

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 15-23878**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 15-23878

OIG Inspector: Inspector Harry Hutson

Outside Agency: Gainesville Police Department

Outside Agency Investigator: Officer (THI) Cory Martin

Date Assigned or Initiated: 10-12-2015

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Marion CI (Gainesville Work Release Center)

Complainant: Major Paul Johnson, FDC

Outside Agency Case #: 15-019284

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Traffic Fatality

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On October 10, 2015, at approximately 0614 hours, work release Inmate Brandon Mattoon, DC# 148340, was riding on a bicycle northbound on NW 13th Street near the intersection of NW 122 Street, in Gainesville, FL., when he was struck by a vehicle. Gainesville Police Department responded to the scene and initiated a Crash and Traffic Homicide Investigation (GPD Case# 02-15-019284). Inmate Mattoon was [REDACTED], where—according to Marion CI incident reports—he later died [REDACTED] at approximately 1437 hours on October 10, 2015. The incident was assigned to Inspector Harry Hutson on October 16, 2015, as Investigative Assist 15-23878.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

According to Gainesville Police Department Crash Report 02-15-019284, completed by Officer Patricia Gould, at approximately 0613 hours, on October 7, 2015, Mr. George Brown, of Starke, Florida, was operating a 2008 Chevrolet Pickup northbound on NW 13th Street near the 5900 block in Gainesville. The driver was preparing to make a right turn onto NW 22nd Street. In doing so, Mr. Brown's pickup veered to the right, into the northbound bike lane, and struck the rear of work release Inmate Mattoon's bicycle. The pickup truck stopped approximately 600-700 feet north of the collision and the bicycle came to final rest approximately 50 feet north of the collision. Inmate Mattoon was ejected from the bicycle onto the grass shoulder of the roadway. Inmate Mattoon was [REDACTED].

In a report of Post Mortem Examination of Inmate Brandon Mattoon, (Medical Examiner Case number ME15-529) Dr. William Hamilton, MD, Medical Examiner for the 8th District, recorded the following autopsy findings:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Probable cause of death: [REDACTED]

Manner of Death: Accident.

Gainesville Police Department, Traffic Fatality Report 02-15-019284 was completed by Traffic Homicide Investigator Officer Cory Martin, ID# 384, and concluded the following:

“On October 7th, 2015 a motor vehicle collision occurred in the 5900BLK of N US HWY 441. Investigation revealed that Brandon Mattoon was riding his bicycle northbound within the marked boundaries of the bicycle lane with the witness, Gary Ball. Both Mattoon and Ball had a white light in the front and a red light in the rear of their respective bicycles.

George Brown was operating a 2008 Chevy truck, owned by Perry Roofing, northbound in the outside lane of N US HWY 441. Brown traveled into the marked bicycle lane and struck the rear of Mattoon’s bicycle with the front of the Chevrolet truck. Brown admitted to operating the vehicle and being the sole occupant. Brown admitted to striking Mattoon and stated he could not avoid the collision. The vehicle had no known mechanical failure prior to the collision. Brown was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Florida State Statute 316.089sub (1) states in part below:

Based upon statements made by, Brown and Ball, coupled with physical evidence on scene; it is apparent that Brown failed to maintain a single lane of travel and did not move into the marked bicycle lane before ascertaining that such movement could have been safely. I issued a Florida Uniform Citation to Brown for failure to maintain a single lane (A6MMTZE).”

During the course of this investigative assist, no administrative violations were identified.

VII. CHARGES

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the determination of the Medical Examiner and the Gainesville Police Department that the cause of Inmate Mattoon’s death [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED], and the manner of death was accidental. This being the case it is the recommendation of Inspector Hutson that this case be closed and termed:

1. Investigative Assist Closed