



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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October 5, 2017

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

TO: File 32-17-0111

FROM: Special Agent James C. Busbee

RE: Official Misconduct

Robinson, Lamaz S. (Subject)
[REDACTED]

COUNTY: Edgefield

Introduction

On August 31, 2017, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) received a verbal request from Captain (Capt.) Chris Wash of the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) to investigate an allegation of sexual assault committed by the Johnston Police Department (JPD) Chief Lamaz S. Robinson that occurred in Edgefield County, SC. Capt. John Bishop assigned Special Agent (S/A) James C. Busbee to conduct the investigation.

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Summary

According to a Saluda County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Incident Report (201708-2174) (Attachment 1), taken on August 31, 2017, deputies responded to [REDACTED] in Saluda County, SC in reference to a sexual assault. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reported that their seventeen year old son, [REDACTED] was persuaded to meet an unknown black male after meeting on an online dating app. [REDACTED] did not know the unknown black male was JPD Chief Lamaz Robinson until they spoke to [REDACTED] further about the subject. [REDACTED] personally knew Chief Robinson from church. [REDACTED] performed a sexual act when he met Chief Robinson.

Deputies spoke with [REDACTED] who told them he joined an online dating app called "JACKD" to meet people. (*Agent's Note: JACKD, according to their website, "is a location-based mobile app for gay, bisexual, and curious guys to meet other guys anywhere, anytime. Guys can look for other guys to find friendship, dates, long-term relationships and one-time intimate encounter." Terms of its use state users must be at least 18 years of age to use and register.*)

Around June 2017, approximately one month after he turned seventeen, [REDACTED] was contacted by a black male, who was unknown to him at the time, and they started talking. Deputies showed [REDACTED] a picture of Chief Robinson, which he identified as the subject.

[REDACTED] met Chief Robinson at Chief Robinson's residence, [REDACTED] in Edgefield County, SC. [REDACTED] drove himself there. While he was there, Chief Robinson asked him for oral sex. [REDACTED] felt he was placed in a position he was not comfortable with and had no choice but to give Chief Robinson oral sex. [REDACTED] was only there for about fifteen minutes and then left and drove himself away. *Agent's Note: Chief Robinson did not disclose his identity to [REDACTED] before or during the encounter; and [REDACTED] did not know who Chief Robinson was until after the investigation had been initiated.*

On August 31, 2017, S/A Busbee, Lieutenant (Lt.) Gianna Williams and Capt. Bishop interviewed [REDACTED] at the SCSO and obtained a voluntary, written statement (Attachment

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2) which contained the following information: On August 31, 2017, she was looking through her son's phone and noticed he had an appointment with the Saluda Health Department. [REDACTED] confronted [REDACTED] about the appointment. [REDACTED] started crying and told her he went on a gay dating app and met Chief Robinson. [REDACTED] told her Chief Robinson knew her, his father and his aunt. [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] father, [REDACTED] and continued to question [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] arrived. [REDACTED] went on to tell [REDACTED] that he drove to Chief Robinson's house in Johnston around 12:00 p.m. a few days before July 4, 2017. [REDACTED] went into Chief Robinson's bedroom and performed oral sex on him after Chief Robinson asked him to. [REDACTED] left soon thereafter because Chief Robinson told him he had to go to work. Later on, Chief Robinson blocked [REDACTED] from communicating with him on the app.

On August 31, 2017, S/A Busbee and Capt. Bishop interviewed [REDACTED] at the SCSO and obtained a voluntary, written statement (Attachment 3) which contained the following information: On August 31, 2017, he received a phone call from his wife, [REDACTED] who told him he needed to come home because something was wrong with [REDACTED] but she would not tell him what it was over the phone. [REDACTED] rushed home and met [REDACTED] who told him to calm down and listen to what [REDACTED] had to say. [REDACTED] told him [REDACTED] had gone to Johnston to meet a guy at his house.

[REDACTED] told [REDACTED] he met Chief Robinson on an app where guys meet each other, and that Chief Robinson knew [REDACTED] and his sister. After having several conversations with Chief Robinson [REDACTED] drove to his house and performed oral sex on him. Chief Robinson then told [REDACTED] he had to go to work so [REDACTED] left.

On August, 31, 2017, S/A Busbee and Lt. Williams interviewed [REDACTED] at the SCSO and obtained a voluntary, written statement (Attachment 4) which contained the following information: He was a gay teenager who had not wholeheartedly accepted who he really was. He grew up being taught that being gay was a sin, so he had not been able to relay his feelings to his family. He felt like he was not loved, which caused some suicidal thoughts in the past.

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He joined the “JACKD” app around June 1, 2017, to look for friends and for people who could relate to his struggle. Approximately four weeks after he joined “JACKD”, Chief Robinson messaged him and they started talking. They talked for about a week and Chief Robinson sent [REDACTED] a picture of his penis and told him he was “horny.” [REDACTED] knew Chief Robinson was older and it was probably not in his best interest to pursue him, but he did anyway. They decided to meet at Chief Robinson’s house, [REDACTED] in Johnston, SC, on June 28 or June 29, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. After arriving at Chief Robinson’s house, Chief Robinson took [REDACTED] to the bedroom. Chief Robinson asked [REDACTED] who his “people” were, so [REDACTED] told him his mother’s and father’s names. Chief Robinson told him that he knew [REDACTED] parents. [REDACTED] wanted to get up and leave because that made him uncomfortable, but he was frozen and could not move or say anything. Chief Robinson also told him he knew his aunt and called her by name. Chief Robinson told [REDACTED] he knew who he was because he saw prom pictures of him. [REDACTED] disclosed to Chief Robinson that he was seventeen and still in high school.

Chief Robinson undressed until he was nude, lain down on the bed, and motioned for [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him. Chief Robinson did not force him to perform oral sex, but he felt as if he was supposed to do so and did not have a choice. When [REDACTED] was done performing oral sex on Chief Robinson, he felt ashamed and embarrassed. [REDACTED] felt that if he did what Chief Robinson asked and never contacted him again that it would all go away. [REDACTED] feared if he did not perform the sexual act, Chief Robinson would disclose to his family that he was gay and used a gay dating app. When [REDACTED] left Chief Robinson’s house, he messaged Chief Robinson on the app and asked him if he was “clean.” Chief Robinson responded he was clean and asked why [REDACTED] would ask him that. After that exchange, Chief Robinson blocked [REDACTED] on the app.

[REDACTED] continued using the app seeking older males to meet. After a while [REDACTED] deleted the app. Two weeks prior to August 31, 2017, at a local high school football game, [REDACTED] saw Chief Robinson and his father talking, and did not know what to think.

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[REDACTED] stated Chief Robinson never told him his name or what he did for a living. Chief Robinson did not force, threaten or coerce him into performing oral sex. [REDACTED] knew Chief Robinson intended on him performing oral sex prior to their meeting at Chief's Robinson's house. [REDACTED] did not know Chief Robinson was a police officer.

On September 14, 2017, S/A Busbee and Lt. Williams interviewed JPD Chief Lamaz Robinson at the JPD, and a SLED Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement Form (Attachment 5) was completed. A Memorandum of Interview (MOI) (Attachment 6) was also completed which related the following information: Chief Robinson was familiar with [REDACTED] and his parents and had interactions with [REDACTED] in 2017. [REDACTED] attended his church in Saluda, SC. Chief Robinson really met [REDACTED] through the networking app "JACKD." They communicated though the app and it was possible that nude pictures were exchanged.

Sometime over the summer [REDACTED] drove to his house. It was discussed and planned beforehand what the visit would entail. Chief Robinson stated they did not have sexual intercourse, but [REDACTED] "did give me head." [REDACTED] was all about kissing initially, but Chief Robinson was not into that. Eventually, things "got down to the nitty gritty. All he did was give me head."

[REDACTED] drove himself home and that was the only physical encounter they had. [REDACTED] sent him messages later asking, "How did I do?" to which Chief Robinson replied, "You could use some work." Around July 19, 2017, Chief Robinson blocked [REDACTED] from contacting him through the app because [REDACTED] started "blowing up my phone."

Chief Robinson last had contact with [REDACTED] on August 18, 2017, at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] football game. [REDACTED] contacted Chief Robinson through the app because [REDACTED] created a new profile. [REDACTED] apologized for being aggravating and wanted to know if he could see him again. Chief Robinson told him they would talk about it, but never had any other interaction.

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Chief Robinson never told [REDACTED] he was a police officer. He never coerced [REDACTED] into coming to his home. He never forced or threatened [REDACTED] into performing oral sex. Chief Robinson was not on duty or in uniform when the incident took place. His issued Ford Explorer patrol vehicle was located at his house when the incident took place, but it was unmarked.

Chief Robinson did not know [REDACTED] was a high school student for the following reasons:

- [REDACTED] had a profile on “JACKD” which led him to believe he was at least 18 years old.
- He believed [REDACTED] stated on his profile that he was 19 years old.
- [REDACTED] told Chief Robinson he was on his way to college, which led him to believe [REDACTED] had graduated from high school.

Chief Robinson stated if he had any idea [REDACTED] was in high school, he would have never allowed him to come to his home.

On September 20, 2017, Capt. Bishop met with Chief Robinson at the SLED Annex in Columbia, SC. Chief Robinson reviewed and signed the MOI completed for his interview (Refer to Attachment 6).

On October 5, 2017, S/A Busbee conducted a follow up telephone interview with [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. An MOI (Attachment 7) was completed which related the following information. [REDACTED] denied ever contacting Chief Robinson more than just the one time right after he left Chief Robinson’s residence on the day of the incident. [REDACTED] denied contacting Chief Robinson from a different profile on the “JACKD” app while at the [REDACTED] Thurmond football game.

The following documents were obtained pertinent to this investigation:

- SCDMV 10 Year Driving Record – Lamaz S. Robinson (Attachment 8)
- SCDMV 10 Year Driving Record – [REDACTED] (Attachment 9)

Conclusion

The following statements are based upon facts obtained during the investigation:

- Chief Robinson and [REDACTED] met on the “JACKD” dating app and had a sexual encounter around July 4, 2017, at Chief Robinson’s residence in Johnston, SC (Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6).
- [REDACTED] was seventeen years old at the time of the sexual encounter (Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9).
- Chief Robinson was not on duty or in uniform at the time of the sexual encounter (Attachments 4 and 6).
- Chief Robinson did not coerce, threaten or force [REDACTED] to come to his residence and perform oral sex on him (Attachments 4 and 6).
- A sexual encounter to include oral sex was discussed between Chief Robinson and [REDACTED] prior to [REDACTED] going to Chief Robinson’s residence (Attachments 4 and 6).

This report will be submitted to the proper prosecutorial authority for review.

James C. Busbee

S/A James C. Busbee

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Attachments

1. SCSO Incident Report 201708-2174
2. Voluntary, Written Statement - [REDACTED]
3. Voluntary, Written Statement - [REDACTED]
4. Voluntary, Written Statement - [REDACTED]
5. SLED Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement Form
6. MOI – Chief Lamaz S. Robinson
7. MOI - [REDACTED]
8. SCDMV 10 Year Driving Record – Lamaz S. Robinson
9. SCDMV 10 Year Driving Record - [REDACTED]