



Entered: _____
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File Purged: _____
N/A: _____

Route To: **Intelligence
FBI**

Year: **2006** Incident No.: **187338**

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| 1 |  | Jacksonville Sheriff's Office General Offense / Incident Report |  |
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Incident Information

Sub-Sector D3

Day/Date/Time of Incident-From: **Wednesday 3/1/2006 11:00** Day/Date/Time of Incident-To: **00:00**
Location of Incident: **9919 MERRILL RD** Apt./Lot #:
City: **JAACKSONVILLE** State: **FLORIDA** Zip: **32277** Day/Date/Time Incident Reported: **Wednesday 3/1/2006 11:00**
Drug Activity: **NOT APPLICABLE** Drug Type: **NOT APPLICABLE** # Of Offenses: **1**
Alcohol Related: **UNKNOWN (OR N/A)** Drug Related: **UNKNOWN (OR N/A)** # Of Victims:
M.C.I. Case: **No** Follow-up by: # Of Suspects:

Offense or Incident:

#1 Statute No: **999** Degree: **N/A** UCR Code: **9999** Attempt Code: **Commit**

INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On **02/20/06**, an investigation was opened by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office of a potential Hate Crime that occurred on **08/23/2005**.

(Intelligence Unit will conduct follow up investigation)

Clearance Status: **CASE NOT CLEARED** Clearance Code: Number of Cases Cleared
Case Not Cleared Type:

CRIME ANALYSIS

Aggravated Assault/Murder:
Type of Weapon:
Forced Entry: **NOT APPLICABLE** Structure Occupancy Code: **NOT APPLICABLE** Number of Premises Entered:
Location Type: **Parking Lot (Not specified)**
Incident Occurred Outside this Location Incident Occurred In the Parking Lot at this Location: **Yes**
Number of Vehicles Recovered: Number of Arrested:
School Name: School Number

MISCELLANEOUS:

Is Offense Related to Domestic Violence: **No** If yes, were Children under 18 Present: If No is it Domestic Related: **NO**
Is there additional information included on a continuation report: **No** Are there other Pertinent Reports: **No**
In your opinion is there significant reason to believe that the crime can be solved by a patrol follow-up investigation? **No**
Neighborhood Canvass Conducted: **No** Case Information Card Left With: **N.A.**
If Other (Name Address):
Address: Apt./Lot #: Home Phone #
City: State: Zip: Bus. Phone # Ext.

Investigative Time:

#1 Hours: **1** Minutes: **0** Cost Amount: **\$14.46**

Detective Called To the Scene: **#0**
Evidence Technician Called to the Scene: **#0**
Reporting Officers: **R.A.HINSON**
Approving Supervisor **D.L.BRANNAN**
Division: **OTHER** Unit: **INTELLIGENCE**

NA: Notified:
NA: Assigned By HQ:
ID **#6459**
ID **#0** **3/2/2006 09:35**
ID **#5056**

Entered: _____
Checked: _____
File Purged: _____
N/A: _____

Route To: **Intelligence
FBI**

Year: **2006** Incident No. **187338** Sup # **1**



Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Supplemental Report



Incident Information

Sub-Sector D3

Day/Date/Time of Incident-From: **Wednesday 3/1/2006 11:00**

Day/Date/Time of Incident-To: **00:00**

Location of Incident: **9919 MERRILL RD Apt./Lot #:**

City: **JAACKSONVILLE** State: **FLORIDA** Zip: **32277**

Day/Date/Time Incident Reported: **Wednesday 3/1/2006 11:00**

Of Offenses: **#1** # Of Victims: **- none -** # Of Suspects: **#**

Drug Activity: **NOT APPLICABLE**

Drug Type: **NOT APPLICABLE**

Alcohol Related: **UNKNOWN (OR N/A)**

Drug Related: **UNKNOWN (OR N/A)**

Follow-up by:

M.C.I. Case: **No**

Offense or Incident:

#1 Statute No: **999**

Degree: **N/A**

UCR Code: **9999**

Attempt Code: **Commit**

INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Continuing Investigation

On 02/22/06, Detective L.F. Johns #5088, and Detective Robert A. Hinson #6459 were assigned to assist Detective B.P. Moore on a Hate Crime investigation involving the Jacksonville Fire Department. Detective Johns and Hinson, traveled to Fire Station # 27 and interviewed Charles Ronnie Washington. Mr. Washington stated he had been the victim of a hate crime and that another firefighter was the suspect in the crime. The following is a summary of this interview:

Mr. Washington stated the incident took place at the closed down Wal-Mart on Merrill Rd. in August of 2005. Mr. Washington was assigned to Engine # 29 and they were practicing a "Stokes Basket Evolution". The alleged suspect, David Johnston, is an Engineer assigned to Tanker # 29 and they were training tying knots on ropes. Mr. Washington stated that he saw David Johnston tie a Hangman's noose and play with it in front of him, placing his head (Johnston's) in and out of the noose. Mr. Washington stated that Johnston then threw it at his feet and laughed. Mr. Washington stated that he told Lt. Greg Starks, who stated "I know. I'll take care of it". Mr. Washington stated that, "David Johnston, has humiliated him on a daily basis". Mr. Washington stated that he has had problems with Johnston before at the Station.

Mr. Washington was asked if he had made a police report of the incident as requested by Detective B. P. Moore. Mr. Washington stated that he did not because he is required by Fire Department rules regulations to report any racially motivated incident to his supervisor.

Mr. Washington stated he believes firefighter Mike Murphy and firefighter Paula Epperson witnessed this incident. Personnel from Ladder #30, Engine #27 and Company #29 were also on scene, but Mr. Washington could not be sure if any of them actually witnessed the noose throwing.

In addition to the alleged hate crime, Mr. Washington added there have been numerous incidents of harassment and improper racial comments made to him. Mr. Washington gave an example of one such incident. He stated that he likes to fish a lot and knows the area's waters very well. According to Washington, he and his co-workers began talking about fishing and the weather. The conversation evolved into a conversation about the number of storms emanating from the African Coast. Mr. Washington stated that during this conversation, David Johnston stated that everybody in the States needed to "watch out for needles and aids being blown on shore". Mr. Washington stated that this was just one example of "thousands" of comments made to him on a daily basis. When questioned as to his opinion as to why statements like this were being made to him, Washington stated he felt this was happening because of his race, as he is the only black firefighter at Fire

Station #29. Washington went on to add that he felt it was "coming down" from Chief Steve Gerbert, (Fire #7).

According to Mr. Washington, in the late 1990's and early 2000's he and Chief Gerbert, then a Captain, were assigned to Fire Station #18 together. Mr. Washington stated during that time he "dabbled" in the Stock Market, trading on a daily basis. Gerbert gave him \$10,000.00 to invest for him, which Mr. Washington did. Mr. Washington stated the Stock Market then crashed and he lost all of Captain Gerbert's money, which at one point had almost tripled. He stated Captain Gerbert told him "you're a stupid nigger, how could you do that?" Mr. Washington stated he was going to try and pay the Captain back from monies he had earned from his air conditioning business, but that he had also lost \$60,000.00 of his own money during the Stock Market crash. Washington went on to say that he was so hurt by Gerbert's remarks that he never paid him back the money lost.

Mr. Washington stated that he is not a Union member so he "has no platform to speak off of". Mr. Washington stated that he has received several death threats in regards to the money investment incident. The most notable was from Chief Garmen, who while sitting at a table full of men at Fire Station #18 stated, "If it was me I'd kill him".

He stated that he was known as "Charles Schwab" before the incident and is now known as "Charles Shit". Mr. Washington stated all this is coming from Chief Gerbert through the rank and file. Washington stated that he believes David Johnston is responsible for stating this to others as well.

Mr. Washington stated that recently he put in a request to transfer to the Dive Team and was told by Captain Kaplan that he was going to be transferred to the team. Mr. Washington stated a short time later a man with less time on the department was put in that position instead of him. Mr. Washington complained to Captain Kaplan and stated that he might just make formal complaint on how the Fire Department handles transfers. Captain Kaplan stated "are you ready for the ramifications of that". Mr. Washington stated that he felt that was also a threat.

Mr. Washington then stated that he is always the Fire Fighter transferred from his station and he felt it was because of his race.

Detective Johns and Hinson asked Mr. Washington if he had anything else to add or tell us and Mr. Washington stated that he had "thousands" of things that had happened to him, but nothing stood out at this time.

On 02/22/06, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Lt. Greg Starks, at Fire Station #29. The following is a summary of the interview:

Lt Starks is the station supervisor. Lt. Starks stated Chief Margadonna called his house and started asking questions about the training day at Wal-mart and about Mr. Washington's complaints. Lt Starks stated that he has "no recollection of Charles complaining". Lt. Starks stated that "to the best of his knowledge" he remembers seeing a noose "hanging from a building or ladder that day". Lt. Starks stated "as best as he remembers he doesn't remember Charles saying anything". Detective Hinson then asked what was special about how the ropes were tied. Lt Starks looked puzzled at the question and stated to him it looked like a noose. Detective Johns asked are your sure? Lt Starks stated, "To the best of my knowledge".

Detective Hinson told Lt. Starks that he thought his responses to our answers were terrible and not totally honest. Detective Hinson warned Lt. Starks that he needed to think very carefully about his answers, and that this was a serious matter that could cause him professional and possibly legal problems.

Detective Hinson then asked Lt. Starks what problems he had with Charles Washington at the Fire Station. Lt. Starks stated that Charles had been in trouble before and that was why he was transferred to Fire Station # 29. Lt. Starks stated that he tries to keep the peace at the station and then be a supervisor when he has to. He does not want to bring matters to the Chief if he can handle it by himself inside the station house. Lt. Starks stated that Charles has never filed a complaint with him. Charles has had a previous problem with Captain Basford and other supervisors in the department. Lt. Starks stated that he got Charles to drop the complaint on Basford and he got the other supervisor to drop the complaint on Charles. Lt. Starks stated that he did not feel comfortable talking about those issues with us due to it involving other supervisors and the matters being resolved. Lt. Starks stated that he has written up Charles before, but nothing of a serious matter. Lt. Starks stated that just the other day he and Charles were sitting in the Station talking about fishing and Charles acted fine.

Detective Hinson asked Lt. Starks if there was a rope or knot that the Fire Department uses at work that looks like a noose. Lt. Starks stated a "figure 8 on a Byte". Detective Hinson asked if the noose he saw could have been that, and Lt. Starks stated no, I believe it was a noose. Detective Hinson asked why Lt. Starks didn't take any action, and at that point Lt. Starks appeared to become nervous again. Detective Hinson asked Lt. Starks, did you see who tied the noose? Lt. Starks replied "No". Detective Hinson asked Lt. Starks, did you see David

Johnston tie a noose? Lt. Starks replied "No". Detective Hinson asked Lt. Starks, did you ever see a noose thrown at Mr. Washington's feet? Lt. Starks replied "Charles never made a complaint to me". Detective Hinson asked Lt. Starks, did you see someone throw it at his feet? Lt. Starks replied "No, I saw the noose in an elevated position to the best of my memory".

Lt. Starks was asked if David Johnston and Charles Washington were a problem in the Station. Starks stated that Charles and David would argue while playing poker. Lt Starks was asked if Johnston ever made any racial remarks. Starks responded "I don't know what they consider... require to be racial remarks. If Charles would have made a request I would have followed it up. Charles never made a request of me".

Lt. Starks was asked why Mr. Washington was frequently the one transferred out of station #29. Starks stated station, #29, became a three man engine company about a year ago and is an ALS, or advance life support station. Mr. Washington is a firefighter and the station must have a paramedic on duty, so the only time Mr. Washington could be there if one of the engineers is off. Otherwise he has to be transferred to another station. Lt. Starks described the personnel on the shift as follows:

Lt. Starks (Officer in Charge)
Paula Epperson (Paramedic)
Alan Kennedy (Engineer)
David Johnston (Engineer on Tanker truck)
Charles Washington (Firefighter)

On 02/22/06, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Paramedic Paula Epperson. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Epperson was at Fire Station # 27 and transferred to Fire Station to # 29 in November of 2005. Ms. Epperson does remember the training day in question but doesn't remember seeing a noose being tied or thrown at Mr. Washington feet. Ms. Epperson remembers ropes on the buildings, but no nooses. The only ropes or knots that they could use that might look like a noose were a "Prusik cord extra" and "Figure 8 on a byte" but they would have to be tied incorrectly. Ms. Epperson doesn't remember seeing exchanges of any hostility at the station between David Johnston, Charles Washington or Lt. Starks. Ms. Epperson thought everybody got along fine. She had nothing bad to say about Mr. Washington, but thought it was strange that he could not swim even though he was such an avid fisherman.

Ms. Epperson stated that she could think of nothing else to add or knew of no other information to tell us that would assist in our investigation.

On 02/22/06, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Alan W. Kennedy, at Fire Station #29. The following is a summary of that interview:

Kennedy is an Engineer at Fire Station # 29 and transferred into the station in November of 2005. Alan was not at the training day in question and knew nothing about it. Alan was at Fire Station# 50 for 15 months and just recently transferred back to #29. Alan knew of no racial tension on the shift. According to Kennedy, David Johnston and Charles Washington never were at the fire station at the same time. He stated he never heard anything and the way he found out about the incident was from the news. He stated he knew Charles Washington from Fire Station # 18 and did hear about Charles Washington losing a large sum of Gerbert's money in the stock market.

Alan stated he never saw or heard anything between Charles Washington and Chief Gerbert, and that they always acted in a professional manner. Alan stated that he was very surprised about the allegation and had no information to add to the investigation.

On 02/22/06, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed David B. Johnston, at Fire Station #29. The following is a summary of that interview:

Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he was at the training day at the closed Wal-Mart and if he knew anything about a noose. Mr. Johnston advised that he was at the training day, but didn't recall a hangman's noose that day. Mr. Johnston claims he never tied a Hangman's noose at training.

Mr. Johnston was asked if he and Charles Washington have ever had any problems. Mr. Johnston stated that they have had some clashes in the past. Mr. Johnston stated that Lt. Starks has had to talk to him in the past about a problem between himself and Mr. Washington, but can't remember what the problem was about. Mr.

Johnston stated that everyone gets along at the fire station and no one has any problems. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he had any problems with Mr. Washington and he stated that he doesn't, and that they have talked about going fishing together.

Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he remembered Charles Washington being at the training day at the Wal-Mart. Mr. Johnston advised that he remembers Mr. Washington being at the training day. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he was on the top of a fire truck with a Hangman's noose, showing it to Charles Washington, or throwing it at Charles Washington's feet. Mr. Johnston stated that he was never on the top of a fire truck with a hangman's noose and never threw it at Mr. Washington's feet. Mr. Johnston then stated that he never left the ground because he just returned to work from knee surgery, and the doctor didn't want him to do any climbing. Mr. Johnston went on to state that is the reason he is driving the tanker truck. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if there is any type of knot that they tie during training that could look like a Hangman's noose. Mr. Johnston advised that a figure eight could look like a noose. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he tied a noose that day at training and Mr. Johnston stated that he doesn't recall tying a Hangman's noose that day.

Mr. Johnston was asked if he remembered a conversation he had with Mr. Washington during hurricane season about the hurricanes coming off of the coast of Africa and that people need to worry about the needles and Aids coming from Africa. Mr. Johnston said that he never made a statement about needles and Aids coming from Africa.

Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if he has ever made any racial comments to Mr. Washington. Mr. Johnston stated that he and Mr. Washington "butt heads" sometimes during card games, but he has never made any racial remarks.

Mr. Johnston was asked if he has ever tied a noose while at work. He admitted that he has tied a noose while at the station. Mr. Johnston stated that he doesn't remember ever tying a noose in front of Mr. Washington.

Mr. Johnston advised that there was another black male, Sharaad Christopher, from station #30 at training on that day.

Mr. Johnston stated that Mr. Washington is lying about the noose incident during that training day.

Detective Hinson asked Mr. Johnston if Lt. Starks has ever talked to him about the noose and Mr. Johnston claims Lt. Starks has never talked to him about the noose.

Mr. Johnston advised that the first time he heard or knew anything about this incident was the other day from the news.

On 02/23/06, Detective Hinson ran a records check on individuals interviewed the previous day and pulled reports that were made on the victim as a suspect or victim. These reports were given to Detective Johns to be made part of his case file.

On 02/23/06, Detective Johns and Hinson spoke to Charles Washington at his request because he had some additional information. The following is a summary:

Mr. Washington stated that when we were speaking to him the other day, his engine company left him and went to the training academy. Mr. Washington stated that when Captain Edwards returned from the academy, he stated "that shit's true, it really happened". Mr. Washington stated that Captain Edwards told him that he spoke to a B/M Fire Fighter at the Academy who stated that he spoke to a W/M Fire Fighter named "Stiff" who was at the training the day the noose was tied. "Stiff" told him he saw the whole thing. Mr. Washington stated that he didn't talk about it much more than that.

Mr. Washington was asked if he remembered what happen to the noose after it was thrown at his feet. Mr. Washington stated that he didn't know because he walked away from it. Mr. Washington then made a drawing of the noose which was kept as a part of the case file. Detective Johns asked Mr. Washington when was the last time he worked with David Johnston. Mr. Washington stated not that often and he was just guessing but less than 10 working days. Mr. Washington stated that Mike Murphy was at the training incident and was in charge of Engine #27. Mr. Washington stated he was not sure who saw what, but that a lot of people were laughing when it happened. Detective Hinson then asked Mr. Washington about Lt. Stark's observation or what he might have seen. Mr. Washington stated that when Johnston was acting out and holding the noose, Mr. Washington saw Lt. Starks looking at the rope and shaking his head in a negative or disgusting way and started to turn and walk away. Mr. Washington stated that he stopped Lt. Starks and stated, "What are you going to do about that".

Mr. Washington stated that he had heard about the incidents at Fire Station # 4, referring to the Hangman's nooses, the firefighter damaging his ear drum because of the fireworks, and the officer firing the water deck gun at an African American firefighter. He said that he knew what had happened to him and decided to speak to Chief McQueen, who told him to keep his documentation available. Mr. Washington stated that Chief McQueen told him to "call the newspapers about the incident on Monday", which he did. On Tuesday, Broderick Edwards, who is with the Fire Department, told Mr. Washington to make a report of the incident. Detective Johns asked Mr. Washington about Chief McQueen asking him to report the incident to the Media and Mr. Washington stated "Yes, Chief gave me a piece of paper with a list of names and numbers to call". Detective Johns asked, like who? Mr. Washington stated, "Human Rights people, Sheriff's Office, T.V. 4, stuff like that".

Detective Hinson asked Mr. Washington, "when we first met you the other day, and we asked you if you had made a police report on your incident like Detective Moore asked you, and you told us no". "You had gone through your chain of command as required by Fire Department rules and regulation and reported the incident to your supervisor, Greg Starks". "Why did you choose to go through the media on the advice of Chief McQueen now"? Mr. Washington at that point cupped his hand over his ear as if he was having problems hearing and said, "What did you just say"? Detective Hinson repeated the question and Mr. Washington stated, "I never said that". Detective Johns and Hinson both confronted him and told him that he had in fact said it. After several moments, Mr. Washington stated, "ok, I remember saying that". Mr. Washington stated that he was following the advice of his Chief.

Mr. Washington went on to make several statements about previous incidents that he seemed to perceive as harassment, but were not directly related to the noose incident.

Mr. Washington stated that he was going to check off work one day after checking the Stock market and seeing how much money he had made. David Johnston stated "I wouldn't do that, you're lucky you have a job". Mr. Washington stated the comment was made in front of Fire fighter Pat McGann, Teresa Kinstle and Mr. Washington. Mr. Washington stated that the noose incident occurred shortly after that incident. Mr. Washington stated that David Johnston is working with the Jacksonville Fire Departments Administration and is "their boy".

Mr. Washington stated "that's why I reported it, because I'm sick of it, I'm ready to get rid of them myself". Detective Hinson asked, "What did you just say"? Mr. Washington replied "I'm just upset".

Detective Hinson then told Mr. Washington that they were investigating the "hangman's noose" incident. He was then told that all other allegations would be addressed at a later time. Mr. Washington was also cautioned about making statements like..."get rid of them myself". Mr. Washington was told to remain calm and allow the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to conduct a proper and thorough investigation. Mr. Washington was also advised that it could be a lengthy investigation.

Mr. Washington was then advised that he did not need to give anyone any reason to complain on him or cloud an already messy issue. During this conversation Washington cupped his hand to his ear as if he was having problems hearing Detective Hinson. Detective Hinson was making eye contact with Mr. Washington and Mr. Washington responded, agreed and stated that he understood the conversation.

On 02/23/06, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson met David Johnston at his residence. The following is a summary:

Mr. Johnston contacted Detective Johns, telling him that he had some additional information. Mr. Johnston stated that he had gotten into the log book and started doing some checking on what day the training was on and who was there. Mr. Johnston had been assisted by Chief Perdue and they had come up with a list. Mr. Johnston gave the list to Detective Johns and it was made a permanent part of the case file. The date of the incident, according to Mr. Johnston was 08/23/05 between 1000- 1200 hours. Mr. Johnston was advised about the opportunity to take a polygraph the following week and at first said yes he would take one, but then stated "I'll have to speak with an Attorney before I do that". Mr. Johnston stated that he would let us know.

On 02/24/06, Detective Johns spoke to Mr. Washington on the phone. The following is a summary of that conversation:

Mr. Washington asked Detective Johns why during the previous day's conversation he had asked if Mr. Washington had gotten an attorney. Detective Johns advised Mr. Washington that he had not asked him that question and Mr. Washington then stated he meant Detective Hinson, not Detective Johns had asked the question. Detective Hinson then spoke to Mr. Washington and advised him that he had never asked that question. Mr. Washington stated "yes you did and I'm very disappointed in you". Mr. Washington yelled and spoke very loudly to Detective Hinson causing Detective Hinson to speak louder than normal to Mr. Washington. Mr. Washington stated that "we" do not like the fact that a city paid agency like the Sheriff's Office was

investigating this case and felt that it would effect the investigation because our pay checks were signed by "them". Detective Hinson asked who "we" and "them" were? Mr. Washington stated that "we" was the N.A.A.C.P. and Mr. Washington and "them" was the City of Jacksonville. Mr. Washington continued to insist that Detective Hinson had asked the question concerning the attorney, while both Detective Johns and Detective Hinson reiterated that the question had not been asked. Mr. Washington stated that we were all intelligent men and we all knew this was heading toward a civil law suit. Detective Hinson advised Mr. Washington that he and Detective Johns were not concerned with any type of civil suit, only the allegations that Mr. Washington had made concerning the noose. Mr. Washington stated that he trusted Detective Johns and Detective Hinson that he has no one else to speak to about the issue. Detective Hinson advised Mr. Washington that it appeared he had some trust issues to work through concerning the Detectives and gave Mr. Washington the phone numbers for Lt. C.O. Williams and Sgt. D. Brannan, so he could call one of them if he wanted to make a complaint. Mr. Washington was advised that he should also contact whatever outside agency he felt was appropriate.

Detective Johns and Hinson then met with Sgt. Brannan and Lt. Williams.

The issue of Mr. Washington's allegations and hostile attitude were addressed. It was also discussed among the group as to whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (F.B.I.) should be brought into the investigation. Lt. Williams advised us that he wanted to finish our investigation and present it to the State Attorneys Office before that was done.

Detective Johns and Detective Hinson then went to the following Fire Stations and reviewed the Fire Station "Log Books":

-□At 1210 hours Fire Station #19 was visited, Lt Ogins and Captain Van Dyke were spoken to and the Station log book showed: 08/23/05, C Shift, Carney, Doolittle, Washington (ML), Hellum. "Cluster Drill, L30, E27, E29, Ropes". Captain Van Dyke stated that in there Fire District the following Stations were located; #19, #27, #29, #30 and #58.

-□At 1258 hours Fire Station #29 was visited and Captain Walton showed us that Station's "log book": On 08/23/05, C shift, nothing in log book, Starks, Johnston, Crawford, (PL), Washington, Smedley, Daily Routine. (No training listed for that day on "C" shift.

-□At 1315 hours Fire Station #58 was visited and Lt. Ronnie Williams was interviewed. Detective Johns and Hinson were advised the Station #58 was opened on 11/01/05.

-□At 1405 hours Fire Station #27 was visited and Lt Bunk showed us the Station "log book". On 08/23/05, C shift, Edwards, Murphy, Epperson, and Ruiz (T). 1) Daily Routine 2) Cluster Drill 3) Epperson Territory 4) Laundry Room.

-□At 1520 hours Fire Station #30 was visited and Lt Bristow showed us the "log books" for Ladder #30 and Engine #30. In Engine #30's book on 08/23/05, C shift, Davis, Park, Kinstle, Christopher, (L.O.A. 0800-1200), Belcher working 4 hours, (P.L. 1200-0800). (No training shown with Engine Company). Ladder #30's "log book" showed, Basford, Hines, Cyrus (Tilling), and Romano. Routine day, Hauling System Training 1000-1200. Jeff checked out truck bearing grease being looked into.

On 02/25/05, at 0810 hours, Detective Johns and Hinson began a series of interviews at several different Fire Stations.

Upon arrival at Fire Station #19, Lt. Randy Carney was interviewed. Lt. Carney stated he is a 12 year veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department with 18 months as a fire supervisor. Lt. Carney stated that he had been given a "heads up by the previous crew that we might be by to speak with him and he had already looked at the log book". He saw the cluster training day on 08/23/05, and remembered the drill. The drill was a ladder basket revolution, with rope training and refreshing the firefighters on the skill of knot tying. Lt. Carney stated that he knows Charles Washington and remembers him being at the training. Lt. Carney can't remember who else was at the training and doesn't remember seeing a hangman's noose that day. Lt. Carney knows Lt. Starks from Fire Station #29 and that Captain Basford from Ladder #30 was running the drill, and it was a normal drill with nothing outstanding. Lt. Carney does not remember any confrontations that day or any complaints about someone tying a noose. Lt. Carney said some knots that are tied could look like a noose if not tied properly, like some of the figure eight knots. Lt. Carney stated that if something like that happened and he would have seen it, or had been told that it happened, he would have remembered it.

On 02/25/06 at 0831 hours, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Fire Fighter Laurence G. Washington, a 3 year veteran of the Fire Department. He was not at the training day in question, but reportedly

had some information of value to the investigation. Fire Fighter Washington stated while working a second job with Fire Fighter Brian Tibbetts (Ladder #1 C shift), they began talking about the noose incident. Fire Fighter Daniel Stift, (Fire Station #37 B shift), came into the conversation and simply made the statement "yea well it happened" and did not elaborate on it other than it was on a training day. Fire Fighter L.G. Washington stated that he did talk to Captain Edwards on 02/23/06 at the Training Academy and told him about the incident. Fire Fighter Washington was asked if any of the ropes that are tied on training days like that could look like a noose. He stated that a figure eight on a byte, if done improperly, might look like that. Fire Fighter Washington stated that he has never seen a hangman's noose on any training day he attended or he would have said something.

On 02/25/06 at 0840 hours, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Fire Fighter Cody R. Hellum, a 2 year veteran of the Fire Department, and was assigned to Engine #19 on 08/23/05 the day of the cluster training. Fire Fighter Hellum stated he remembers the training, which it was a "Basket Evolution" and rope training drill, and he knows Charles Washington and David Johnston. Fire Fighter Hellum stated that he did not see anyone with a hangman's noose and that he was on the ground holding the "tag lines", away from the group. Captain Basford was on the roof of the Wal-mart and Fire Fighter Hellum doesn't remember seeing Charles Washington or David Johnston that day. Fire Fighter Hellum stated that he first heard about the incident from the news but didn't realize that it was during that training day. Fire Fighter Hellum stated he transferred into Fire Station #29 and he never saw any problems at the station. He doesn't know of any knots that are tied that look like a noose. Fire Fighter Hellum stated that if he would have seen a noose that day he would have remembered it but he did not see one that day. Hellum stated he has never seen a hangman's noose tied at the Fire Department.

On 02/25/06 at 0935 Captain Jeffery Basford was interviewed at Fire Station #30. Basford is twenty year veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department. Captain Basford remembered the "Cluster Drill" on 08/23/05, and knows Charles Washington and David Johnston. Captain Basford stated that he was in charge of the drill. The drill was designed for the review and practice of "basket evolutions", tying knots and rope work. Captain Basford stated a "figure eight on a byte", "safety knot" or "Prusik Knot", if done poorly, might look like a noose.

The personnel at the scene that day were practicing as a group tying knots. Some of the personnel were on the ground near the trucks. Captain Smith, Fire Fighter Epperson Smedley and Basford were on the roof. Captain Basford stated that Fire Fighter Belcher was in the basket. Captain Basford was asked by Detective Johns if he ever saw a hangman's noose that day and Captain Basford stated "no". Captain Basford stated no problems were ever relayed to him. Captain Basford remembers both Washington and Johnston being on the ground assisting with the ropes and lines. Captain Basford does not remember ever seeing David Johnston on a fire truck.

Captain Basford was asked if he had ever had a past problem with Charles Washington and he stated "yes". He stated that Mr. Washington and he were training next door to Fire Station #30 on pumps and pressures when Captain Basford got mad at Mr. Washington and called him a "stupid son of a bitch". Captain Basford later heard from Lt. Starks that Washington got his feelings hurt by the remark.

Captain Basford added that later that shift, during another call, he apologized to Mr. Washington for his remarks. Captain Basford stated he was wrong and should not have "sunk to Mr. Washington's level". Detective Hinson asked what he meant by that and Captain Basford stated that Mr. Washington has cursed him before. When pressed about the circumstances or specific incidents, Basford could not recall.

Captain Basford stated Felton Perdue is the District Chief of that District and is located at station #58. Captain Basford stated that Sherrod Christopher told him he was at the training but the manpower report shows him off that day. Christopher was at Station #20 riding on a rescue apparatus. Daryl Cyrus is the only other member of Ladder #30 not at the station today. He was transferred to Fire Station #29 on this date.

On 02/25/06, at 1005, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Fire Fighter Jeffery Hines, an eight year veteran of the Fire Department and Engineer on Ladder #30. Fire Fighter Hines stated that he remembered the training on 08/23/05 and that Ladder #30 was up against the Wal-mart building. Mr. Hines stated that he knows Charles Washington, David Johnston, and Lt. Greg Starks and they were all at the training that date. Mr. Hines stated that he heard of no problems that day and he did not know what Washington, Johnston and Starks jobs were that day or their locations at the scene. The training was hands on rope, knot training, with a basket evolution. Detective Johns asked Mr. Hines if any knots that were tied could be mistaken for a hangman's noose. Mr. Hines stated that a Prusik knot if done poorly could be mistaken for noose by an untrained eye. *Writer's note- Captain Basford interrupted the interview to correct himself. He stated that Sharaad Christopher was not there that day and that Mike Belcher was there and in the basket.

Mr. Hines continued the interview by stating he never saw David Johnston on a truck that day. Mr. Hines stated that he never saw Mr. Johnston with a noose or observed him throw anything at Mr. Washington's feet. Mr. Hines stated that he never saw any type of confrontation or heard any type of complaints from any one. Mr. Hines stated that he never saw a hangman's noose of any type that day.

On 02/25/06, at 1015 hours Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Fire Fighter Thomas J. Romano, a one year one month veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department and assigned to Ladder #30. Mr. Romano stated that the Fire Department gives a six month and eleven month exam and that he remembers the training helping him get ready for his second exam. Mr. Romano stated that he was on several different pieces of equipment that training day. Mr. Romano stated that he knows Charles Washington and David Johnston and both were at training that day. Mr. Johnston and Mr. Washington were both on the ground but not sure of their responsibilities, but thinks Mr. Johnston may have been working the hydrant. Mr. Romano stated that he never saw David Johnston with a hangman's noose and never saw him throw one at Mr. Washington's feet. Detective Johns asked Mr. Romano if any type of knot that was used that day could be mistaken as a noose and Mr. Romano stated that a "bowling knot" if done poorly could resemble one, but not to the trained eye. Mr. Romano stated that he knew of no confrontations that day and didn't know anything about it until the news broke and was very surprised.

On 02/25/06, at 1025 hour Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Lt. Greg Starks again. Starks had been transferred to Fire Station #30 due to Mr. Washington's complaint. Lt. Starks stated that the other supervisor that had a problem with Charles Washington was Lt. Fisher. According to Starks, Fisher and Washington had a dispute over a sandwich. According to Starks, Lt. Fisher is located at Fire Station #58 on "C" shift. Lt. Starks appeared very nervous during our conversation. At this point, Starks was offered a polygraph test. Lt. Starks stated his first interview did not go well and he would have to speak to an attorney before he would take one. Lt. Starks stated that he would let Detective Hinson know by the end of the working day Monday 02/27/06 at 1630 hours as to his decision regarding the polygraph test.

On 02/25/06, at 1057 hours, Captain James L. Edwards an 18 year veteran was interviewed at Fire Station #27. Captain Edwards stated that Laurence Washington spoke to him at the academy and told him that he had spoken to an individual who stated the rope throwing incident had happened. Captain Edwards stated he did not feel the incident happened because the only training he knew about was on 07/15/05, and it was a "Water Training" day involving pumping. During the "Cluster training" on 08/23/05, Captain Edwards was shown working, but upon checking the daily attendance it was learned that he had been on leave from 0800 through 1600. Captain Smith was working for Captain Edwards that day. Captain Edwards found out about Mr. Washington's incident on the news, and he stated he felt that Mr. Washington was exaggerating as he has in the past. Detective Hinson asked Captain Edwards if he had ever stated "that shits true, it really happened" to anyone. Captain Edwards stated that he never told Mr. Washington that, only that he spoke to Fire Fighter Washington about the incident in general. Captain Edwards stated he knows David Johnston and that Johnston did the molding around Fire Station #19. Edwards stated that he has never made any racial or any improper comments.

On 02/25/06, at 1119 hours Fire Fighter Rick P. Murphy, a 15 year veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department, was interviewed. Mr. Murphy was advised of why we were interviewing him and he stated that he remembered the day and that he was driving Engine #27. Mr. Murphy remembers being on the ground and David Johnston being on the ground with him because he got into an argument with him on how they were tying off the basket. Mr. Murphy stated that he saw no knots that looked like a noose, but if they were not tied properly a "figure eight on a Byte" might look like one. Mr. Murphy stated that he knows Mr. Washington and Mr. Johnston from the job and never heard of any problems. Mr. Murphy stated that he does not remember seeing Mr. Washington and did not see anyone throw a noose on the ground or at anyone's feet. Mr. Murphy stated he saw no confrontations that day and has never heard any racial comments from Mr. Washington or Mr. Johnston toward each other or anyone else.

On 02/25/06, at 1130 hours Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Carlos Ruiz, a two year veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department. Mr. Ruiz was transferred out to Fire Station #48 that day and was not at the training and never heard of any problems occurring at the training.

On 02/25/06, at 1150 hours Detective Johns and Detective Hinson attempted to contact Sharaad Christopher at Rescue #20. Mr. Christopher was out on a run and was not interviewed.

On 02/25/06, at 1211 hours, Detective L.F. Johns and Hinson spoke to Fire District Chief Felton Perdue. We spoke to Chief Perdue to just advise him that we had been in his Fire District all day conducting interviews. Chief Perdue stated that he got his "ass chewed" for transferring Charles Washington out of Fire Station #29 today. He stated that he had to transfer him back into Station# 29. Chief Perdue was told that we were going to need the Fire Station "log books" for Station #19, #27, #29, and#30. Chief Perdue stated that he had no problem with that and Detective Hinson advised him that the books should stay as is and not be tampered with, and that Detective Hinson would pick them up Tuesday,02/28/06. Chief Perdue stated that he transferred Lt. K.R. Davis to station #29 and Lt. Starks to #30 that day. Chief Perdue stated that he knows of no history of problems between Mr. Washington and Mr. Johnston.

On 02/25/06, at 1316 hours Detective Johns and Detective Hinson interviewed Teresa Renee Kinstle, a 5 year veteran of the Fire Department in St. Johns County, and 2 year veteran of the Jacksonville Fire Department. Mrs. Kinstle advised that she remembered the day in question and was on the ground doing the "basket evolution" and rope training.

Mrs. Kinstle knows both Charles Washington and David Johnston from working with them. According to Kinstle, Mr. Washington and Lt. Starks were in front of Engine #27. David Johnston was on the ground as well and could not fully participate due to a recent injury. Mrs. Kinstle stated she never saw a noose that day or heard of any problems. Kinstle stated the only knots that could possibly look like a noose were a figure eight or a figure eight on a byte. Either knot could appear to be a noose if tied poorly. Mrs. Kinstle stated Mr. Washington is the type of person who is loud and will let you know how he feels if something has happened to him. Mrs. Kinstle stated that is the reason that she believes the incident did not happen.

Mrs. Kinstle stated on Monday 02/20/06, Lt. Starks stopped at her residence and filled her in on the incident. This was after Captain Eleanor Byrd had contacted her by phone and asked if she remembered anything about the training day. Lt. Starks stated that Mr. Washington had also complained on her stating she had used the "N word" at supper one night at the Fire Station. Mrs. Kinstle was extremely upset and began to weep. Mrs. Kinstle stated she had been gone from the Fire station since November of 2005. Mrs. Kinstle stated on the training day in question she did not see David Johnston with a knot that looked like noose or a hangman's noose. Mrs. Kinstle remembers Fire Fighter Murphy talking to David Johnston about the ropes and how the basket was secured. Mrs. Kinstle stated that she never saw any type of racial problems at the station and always liked Mr. Washington. Mrs. Kinstle stated she never saw Charles Washington or David Johnston even argue.

On 02/25/06, after the interview with Mrs. Kinstle, Mr. Washington advised Detective Johns that he had some information in reference to the training day. Mr. Washington gave Detective Johns a "Fire Incident Report" from the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Mr. Washington advised the report was from the same day as the "noose incident" because he remembered Engine 29 taking a call for Ladder 30 at Regency Square Mall. The Fire Department Incident report shows that Engine 29 handled a call on 07-15-05, at 10:42 am, at Regency Square Mall, 9501 Arlington Expressway. However, it was established by Detectives Hinson and Johns that the "noose incident" took place on 08-23-05.

Lt. K. Davis advised Detective Johns and Detective Hinson that Fire Fighter Cyrus had been transferred to rescue #22 on Jammes Rd.

On 02/25/06, at 1430 hours, Detective Johns and Detective Hinson conducted an interview of Fire Fighter Daryl W. Cyrus, who has been with the Jacksonville Fire Department for approximately one year and six months. Fire fighter Cyrus is an E.M.T. and is presently assigned to Ladder #30.

Mr. Cyrus remembered the drill and was on the ground hooking up the ground ropes and preparing the system and ropes. Mr. Cyrus stated that he remembered several individuals on the roof of the Wal-mart and Captain Basford being in charge of the drill. Mr. Cyrus stated that he knows Charles Washington and David Johnston from working around them on calls and training. Mr. Cyrus stated that he was on the roof for a short time but most of his time was on the ground. Mr. Cyrus stated that only a "Barrel Knot" or "Figure 8 on a Byte", if done in a sloppy way, might be confused as a noose, but not to a trained eye.

Mr. Cyrus stated that this was the second time he had attended training at the Wal-mart. The first drill had been a water pumping drill. Mr. Cyrus stated that he never saw David Johnston on a truck or any other place but on the ground. Mr. Cyrus was asked if he ever saw a hangman's noose and he replied "yes". According to Cyrus, David Johnston had it in his hand and came walking around the engine smiling and holding it up. Mr. Cyrus stated that David Johnston then tossed the rope on the ground between the Engine and Ladder # 30.

Mr. Cyrus and Detective Hinson went over a rough sketch, which was made a part of the case file. Mr. Cyrus stated Fire Fighters Murphy, Epperson, Romano, Washington, Cyrus and Lt. Starks were in the group when Johnston came around the corner with the rope. Mr. Cyrus stated that he can't say who else saw it other than him, but he did see the hangman's noose in David Johnston's hand. Mr. Cyrus stated he did not hear Charles Washington or any one else complain about the noose and never heard any racial remarks. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Cyrus if it was unusual for him to be transferred out of his Fire District all the way across town and Mr. Cyrus stated "yes, it was very unusual". Detective Johns and Hinson then conversed with Lt. Williams and it was agreed to remove Fire Fighter Cyrus out of Fire Station # 22 and obtain a sworn statement on what he had observed that day in training.

Fire Fighter Mike Bernard was advised that Mr. Cyrus was accompanying detectives to the Police Memorial Building to obtain a statement and that he would return as soon as possible.

While en route to the Police Memorial Building, Detective Hinson contacted the on-call Assistant State Attorney

in the Major Crimes Unit and Assistant State Attorney London Harriston. Ms. Harriston was briefed on the circumstances of the request concerning Mr. Cyrus and she agreed to meet with us in the Homicide office. Detective Johns, Detective Hinson and Daryl Cyrus arrived at the Police Memorial Building at 1520 hours. Ms. Harriston arrived a short time later and at 1625 hours a "Sworn Statement" was started with Mr. Cyrus, (See Sworn Statement). Mr. Cyrus was returned to Fire Station 22 and Captain Huddel and the District Fire Chief were briefed and everyone was warned not to question Mr. Cyrus about any knowledge he might have concerning the investigation. Mr. Cyrus was given both Detective Johns and Hinson's phone number for contact if any problems arose out of his actions and cooperation in this investigation.

On 02/27/06, at 1045 hours Detective Johns and Detective Hinson attempted to contact Fire Fighter Dan Stiff at Fire Station # 37 located at 10151 Busch Dr. and was advised that he was on "C" shift and would be working in the morning.

On 02/27/06, at 1215 hours Assistant State Attorney Jay Taylor of the State Attorney's Office Special Prosecution Unit was contacted. Mr. Taylor was briefed on the circumstances of the investigation and the direction the investigation was heading. Mr. Taylor stated that he would speak to United States Attorney Jim Klindt on the matter and advise of a decision later in the week.

On 02/28/06, at 0141 hours, Detective Johns received a message from Charles Washington on voice mail. Mr. Washington stated that he received a call from Chief Perdue on February 25th to go to Station #19 and Chief Perdue asked Mr. Washington if that was "OK" and Mr. Washington stated that it was Ok with him. Mr. Washington felt that this was strange because the Chief has never asked him that before, that he just gave him an assignment and Mr. Washington went where he was assigned. Mr. Washington stated that while he was en route to Station #19, Chief Perdue called him again and told him to go to Rescue #22. Mr. Washington advised that he worked at Station #22 for approximately 1 hour then Chief Perdue called him again and told him to go to Station #29, his regular station. Mr. Washington said that at Station #22 there is a firefighter who is also a policeman and Mr. Washington felt like they were using that firefighter to gain intelligence on Mr. Washington.

Mr. Washington called back several times that day and the next day with information that he felt was strange. Mr. Washington stated that he had been invited to a retirement party then was asked to work the day of the party.

On 02/28/06, a meeting was held at the Intelligence unit office to discuss the progress of the investigation. Attending the meeting were Detectives B.P. Moore, L.F. Johns, R.A. Hinson, Lt. C.O. Williams, Sgt. D.L. Brannan, F.B. I. Agents John Hummel and Ted Delacourt, and Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sciortino. It was determined that after the J.S.O. investigation was completed, the F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney's office would take over the investigation.

On 02/28/06, Detective Hinson and Detective Porter, interviewed Fire fighter Brian Tibbetts, at Fire Station one. Mr. Tibbetts stated that on 02/20 and 02/21; Laurence Washington, Dan Stiff, and Mr. Tibbetts were working a painting job at the Plantation subdivision in the Sawgrass area of St. Johns County Florida.

The entire group was painting in one room and the topic of Charles Washington's news coverage on the hangman's noose was discussed. Mr. Tibbetts stated that Laurence Washington told him that Charles Washington "fibs" on occasion and that he was suspicious of the story. Mr. Stiff made the comment that he thought he might have been there and something might have happened. Mr. Tibbetts did not know any other information on this incident.

On 02/28/06, at 1457 hours, Detective Hinson and Detective Porter interviewed Captain Eleanor Byrd at the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Academy. Captain Byrd stated that she is an administrative Captain and is responsible for making sure everyone is up to date on their E.M.T. certificate. Captain Byrd stated that she is required to make sure that everyone is updated every two years on their "Target Safety" because it is a minimum requirement for employment with the City of Jacksonville. Captain Byrd stated that Charles Washington is always late and she has taken a lot of time above her required responsibilities to make sure he keeps up and does not lose his certificate. She stated that she has never picked on Mr. Washington or tried to embarrass him. She stated that she has even helped Mr. Washington while he was off duty to keep his certificate up.

Captain Byrd stated that she did call Teresa R. Kinstle on her cell phone after the story broke to see if she remembered anything because it involved her Fire Station. Captain Byrd stated that Teresa is a friend and called her on her cell phone. Captain Byrd stated that Mrs. Kinstle told her that she knew nothing of the incident.

Detective Hinson and Detective Porter then spoke to Lt. Jessie Brown Jr. who is an instructor at the Fire Academy and does a lot of rope training for the Jacksonville Fire Department. Lt. Brown stated that when he went through the Academy in 1993 he was taught that the two knots that are never tied are a "granny knot" and a "hangman's noose". This was not for racial matters, but due to the integrity and safety of the knot. Lt. Brown stated that he has never seen a hangman's knot tied during his career. Lt. Brown stated that the entire

department has been through a forty hour basic knot tying class with the exception of 23 employees who were hired from the Airport several years ago.

Detective Hinson and Detective Porter obtained copies of the drawings of the knots taught at the Fire Academy from Lt. S.T. Smith. These drawings were made a permanent part of the case file.

On 02/28/06, at 1630 hours I spoke to Assistant State Attorney Jay Taylor and briefed him on the status and direction the investigation was going. Mr. Taylor was informed on the fact that the F.B.I. was going to be taking over the investigation as a "Civil Rights" type of infraction. Mr. Taylor stated that his office would assist the United States Attorney's Office in their investigation and would not be pursuing any charges from a State level.

On 02/28/06, at 1720 hours, Detective Hinson and Detective Porter interviewed Daniel Stiff in regards to his conversation with Laurence Washington and Brian Tibbetts. Mr. Stiff was advised the reason for the interview and stated he remembered the conversation as it had been relayed to these detectives. Mr. Stiff stated that he does work with Mr. Tibbetts and Mr. Washington painting for 911 painting. Mr. Stiff stated he worked with Mr. Washington at Fire Station #27 from November 2002 through February 2004. Mr. Stiff said that Laurence Washington stated that Charles Washington was a liar and that he responded that at some point of time he had seen someone tying a hangman's noose at the training academy. Mr. Stiff stated that it was possibly a knot class, but he does not remember Charles Washington being in the class. He remembers Charles Washington being in training with him but is unsure when. Detective Hinson asked Mr. Stiff if he had been to "Stokes basket evolution" training at the Wal-mart on Merrill Rd. Mr. Stiff stated he had never been to training at that location of any kind.

On 02/28/06, at 1800 hours, Captain James Smith, was interviewed by Detective Hinson and Detective Porter. Captain Smith did not remember the drill at first but then remembered working for Captain Edwards and the drill. He stated that the drill was a "Stokes basket evolution" with basic rigging for removing an individual off of a building. Captain Smith was the officer in charge of Engine #27 and was on the ground during the first part of the drill during the briefing and then went to the roof for the remainder of the drill. Captain Smith stated that he did not see a "hangman's noose" and does not know Charles Washington. Captain Smith stated that he does know David Johnston and the only problems he has had with him has been concerning as a supervisor to an employee but nothing of a racial manner. Captain Smith stated that nobody made any comments to him and he knew of no problems that day. He stated that he has no knowledge of anyone tying a noose around him and if someone would have brought it to his attention he would have had to start disciplinary procedures. Captain Smith stated that Captain Basford came on the roof of the Wal-mart due to a disagreement over a safety issue with the basket. Captain Smith stated that he does remember seeing David Johnston on the ground that day during the training. Captain Smith had no other information to add to the investigation.

On 02/28/06, at 1910 hours, Detective Robert A. Hinson and Detective T.F. Porter interviewed Sharaad J. Christopher. Mr. Christopher is assigned to Engine #30 and according to Fire Stations #30 log books was off 08/23/05. Captain Basford stated that Mr. Christopher told him that he was at the drill. Mr. Christopher upon being told why we were there, stated that he was at the water training day and not the rope training day and knew nothing about this incident. Mr. Christopher stated that he was mistaken in his comment to Captain Basford about being at the training.

On 03/01/06, Detective Hinson retrieved the Fire Station Log books from Fire station #19, #27, #29, and #30 from Director Edwards Office. These books were made a permanent part of this case file.

On 03/01/06, at 1335 hours, Detective Robert A. Hinson and Detective T.F. Porter interviewed Chief Steve Gerbert, at 711 Liberty St. Chief Gerbert was advised why he was being interviewed and he stated that he knew Charles Washington. Chief Gerbert stated that Charles Washington has never worked under him but that they worked at Fire Station #18 together. Chief Gerbert stated that Mr. Washington stole \$11,000.00 while "day trading" in the Stock Market back in the middle to late 90's. Chief Gerbert stated that he gave Mr. Washington the money so he could make some money for artificial fertilization testing, while he and his wife were trying to have a baby. Mr. Washington called Chief Gerbert and told him he lost all of his money, but couldn't tell him what the name of the stock was that he had purchased for him. Chief Gerbert stated that he did cuss Mr. Washington out but never used any racial terms. He stated that he never would because he is Jewish, and he was not brought up that way. He stated that he did tell Mr. Washington he would get him one day but since then he has forgotten about it. He stated that it was not a big deal because he and his wife got divorced a year later and he was glad no child was involved. He stated that Mr. Washington has a bad reputation and has "screwed over" several other black and white firemen. Chief Gerbert stated that he stays away from Mr. Washington and has not spoken to him in a long time. Chief Gerbert stated that he does not know David Johnston and has never met him.

On 03/02/06, at 0815 hours Detective Robert A. Hinson and T. F. Porter interviewed Brian E. Doolittle, who is presently assigned to Engine #19. Mr. Doolittle remembered the drill in question and stated that he remembers Ladder # 30, Engine #27, Engine and Tanker # 29 at the training. The training was a "basket evolution" off of the

roof of the Wal-mart. Mr. Doolittle stated that he knows Mr. Washington from working with him in the past but does not know David Johnston. Mr. Doolittle stated that he was up by the building and did not see a hangman's noose or anyone throw a hangman's noose at Mr. Washington's feet. Mr. Doolittle stated that he never heard any complaining that day or any racial remarks to anyone. Mr. Doolittle stated that he remembers two or three groups of firemen standing on the ground. Mr. Doolittle stated the first time he heard about the incident was from news accounts.

On 03/02/06, at 0840 hours Detective Robert A. Hinson and Detective T. F. Porter interviewed Michael Belcher, who is presently assigned to Engine #30. Mr. Belcher stated he was working for Sharaad Christopher for a couple of hours and working on Ladder #30. Mr. Belcher remembers the training and for sixty five to seventy percent of the time he was on the roof of the Wal-mart. Mr. Belcher stated that he did not see a hangman's noose or anything that resembles a hangman's noose. He did not see anyone throw any type of rope at anyone's feet or on the ground. Mr. Belcher stated that he does not know David Johnston and believes that he might know Charles Washington. Mr. Belcher stated that he did not hear any racial comments or anyone complaining that day. Mr. Belcher stated that he found out about the incident from the news reports.

On 3/05/06, Mr. Washington called Detective Johns and stated that something strange happened on Friday, because the payroll checks were late being sent out. Mr. Washington said he felt like this was a form of harassment, humiliation and racism. Mr. Washington stated that this did not happen before the story broke.

On 03/13/06, Detectives L.F. Johns and R.A. Hinson met with F.B.I. agents Delacourt and Hummel to brief them on the investigation. The agents were given all sworn statements and related investigative paperwork so they could begin their federal investigation.

On 03/15/06, the F.B.I. assumed investigative responsibility for this investigation. Follow up interviews and any other investigative activity will be coordinated through the F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney's office.

On 10/31/06, Director Michael Edwards, Lt. Michelle Cook, Sgt. Danny Brannan, Detective Ben Moore, Detective Robbie Hinson, and FBI Special Agent Rick Dent met with United States Attorneys Jim Klindt and Brian Kane in reference to the Charles Washington investigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office will issue a letter stating their investigative findings.

On 11/22/06, United States Attorney Paul Perez issued a letter regarding this investigation stating, "at present we do not believe there is reasonable probability of obtaining a conviction for either a federal hate crime violation or for perjury and/or false statements".

11/27/06, a draft copy of this report was provided to Assistant State Attorney Jay Taylor. ASA Taylor stated that the State Attorney's Office will be reviewing the file for potential prosecution, however at this time the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office may conclude this investigation.

Investigative efforts are suspended as of 11-27-06 pending any further information or credible evidence.

Clearance Status: Clearance Code: Number of Cases Cleared

CRIME ANALYSIS

Aggravated Assault/Murder:

Type of Weapon:

Forced Entry: **NOT APPLICABLE** Structure Occupancy Code: **NOT APPLICABLE** Number of Premises Entered:

Location Type: **Parking Lot (Not specified)**

Incident Occurred Outside this Location Incident Occurred In the Parking Lot at this Location: **Yes**

Number of Vehicles Recovered:

Number of Arrested:

School Name: School Number

MISCELLANEOUS:

Is Offense Related to Domestic Violence: **No** If yes, were Children under 18 Present: If No is it Domestic Related: **NO**

Is there additional information included on a continuation report: **No** Are there other Pertinent Reports: **No**

In your opinion is there significant reason to believe that the crime can be solved by a patrol follow-up investigation? **No**

Neighborhood Canvass Conducted: **No** Number of Cases Cleared **0** Case Information Card Left With: **N.A.**

If Other (Name Address):

Address: **0** Apt./Lot #:

City: State: Zip:

Home Phone #

Bus. Phone # Ext.

Investigative Time:

#2 Hours: 288 Minutes: 0 Cost Amount: \$4,164.48

Detective Called To the Scene: **#0**

NA:

Notified:

Evidence Technician Called to the Scene: **#0**

NA:

Assigned By HQ:

Reporting Officers: **R.A.HINSON**

ID **#6459**

ID **#0**

11/28/2006 09:24

Approving Supervisor: **D.L.BRANNAN**

ID **#5056**

Division: **OTHER** Unit: **INTELLIGENCE**