

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>

To: Smith, Austin <AustinSmith@gov.sc.gov>

CC: Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>

Date: 3/4/2016 7:51:35 AM

Subject: FW: Proposed response to FOIA request from WACH

Attachments: [incident reports to date 3-3-16.pdf](#)

Wanted you guys to take a look at this FOIA response from DJJ to WACH.

From: Eric L. Rousey [mailto:ELROUS@scdjj.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 5:23 PM

To: Symmes, Brian

Cc: Brett M. Macgargle; Katherine L. Pierson

Subject: Proposed response to FOIA request from WACH

In response to the FOIA request from WACH regarding our incident reports and asking specific questions (see attached redacted incident reports):

1. Did an incident occur at the DJJ facilities during the afternoon/evening hours of Friday, February 26th, 2016 that required response from any law enforcement agencies? If so, what type of emergency call or calls were made?

At about 8:30 p.m. on February 26th, a group of 14 juveniles became aggressive and did a significant amount of property damage to their dormitory, some surrounding DJJ properties, and two automobiles on DJJ's Broad River Road Complex (BRRRC). One of the juveniles was able to get outside of the BRRRC complex briefly, but was apprehended shortly thereafter. As of 11 p.m. all of the juveniles were back in secure DJJ custody.

DJJ police handled most of the disturbance. However, DJJ did notify local emergency services. And the Richland County Sheriff's Office did assist in the capture of the juvenile who briefly escaped.

2. Were there any arrests or injuries as a result of any incidents that may have occurred during this date and time?

The juvenile who briefly escaped was detained by the Richland County Sheriff's Office until he could be returned to DJJ custody. He will be charged with escape. In addition, DJJ plans to file criminal charges and pursue restitution against the instigators of the disturbance and all those involved in the most serious incidents.

There were also two juvenile correctional officers who sustained minor injuries, a broken toe and a shoulder injury while attempting to restrain or apprehend juveniles involved in this incident.

3. Were there any type of fire-related incidents that occurred on February 26th, 2016 or prior to this date that may have caused damage to any DJJ facilities? If so, what is the extent of the damage? Are there any digital images or video available? Are these buildings currently occupied or unoccupied?

There were several minor fires started in housing units by juveniles on the night of the 26th. Damage from the fires was not significant. There have also been fires started in other DJJ facilities by juveniles in the past few months. But none of these fires caused significant damage to any of these units.

Since all of the individuals involved in this major disturbance were committed to our custody by the Family Court, state law (63-19-2020) does not allow us to share with you any video footage or digital pictures of these events that exist, since they contained identifiable images of juveniles. However, we can assure you that these videos and images will be shared with law enforcement and with state prosecutors as we pursue criminal charges against the young men involved in this incident.

Three of our housing units (the Cypress dorm, the Crisis Management Unit, and the Girls Transition Home) are currently undergoing repairs and/or security upgrades we felt were advisable and necessary given the physical damage that juveniles did during this and a previous incident. All other active dorms and facilities are open, occupied, and functioning normally.

4. I would like to put in a request to speak with the DJJ director or representative, as well as visit any facilities that may have been damaged from incidents within the past three months.

Please contact our Communications Coordinator, Eric Rousey at (803) 896-9765 (email: publicaffairs@scdjj.net) and he will speak with you about that.

Eric Rousey
Communications Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Goldsmith Building
4900 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

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(803) 896-9765

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