CPR while I instructed tower operator, Officer Enloe, to activate the EMS system. I then ran to the medical office in the jail and retrieved the emergency medical jump bag and brought it to holding cell 127A. Then, Sgt. Daly took Narcan out of the jump bag and Administered it to inmate Long. At this time the tower operator came over the booking desk intercom and needed updates for the 911 Dispatcher and I informed her that he was not response, not breathing and CPR was in progress. Officer Holloway instructed myself, Officer Bolen, to retrieve the AED from the hall way. I ran and picked up the AED and brought back to holding cell 127A and began Administrating the AED's pads to inmate Long's chest. Before we could get the AED hooked up completely, EMS arrived and we handed the scene over to EMS, nothing further at this time.</p>		

Approving Official Name

Reporting Official Name
