

From: Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>
To: Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/18/2016 6:03:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: FOIA response to Tara Pettit (WACH), for approval

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Elizabeth A. Hill" <EAHILL@scdjj.net>
Date: March 18, 2016 at 2:52:21 PM EDT
To: "Pisarik, Holly" <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>
Cc: "Larry L. Vanderbilt" <LLVAND@scdjj.net>
Subject: FW: FOIA response to Tara Pettit (WACH), for approval

Hi, Holly.

Per our conversation, please find below the proposed response to WACH. Eric emailed this proposed response to Brian yesterday. Our deadline to respond under FOIA is Monday.

Please advise.

Thanks, Elizabeth

Elizabeth A. Hill

General Counsel
SC Department of Juvenile Justice
Post Office Box 21069
Columbia, SC 29221
803.896.4815 FAX: 803.896.5738
eahill@scdjj.net

From: Eric L. Rousey
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Larry L. Vanderbilt <LLVAND@scdjj.net>; Elizabeth A. Hill <EAHILL@scdjj.net>
Cc: Brett M. Macgargle <BMMACG@scdjj.net>; Katherine L. Pierson <KLPIER@scdjj.net>
Subject: FOIA response to Tara Pettit (WACH), for approval

For approval to send this by Monday morning:

I would like to request all incident reports through FOIA regarding incidents the night of February 26th at the DJJ facility.

With regards to incident reports related to the February 26th incident, pursuant to SC Code §30-4-40(a)(3), these reports are not being provided at this time due to the on-going nature of the investigation into this incident and the need to avoid compromising the investigation by the

premature disclosure of these documents.

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 major disturbance occurred at DJJ's Broad River Road Campus (BRRC). This disturbance originated in the Cypress housing unit when, a group of 14 juveniles became aggressive, did a significant amount of property damage to the unit, and then were able to escape from the unit and did additional significant property damage to other DJJ buildings and housing units and to four automobiles at DJJ's Broad River Road Complex (BRRC). In addition, a number of these same juveniles also threatened and/or assaulted other juveniles (approximately 5) and staff during staff's attempt to restrain and/or apprehend these individuals. Finally, one juvenile was able to get outside of the BRRC complex by crawling through a drainage pipe, but was apprehended shortly thereafter. As of 11 p.m. all of the juveniles were back in secure DJJ custody.

DJJ police responded to and were ultimately able to resolve, without outside law enforcement assistance, this major 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. DJJ has filed criminal charges and is pursuing restitution against five of the juveniles involved in this disturbance. All five were arrested and charged as adults, consistent with state law, and transported to the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center in Richland County where they remain.

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 two other housing units at BRRC, by juveniles in the past few months. But none of these fires caused significant damage to these units. Major property damage did occur, however, in two other housing units at BRRC, the first occurring in August of 2015 in our Poplar Unit, when a juvenile was able to obtain a baseball bat and used it to break multiple glass windows, doors and equipment within this unit, and the second, in our Magnolia Unit in September of 2015, when multiple youth committed significant property damage in that unit.

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, I 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.

Two of our housing units (Cypress and the Crisis Management Unit) are currently undergoing repairs and/or security upgrades we felt were advisable and necessary given the physical damage that juveniles did during two of the incidents described herein. All other 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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