

Friday | May 24, 2024

Re: WPCSO Case No. [REDACTED]

[Case is now in the care of WPCDA office as of May 2024]

Re: WPCDA Case No. [REDACTED]



Government Ethics
and
Accountability

admin@GovernmentEthicsandAccountability.com
T: 480-238-4460

Letter and Public Records Request

Attached:

- (1) Letter - Failure to Conduct Fair & Proper Investigation by WPCSO
- (2) Copy of WPCDA office's evaluation of a *Two Year-Too Late* failed so-called investigation
- (3) Letter of Authorization by reporting party
- (4) Public Records Request pursuant to *NRS 239 and NRS 289.830~2.(a)*

Attention to the Following:

White Pine County District Attorney Office "WPCDA"
1786 Great Basin Blvd | Ste. 4 | Ely, NV 89301
T: 775-293-6565 | F: 775-289-1559

April R. Bradshaw, Case Manager [SBN #11963]
AbRADshaw@whitepinecountynv.gov

James S. Beecher, *Ad Interim* D.A. [SBN #12555]
jBeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov | DAOffice@whitepinecountynv.gov

cc/ Maxine Lantz, Victim Advocate at WPCSO
802 Avenue E | Ely, NV 89301
vws@sbcglobal.net
T: 775-289-3410 | 800-372-7202

cc/ Nevada State VWS Oversight:
USANV.VWC@usdoj.gov
LV T: 702-388-6336 | 800-539-8002
Reno T: 775-784-5438 | 800-303-5545

WPCSO Failure to Conduct Proper Investigation

April Bradshaw,

We are a local community organization investigating into the great deal of concerns running rampant throughout this government body, most particularly the WPCSO under intense scrutiny as of late. We would like to disclose that the reporting party did share with us your response that was provided to her on May 23, 2024 via email correspondence. If there is any question regarding confidentiality and your communication with us, we attached a Letter of Authorization for your records.

We feel the reporting party was discriminated against for several reasons, which may in large part, explain the unprofessional way in which she describes she was treated after having mustered up the courage to make the initial report that summer of 2022. She's received no communication up unto this point and it seems the only reason we are discussing this now, is because of her recent status update inquiry. According to the WPCSO, this case was turned over into your care at some point in the process. The most peculiar aspect about this case being that both this WPCDA office and the WPCSO, still refuses to acknowledge the massive failure to follow through, with what should have been a proper investigation.

What we are most interested in is addressing the current failed system, where women have expressed feeling even less safe and unheard than before, after engaging with this WPCSO. There seems to be a systematic biased approach in how these sensitive matters are handled (and against women on the whole). Our goal is not so much about endorsing any one position in this specific case matter but rather to shed light on the consistent track record of failed investigations into these alarming case files, and would respectfully ask that someone in that WPCDA office take the extra initiative to address this undeniable problem, for our daughters coming of age if not for any other reason. We believe that due to this office's full prior knowledge about the shortcomings we're bringing to your attention today, this should undoubtedly be just as much a concern to you in as much as it is us. We regret to say however that with every case examination, we are feeling less and less confident in this D.A. office to take any meaningful measures. Just as the WPCSO has demonstrated, it seems this office's determination to cover up these known failures, seems of greater importance than working with the public to rectify them.

A few important points to consider are the following:

- (1) It's not that the reporting party failed to disclose text messages, but that she was never asked for them as should have been a part of the investigatory process. A proper investigation involves a 2-step process: (1) The initial report is made, then (2) an investigation is initiated where evidentiary discovery is retrieved by BOTH parties involved. Did you (WPCSO) ever ask the reporting party for text messages verified to have been received by the alleged offender's telephone number, wherewith a clear confession that boundaries were in fact violated was made? It appears this WPCSO's only interest was to conduct a one sided examination of evidence gathering. If this isn't enough to illustrate a clear bias, I'm not sure what would.
THIS WAS NOT A PROPER INVESTIGATION. [FAILURE #1]
- (2) Did you (WPCSO) ever inquire about any professional evidence of insight into the matter since the incident by the reporting party; such as all the therapist visits where a licensed professional can affirm the common coping symptoms of RTS (*Rape Trauma Syndrome*) as it relates to the associated initial shock and confusion proceeding such a dreadful incident? THEY DID NOT. This should have been known about before the case landed on your desk. The initial 'niceness' you made sure to point out that a newly traumatized victim may exhibit afterwards, is in fact a very normal coping mechanism as the person who was just victimized tries to process what had just

occurred. The reporting party's own therapist can testify the reporting party's disappointment in even herself for this. This is very normal and is in fact, a common denominator characteristic found among victims in cases of this nature. We wouldn't really expect you to understand this because you are a case file manager; not an accredited professional in field of trauma therapy. So with all due respect, why are you expected to comment or express your 'opinion' about sensitivities of this nature while it is not your area of expertise? The reporting party should have been provided an accredited advocate, BUT SHE WAS NOT. [FAILURE #2] A case file manager's *opinion* about the victim's initial coping response, IS NOT a legitimate reason to depose a case in lieu of a proper investigation.

- (3) Have you been made aware that the alleged offender was since terminated by the City of Ely Fire Department in White Pine County for bringing a hand gun to the work premise and acting strangely out of character? As the character witness testaments can confirm, it became so alarming to all those around him that they felt there was no choice but to report the fear they were experiencing. This is a very serious question of character that not one county employee within either the WPCSO or this WPCDA office has cared to inquire into. This would most definitely explain a victim's initial fear-driven false display of flattery, praise, or perhaps a false liking to the violation that had just occurred. Character Questionably, another critical piece of evidence this WPCSO somehow failed to take into consideration. [FAILURE #3]
- (4) Does it concern this district attorney office that the man who was left in charge of investigating matters involving sex offense violations, former WPCSO Sergeant Fredrick Ashby (aka. 'Rick'), was put on leave just one month after the report was made in July 2022? This is the same sergeant that was eventually terminated for an investigation into his own alleged sex crimes against multiple women. As you are well informed about, there is currently an investigation underway into this sheriff department regarding the altercation of important public records and records outright missing altogether, in this sheriff's endeavor to hide evidence of wrongdoing and defend known sex offenders within this very WPCSO department. Might this alone be a legitimate cause for concern to question the credibility of this WPCSO's proposal to prematurely close a case in lieu of a proper investigation (a case that is already exposed on record to have been neglected an entire TWO years now)? [FAILURE #4]
- (5) Questions involving WPCSO's Underperformance: We were quite shocked to learn we have a state endorsed 'Victim Advocate' located right here in the heart of Ely, Nevada. Where is she and why are these cases not being reported to her by this WPCSO *as they come* (not just in this case matter alone, but the several other tragic cases under examination)? Why are these deputies not being educated about providing victims her contact information and/or to provide other resources that are available for victims? We verified that almost every other rural Nevada county sheriff department (all that we've looked into to date), seem to embody an exceptional proficiency in this area. Just to take one example, just take a look at the [Eureka County Sheriff's Office web page](#). What a drastic difference. And we just gave this presiding sheriff Mr. Henriod a pay raise For What? Sometimes the silence about a particular issue, speaks far louder than anything that could ever be vocalized. The fact that Mr. Henriod has failed to make any official address to his constituency regarding the insurmountable flood of sex crime cases being unveiled in recent years (even unto this very day), and the fact that he's sought out no resources or training to improve upon in this area, should raise enough red flags to propel this DA office to take remedial action.

In your May 23, 2024 email correspondence with the reporting party, you affirmed that you did review the BWC footage yesterday and based upon this evidence (in collaboration with other reports), this is the basis for your recommendation to close the case without a proper investigation. Being that the BWC footage played such an integral role in your decision to warrant a case closure recommendation, even in light of what you already know about the negligence, we would also like to review the BWC footage ourselves. Attached is our official public record request to obtain a copy of that same BWC footage pursuant to *NRS 289.830~2.(a)*. To be specific, as detailed in the our request (attached), we are requesting the live footage of the full interview that occurred between the WPCSO deputies that were present that day of July 8, 2022 with the reporting party during the initial report.

We want to thank you for being so responsive, as [REDACTED] expressed this hasn't been her experience up until now.

Sincerely,

Leah Brown, Government Ethics and Accountability
admin@GovernmentEthicsandAccountability.com | P: 480-238-4460

May 24, 2024

Attention to the Following:

White Pine County District Attorney Office "WPCDA"
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April R. Bradshaw, Case Manager [SBN #11963]
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James S. Beecher, *Ad Interim* D.A. [SBN #12555]
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PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Pursuant to NRS 239 and NRS 289.830~2.(a)

This is a written request to obtain the following:

- (1) Transcript copy of the official Termination Letter of former Sergeant Frederick Ashby (all pages, including attachments)
- (2) BWC footage pursuant to *NRS 289.830~2.(a)*. We are requesting the live footage of the full interview that took place between the WPCSO deputies that were present that day of July 8, 2022 with [REDACTED] during the reporting party's initial report of the sex offense.

You may send these records electronically to the following email address:
admin@GovernmentEthicsandAccountability.com.

Either myself or the reporting party are more than happy to come into the office in person to retrieve that BWC recording. Otherwise, sending it as a .zip file to the email address above would be great.

Thank you,

Leah Brown, Government Ethics and Accountability
admin@GovernmentEthicsandAccountability.com | T: 480-238-4460