Narrative

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
Investigation Narrative

30 May 2021, 0652, D/S J. Clouse:

Synopsis:

On 29 May 2021 at approximately 1620 Beaufort County Sheriff's Office units were notified of an ongoing fight involving reportedly 30 individuals on the docks of 1 Carvin Rd., Freeport Marina on Daufuskie Island, South Carolina 29915. AIR 1 was in the area conducting extra patrols and upon hearing this call responded to the incident location. AIR 1 advised that a large group of people were on the docks on the Freeport Marina but not actively fighting and also advised that several boats were leaving the area as a result of their presence. AIR 1 remained on scene, deterring further altercation and providing descriptions of possible victims / suspects until Deputies arrived. Coast Guard Station Tybee units and Department of Natural Resources units were requested to respond to the area and attempt to stop any boats that matched available descriptions.

While these units responded to the incident Deputies Prusinowski, Corcoran, and myself travelled to the Harbour Town Marina to meet the water taxi in order to go to Daufuskie Island. We arrived on Daufuskie at Haig Point at approximately 1645.

Upon our arrival we were notified that the Coast Guard and DNR unit 43 had both stopped boats that had individuals involved in the altercation. These parties were escorted back to Freeport Marina where we made contact with them at approximately 1657.

The first boat that was escorted back to the dock contained 5 individuals who were involved in the incident. This boat's passengers were as follows:

Sandra Lynn Bond
John Edwin Cooper II
Hunter Boyd McCarter
Brycen Noah Cooper
John Edwin Cooper III

(This group of people is involved party #1.)

The second group that was stopped contained approximately 5 individuals. Two of these individuals were determined to be not involved in the altercation and did not wish to be involved in the report. This group contained the following identified individuals:

Jesse Facenda
Aaron Facenda
Ashley Powers
Benton Michael Soule

(This group of people is involved party #2.)

Officer Observations:
My initial contact was made with the individuals from party #2. Both Jesse Facenda and Ashley Powers appeared to be intoxicated. Both individual

stated that they had been drinking prior to the altercation. I observed some lacerations to Jesse's right arm and an abrasion to his right temple. His sunglasses were also cracked.

Interview with Jesse Facenda
Jesse told me that the altercation had initially began when an unknown man had threatened to shoot them because he had moved the man's boat line to another dock cleat. Jesse then said that he was sucker punched in the side of the head by someone but could not identify who it was. Jesse said that he was thrown into the water and when he tried to climb out of the water he cut his arm on the barnacles on the side of the dock.

Jesse later said that his friend, Ashley Powers, was pushed by someone in party #1 and he stepped in to defend her. Jesse admitted to me that he did punch someone but also told me that he did not know who it was that he hit and that the person was no longer on scene.

Jesse refused EMS treatment on scene and said that his injuries were not serious.

Upon being re-interviewed on 30 May 2021 Jesse's story as again inconsistent with previously given information. Jesse's statement's that Michael participated in the fight by tackling an unknown individual were not corroborated with any other witness statements. Jesse also now stated to law enforcement that the unknown male who threatened him with a pistol actually pulled out a pistol and brandished the weapon at him. Jesse described it as a "black Glock looking pistol, possibly a Glock 45". This claim was also never corroborated by any witness statements. No individuals who were on scene following the accident reported that a pistol was ever displayed.

Additionally Jesse also stated to me that when he saw Ashley get pushed he just punched the man nearest to her and assumed that was who had pushed her. Jesse said that he was intoxicated when this happened and was not sure who he had struck or if they were the individual he intended to assault.

Officer Observations:

Jesse showed me his right fist and there was an abrasion and a cut on his knuckle. He told me that he got the injury to his hand when he punched someone.

Interview with Ashley Powers:

Ashley told me that the fight fully began when she was pushed by a member of party #1. Ashley pointed towards Sandra Bond, who was on party #1's boat, and described her as wearing a long tan colored sundress. This description was consistent with what Sandra Bond was wearing at the time of the incident. Ashley told me that she did not know why Sandra had pushed her and that she did not know Sandra. Ashley told me that after she was pushed the fight started and that is when Jesse stepped in and got injured.
At the time of the initial contact Ashley stated that she did not wish to pursue charges for Assault and Battery 3rd against Sandra.

Interview with Benton Soule:

Benton stated that he was not involved in any fighting and also advised that his group did not initiate the altercation. Benton was unable to identify who else was involved or who initiated the fighting. Benton did not present any

signs of offensive or defensive wounds. Benton did not appear to be obviously intoxicated.

Interview with members of party #1:
In speaking with all of the involved persons in party #1 an accurate recalling of the events could not be established. Some members of the party such as Sandra Bond and John Cooper II stated to law enforcement that the individuals in party #2 started the altercation and that the only involvement party #1 had was they attempted to intervene in the fight. Sandra Bond made statements to one deputy claiming that Ashley Powers had started the altercation between the two groups when Powers had pushed Bond off the dock and into the water. This allegation did not corroborate deputies' observations on scene; given that we had arrived only 20 to 30 minutes following the initial call about the fight our initial observation of Sandra was that she was completely dry, to include her long hair, which would have still shown signs that it had been wet by the time of our arrival. Additionally third party witnesses and involved members of party #2 pointed at Sandra when asked which female had done the pushing that started the fight.

All members of party #1 and #2 agreed that they did not want to pursue charges against any other individuals.

Officer Actions:

Following Deputies departing from Daufuskie we received notification that there was a reported victim from this assault at [redacted] PFC Moore made contact with a Michael [redacted] who was checked into the emergency room with injuries. PFC Moore conducted interviews with Michael [redacted] and Sherry DeSimone. DeSimone was with [redacted] on their boat and witnessed the altercation as well. She did not sustain injuries. [redacted] suffered injuries consistent with being in an altercation. See Supplement #1 for complete details.

I provided additional statement forms to [redacted] and DeSimone and provided them with my contact information if they obtain any further details. I also collected images of Michael [redacted] s injuries and transferred them to a CD; I submitted the CD with the photographs to temporary storage at 70 Shelter Cove Ln.

Officer Observations/Impressions:

Each involved party presented contradicting sides of this event and each retelling of the events from both parties only increased the inconsistency. However, after gathering the statements from Michael [redacted] nd Sherry DeSimone the incident is believed to have occurred as follows.

An unidentified male between the age of 50-60 became angry at the members of party #2 and threatened them with a pistol after Jesse or another individual moved the unknown male's boat tie to a different cleat. Following this threat the man left the scene and is not mentioned again by any parties that were found on scene. Next I suspect that an individual from party #1 began acting disruptive and shouting at Jesse and his group (party #2), likely due to intoxication. Following this I suspect that Sandra Bond pushed Ashley Powers on the shoulder and made her stumble backwards. At this same time Michael [redacted] was walking back down the dock towards his boat with two drinks in his hands. Ashley Powers fell backwards into him causing him to stumble. Following this I suspect that Jesse saw Ashley had been pushed but did not see who had actually pushed her. Given his level of intoxication when he spoke with

law enforcement I believe that he mistook Michael [redacted]s the one who had pushed Ashley and so Jesse attacked Michael.

According to Michael, Jesse initially punched him in the face and then Jesse's brother Aaron put Michael into a headlock and held him in place. While Michael was trapped Jesse struck him multiple times in the face, resulting in the lacerations to his mouth. Following this, Michael dropped to the ground and somehow broke his right ankle. Next I believe that in seeing a fight breaking out members of party #1 jumped into the altercation and punched Jesse in the face, leaving an abrasion and cracking his glasses. Then Jesse either fell or was pushed off of the dock and managed to cut his arm on the barnacles on the dockside. During the fight Michael said that he got up and stumbled to his boat and was bleeding heavily from the mouth. Michael stated that he was concerned by the amount of pain he was feeling and the amount of blood coming from his wounds he then told his friends to take him straight to the hospital. After Michael had arrived at the hospital they immediately contacted law enforcement to notify us that they were involved in the incident. All parties involved in the fight, except for the victim Michael, appeared to be intoxicated when speaking with law enforcement. One of the two current suspects, Jesse, admitted to being intoxicated and not know exactly who he assaulted. Jesse stated that he simply saw Ashley pushed and then punched the nearest person to her.

Given the totality of the facts provided from all involved parties I believed that while other parties contributed to starting the altercation Jesse and Aaron were the primary aggressors in this situation and caused injuries to Michael [redacted]onsistent with Assault and Battery 2nd Degree S.C. Code §16-3-600(D)(1).

I plan on discussing the case with the victim and acquiring a 6-pack photo line-up of both Jesse and Aaron to show to Michael in hopes that he can positively identify the two as the ones that assaulted him.

[redacted]