

Sean T. Brandenburg
Chief of Police



Key West **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

September 3, 2019

Citizen Review Board
PO Box 1946
Key West, FL 33040

Citizen Review Board,

I have attached the responses to the questions provided by Chairman Arthur Dennison and Board Member Richard Wagner. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Castillo", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Sergeant Jason Castillo
Professional Standards Division Commander



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Mr. Wagner's questions:

What does counseling the officers involve and what was the result of said counseling?

Response: A verbal counseling is a non-disciplinary meeting between an officer and their supervisor. The officers were counseled by Captain JR Torres. Captain Torres explained to the officers that had they provided Mr. Brace with more information regarding their reason for being there, Mr. Brace may have had a better understanding of the situation.

Why didn't KWPD give closure to Ms. Grierson's purse being taken?

Response: Ms. Grierson advised the officers that she did not want to pursue charges against Mr. Burley, she simply wanted her bag returned. After determining that Mr. Burley was not at 1015 South Street, Officer Hudson attempted to call Ms. Grierson several times, and received no answer; voice messages were also left. Officer Hudson attempted contact Ms. Grierson, in person, at her residence the next day and was unable to locate her.

I know she didn't want to pursue charges against Mr. Burley, but what happened to him and why wasn't he questioned in this complaint?

Response: Due to Ms. Grierson not returning Officer Hudson's phone calls, Officer Hudson had no other contact information for Mr. Burley.

How did the address given by Ms. Grierson turn out to be wrong?

Response: This could not be explained due to Ms. Grierson not returning the phone calls by Officer Hudson.

What explanation was given on why the door to 1015 South St. was ajar?

Response: Mr. Brace did not know why the door was ajar. The only explanation provided by Mr. Brace was that his autistic teenage son could have left the door open.

How did the officers know Mr. Brace's answers about Burley not living there, or knowing him, were truthful?

Response: Mr. Brace's demeanor led the officers to believe he was being truthful and there was no other evidence to prove otherwise.



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Mr. Wagner's questions cont.:

What were the responses from the officers when they were asked why they went into someone's house and not tell them why they were there?

Response: *The officers understood Mr. Brace's position in this matter and they realized that providing Mr. Brace with more information could have avoided this type of situation. Both officers agreed that should a situation similar to this occur again, they will handle it differently.*

When dispatch assigns a call, it is given an "item" number (my reference to the days when I worked with NOPD) accompanied by a report, right?

Response: *Every dispatched call is assigned an Event ID number, as shown on the Communications Event Report that was provided. The Communications Event Report contains all the pertinent information provided by the caller. If the call requires an actual Incident Report to be written by the responding officer, the officer would then request a Case number for an Incident Report. This Case number would be a different number than the Event ID number. Due to Ms. Grierson not wanting to pursue charges, an Incident Report was not required/completed.*

Where's the corresponding report for the "item" number assigned to that call?

Response: *Answered in previous question.*

Mr. Dennison's questions:

What is the significance of "the open door" to the police?

Response: *The officers had a legitimate reason for responding to 1015 South Street. Upon their arrival, they found the "open door". This type of situation now becomes a welfare check. There are several different scenarios that could be occurring in this situation, such as, the residence was burglarized prior to the officers arriving, or there is someone inside in need of medical attention, etcetera. Due to the totality of the circumstances in this particular situation, the officers' decision to enter the residence was appropriate.*

Why exactly did the police want to enter the house at 3:00 am, rather than waiting for a more reasonable hour like 9:00 am?

Response: *As mentioned above, when the officers arrived and found the "open door", the scenario became a welfare check. At that point, the officers needed to ensure that no other crime was being committed, or there was no medical emergency occurring inside the home. Returning at a later time would be negligent.*



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Why exactly did the police think it necessary to enter the house?

Response: Answered in previous question.

Should the police have more loudly announced their presence to wake up the people sleeping in the bedroom?

Response: We believe the officers' two attempts to announce themselves were appropriate. Officer Hudson was verbally loud during both announcements and he also loudly knocked on the metal door frame.



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