
**DAWSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

On Friday September 12, 2014 INVESTIGATOR GREG EDWARDS and SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER MURPHY met with LINDA CLARY-UMBERGER and LINDA's ATTORNEY CATHERINE BERNARD. This meeting took place at the Dawson County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division in INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS' office.

INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA to explain to him what she had seen at Burt's Pumpkin Farm during the event that took place on Saturday August 23, 2014 from the time she got there until the time she left. LINDA stated she arrived at the event approximately 10-20 minutes prior to the beginning of the event. LINDA stated she remembers speaking with MORRIS PETTIT (PEPPER) and several other people when she got there. LINDA stated it was sort of a meet and greet in the barn area and people were gathered around talking to one another. LINDA stated she remembers PEPPER stating "that's the guy, that's the guy". LINDA stated PEPPER was referring to a guy with a video camera that was a "Democratic Tracker". LINDA stated PEPPER approached CLINT BEARDEN, who was also a guest at the event, about the "Democratic Tracker" that had the video camera. LINDA stated PEPPER asked CLINT how he wanted to handle it.

LINDA advised that, at this time, she noticed a woman walking around; she had long dark hair and was taking photos. LINDA stated she recognized this woman from photographs she had seen before and things she heard from her friends in Forsyth County who had had prior altercations with this woman, later identified as NYDIA TISDALE. LINDA went on and stated that NYDIA had a video camera as well. LINDA stated NYDIA posted a tweet about the event that morning and that it was a "Republican Rally" for people to attend. LINDA stated that the Governor's office had placed ads on Facebook inviting everybody to attend. LINDA stated that the invitation was also placed in the News and Advertiser and Community News (both Dawsonville newspapers). LINDA stated she is unsure which paper (for sure) it was in but it may have been in both; she was certain it was in one. LINDA stated that once the event started NYDIA TISDALE sat in the front row; LINDA was in the second row directly behind NYDIA TISDALE. LINDA stated that seated beside her was PEPPER PETTIT and BRIAN PRITCHARD. LINDA stated BRIAN had a recording device in his hand (in his iPhone). LINDA stated that seated in the front row, the same row as NYDIA, a "guy from the DEAL campaign with a black or navy blue hat". LINDA stated that seated in the front row of the opposite sections was GOVERNOR DEAL, FIRST LADY SANDRA DEAL and also in the area were DAN PICHON and GERALD SWAFFARD. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA and CATHERINE if they had PRITCHARD's contact information. LINDA and CATHERINE stated they would give PRITCHARD, INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS'

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information, and ask him to contact INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if she heard anybody say anything about there to be no video taping at the event. LINDA stated she did not hear anything like that.

LINDA stated that at this time CLINT stood up and began the meeting; he then introduced the first guest speaker. LINDA stated that after approximately two or three speakers and during MARK BUTLER's speech, NYDIA TISDALE had been approached by CLINT BEARDEN. LINDA stated that CLINT knelt behind NYDIA and possibly said something to NYDIA; NYDIA responded by shaking her head "NO". LINDA stated that a few minutes later CLINT and another gentleman (later identified as CAPTAIN TONY WOOTEN of the Dawson County Sheriff's Office) approached NYDIA TISDALE again and leaned over her as if to "cocoon" her. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if the men "covered" her. LINDA stated they did. LINDA stated that, at this point, she did not hear a verbal exchange of words; CAPTAIN TONY WOOTEN twisted NYDIA's arm and pulled her out of her chair and forcibly removing NYDIA from the area. LINDA stated while being removed, NYDIA asked TONY WOOTEN to identify himself and repeatedly asked "who are you" repeatedly. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if at any time she saw NYDIA swinging or throwing her arms in any direction or if she had stood up before being made to stand up. LINDA stated she doesn't remember seeing anything of the sort; she remembers CAPTAIN WOOTEN twisting NYDIA's arm until she stood up out of her seat. LINDA stated that during this event, while NYDIA was being escorted from the area, and even before then, there was a man sitting to her right with a recording device and a camera going the whole time. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if it was a video camera. LINDA stated it was not; it was just a camera and it could have been his iPhone. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if it looked like NYDIA was resisting being led out; and didn't want to leave. LINDA stated yes, NYDIA was forcibly removed. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if she went into the barn where CAPTAIN WOOTEN and CLINT BEARDEN and NYDIA TISDALE were located. LINDA stated she did go in the barn. LINDA stated she was appalled by what she had seen (referring to NYDIA taken from the event area forcibly) and nobody seemed to help her in anyway; nobody got out of their seats when they saw what happened either.

LINDA stated that, upon entering the barn, she saw NYDIA TISDALE bent over the counter top and face down with CAPTAIN WOOTEN standing behind her and CLINT BEARDEN standing to CAPTAIN WOOTEN's right and two to four feet back from him. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if CAPTAIN WOOTEN was holding NYDIA's arm or how did CAPTAIN WOOTEN hold NYDIA down. LINDA stated she wasn't sure how NYDIA was being held down; she was sure she was not bent down of her own free will. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA who was in the barn during this time. LINDA stated again that the only people in the barn were herself, NYDIA, CAPTAIN WOOTEN and CLINT BEARDEN. LINDA stated she passed the previously mentioned young man in the shirt

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and ball cap coming from the bathroom. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked if JOHNNY or KATHY BURT were in the barn at this time. LINDA stated they were not. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA how long she was in the barn while this was going on. LINDA stated she was there somewhere between two (2) and four (4) minutes. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if she spoke to anybody while she was in the barn while this was occurring. LINDA stated she asked CLINT about what was going on and she thinks she asked something to the effect of: "CLINT what is going on we're supposed to be about winning elections not creating a scene". CLINT stated to LINDA that she did not know what was going on and that they had it under control. LINDA stated she said something to NYDIA. LINDA stated she could hear NYDIA screaming as LINDA left the barn. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if she saw CAPTAIN WOOTEN prior to the event (at the pumpkin farm). LINDA stated that she did; she recognized him. LINDA stated that CAPTAIN WOOTEN did not look like a police officer; she believes CAPTAIN WOOTEN was wearing dark colored trousers and a dark shirt; he looked professional but did not look like a police officer. LINDA stated that CAPTAIN WOOTEN was not introduced beforehand as security or as a police officer. LINDA stated CAPTAIN WOOTEN may have looked like private security but she was not sure. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA where CAPTAIN WOOTEN had been located prior to the scene with NYDIA TISDALE unfolding. LINDA stated she believed CAPTAIN WOOTEN was standing to the left near the back of the audience.

LINDA stated she called the Sheriff's Office while at the event on her way out and spoke with the Sheriff on the phone. LINDA stated she informed the Sheriff that CAPTAIN WOOTEN needed help and needed backup. LINDA stated that the Sheriff told her that he believed CAPTAIN WOOTEN was working security while off duty or on the side and would call him on his cell phone. LINDA stated that is the only conversation she had with the Sheriff. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if there was anything she thought that the Sheriff's Office needed to know. LINDA stated that she was bothered by the fact that she has not received a response from the Sheriff's Office since the incident took place and had not been interviewed before now. LINDA stated she was concerned she wasn't interviewed during the Internal Investigation and had asked why she was not and asked why she was not and to date had not received a response. LINDA went on and stated she hoped the Dawson County Sheriff's would realize that how women are treated is a "hot button issue". LINDA stated, and appeared to be very upset, that two men would be alone in a building with a woman, on that day, (referring to CLINT BEARDEN and CAPTAIN WOOTEN) just forcibly removed to the barn area. LINDA stated that not to have another woman present or to not immediately call for backup makes LINDA very uncomfortable. LINDA stated she would like to think more highly of the Sheriff's Department. LINDA stated that the reason she felt this way is because "anything could happen" (referring to NYDIA being alone in the barn area with two men). INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked LINDA if she saw CLINT BEARDEN touch NYDIA that day. LINDA stated not that she saw or knew of. LINDA stated that CLINT would have to had touched her

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when CLINT and CAPTAIN WOOTEN “cocooned” her. LINDA stated that in the political realm, any time it is a rally and not a fund raiser, it is usually open to the public and everybody is free to record and video tape if they want. LINDA stated she was bothered by the fact that there was a man sitting next to LINDA recording with a recording device during the entire event yet NYDIA was the one forcibly removed for having a video camera. LINDA stated that due to the fact it was a woman, it contributes to the nature of the situation. LINDA stated it would have been horrible had it been anybody but the fact it was a woman with long hair and had a dress on it made the situation worse; and from a visual standpoint it made the situation more offensive. LINDA stated it is her hope and belief that the Sheriff’s Office will do the right thing and be transparent and not look after “their own”. SERGEANT MURPHY asked LINDA if anybody else had been recording the event that day. LINDA stated she did not see anybody but NYDIA and the guy with the recorder (BRIAN PRITCHARD) who had been sitting next to LINDA during the event. LINDA stated she is upset about the whole situation and she cried the entire way home. LINDA stated it is not uncommon for people to take photos at these events and post them on twitter and Facebook and social media sites. LINDA’s attorney CATHERINE also expressed her displeasure with the nature of the situation and stated that if this “type of action” could happen in broad daylight while everybody was watching what goes on when nobody is watching. CATHERINE stated that whether it was CLINT inducing TONY WOOTEN to “do it” or not, CAPTAIN WOOTEN came in, grabbed her up and took her out and bent her over a counter. SERGEANT MURPHY asked LINDA that, if this was to go to court, would she be willing to testify in court. LINDA stated “yes”. SERGEANT MURPHY indicated to both LINDA and CATHERINE that their concerns would be noted and brought to the attention of a higher command in the Sheriff’s Office. INVESTIGATOR EDWARDS asked if there were any other questions regarding this matter. LINDA and CATHERINE stated they could not think of any at this time and had nothing further to add. This concluded the interview.

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Greg Edwards

Investigator Name

09/17/2014

Date of Dictation

Drs

Transcriber

09/22/2014

Date of Transcription

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