
From: Deborah Gonzalez
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 12:02 PM EST
To: Cleveland Spruill; Blaine Williams
CC: Deborah Gonzalez
Subject: RE: Significant Incident, Shooting 2022-01210149

Good afternoon Chief Spruill and Manager Williams:

This email is in response to three emails addressed to me and Manager Williams sent by you yesterday regarding certain violent incidents in our community. I agree with your statement "So sad." This certainly is a challenging time for our community, and one to which all public servants have a duty to respond to as best we can with the resources we have.

Beyond that, I'm not sure what point you hope to convey with these messages, Chief Spruill. I assume, since you have included me in your communications on these matters with Manager Williams that you have some point you would like to make regarding my office's handling of these matters, but given that you never come out and say what that might be, I am at some disadvantage in responding. Although I have a policy of not discussing pending cases or past cases where a defendant has a pending case in my office, given your apparent desire to engage Manager Williams in a discussion of these matters, I am making an exception (without releasing any details which would compromise the case).

This is a juvenile case involving a child who just turned 13 this week. The reason Judge Trimble refused to adjudicate this child at trial for armed robbery a few months ago (when he was 12 years old) was that the judge held that the show-up identification that the police officers conducted was unreliable and tainted the victim's in-court identification of his attacker. As a result, my office's efforts to seek accountability and promote public safety in the form of confinement was undermined through no fault of our own. My juvenile prosecutor and your Officer Ellison have spent a lot of hours trying to hold this child accountable. She is working closely with ACCPD for this new case and to prepare it for trial. This has always been a priority case for this office and our juvenile ADA has always viewed him as dangerous and in need of confinement.

This matter does demonstrate the reason why early last year I offered training regarding evidence and testimony to your officers. You declined. This issue has continued to come up as well as offers for training, such as in our last communication during a gang presentation.

It is truly regrettable that when presented with the facts of this case the judge made specific findings that under the law ACCPD conducted an improper identification procedure for the last armed robbery trial. It is even more regrettable given that that you have repeatedly dismissed the DA's office's offers to provide training and updates on the state of the law and the expectations of our ACC judges.

We can continue these time-wasting back and forth emails or we can move forward with proactive steps to keep our community safe. I've already started on that path with your gang unit, I look forward to doing so with you.

As always I am only a phone call away.

DA Gonzalez

Deborah Gonzalez

District Attorney

Western Judicial Circuit

Athens-Clarke & Oconee Counties

www.westerncircuitda.com

Deborah.gonzalez@accgov.com

706-613-3240

From: Cleveland Spruill <Cleveland.Spruill@accgov.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Blaine Williams <Blaine.Williams@accgov.com>; Deborah Gonzalez <Deborah.Gonzalez@accgov.com>
Subject: FW: Significant Incident, Shooting 2022-01210149

FYI. Very sad.



CLEVELAND L. SPRUILL SR

Chief of Police

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

3035 Lexington Road

Athens, Georgia 30605

(706) 613-3351

From: Jody Thompson
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:51 PM
To: Significant Incident Notification <significantincidentnotification@accgov.com>
Cc: reidt@clarke.k12.ga.us
Subject: Significant Incident, Shooting 2022-01210149

Shooting/Aggravated Assault

165 Ramble Hills

2022-01210149

- Officers were dispatched to 165 Ramble Hills regarding a 13-year-old shooting his mother
- The juvenile, a repeat, violent offender, was confronted by his mother regarding drug-related activity
- The juvenile then threaten to shoot his mother, produced a gun, and fired two shots
- The mother sustained non-life-threatening injuries to her arm and leg
- At the time a DJJ appointed counselor was on scene and witnessed the incident
- The juvenile was detained at the scene and transported to speak to CID
- Forensics processed the scene and K9 attempted an article search for the firearm
- DJJ did detain the juvenile
- Juvenile is a student at Classic City Alternative School

Lieutenant Jody Thompson
Athens-Clarke County Police Department
Uniform Patrol Division
762-400-7103
Jody.Thompson@accgov.com