

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident Report

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Case No	Report Date / Time	Reported Method	Created By
2023-000371	01/11/2023 10:38	VIA CAD	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
CAD Incident CFS Type	Agency Incident / Actual CFS Type	Incident: From Date / Time	Incident: To Date / Time
POLICE INFORMATION	ASSIST SCHOOL	01/11/2023 10:38	
Crime / Arrest Location	Area / Post		
INCIDENT(CAD)	0249		
Address	Common Place / POI	Bldg / Apt / Suite	
650 PROSPECT AVE	SLOCUM SKEWES		
City	State	Zip	
RIDGEFIELD BORO	NJ	07657	
County	Municipality		
BERGEN	RIDGEFIELD BORO		
Disposition Date & Time	CAD Disposition		
01/11/2023 18:52	NFA		

DISPATCH NOTES

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date & Time	Description	Posted By
01/11/2023 10:38:31	Created Empty CFS 23-008984.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:31	Sent CFS to the following Dispatcher:CHRISTOPHER PROVOST.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:36	Changed Incident Address: 650 PROSPECT AVE, RIDGEFIELD BORO, NJ 07657.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:36	Changed Incident Common Place Name: SLOCUM SKEWES.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:37	Changed EMS Zone to: RIDGEFIELD EMS-3	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:37	Changed Fire Zone to: RIDGEFIELD FD-3	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:37	Changed Police Zone to: RIDGEFIELD POLICE-3	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:48	Changed CFS Type to: ADMINSTRATIVE DUTIES.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:50	Dispatched Unit 49150[GREGORY V ANASTASSATOS POLICE UNIT 15] [Primary] to CFS.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:50	Sent CFS to RMS	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:50	Unit 49150[GREGORY V ANASTASSATOS POLICE UNIT 15] status was changed to DISPATCHED.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 10:38:52	Sent CFS to the following Region(s):EAST BERGEN.	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER
01/11/2023 15:09:48	Changed CFS Type to: POLICE INFORMATION.	SCHMIDT, STACEY
01/11/2023 15:09:49	Sent CFS to RMS	SCHMIDT, STACEY
01/11/2023 15:10:25	150 following male & juvenile to the prosecutor office	SCHMIDT, STACEY
01/11/2023 16:55:28	150 transporting 1 adult female from RHS to BC proscutors office s/m 42215.0	SCHMIDT, STACEY
01/11/2023 17:17:23	e/m 42225.2	SCHMIDT, STACEY
01/11/2023 18:52:53	Closed CFS 23-008984 Closed Reason: CLOSED - NO REPORT REQUIRED	DELRIO, MICHAEL
01/11/2023 18:52:53	Sent CFS to RMS	DELRIO, MICHAEL
01/11/2023 18:52:53	Unit 49150[GREGORY V ANASTASSATOS POLICE UNIT 15] finished assignment of CFS.	DELRIO, MICHAEL

CALL INFORMATION

Phone #	Call Date&Time	Caller	Location
	01/11/2023 10:38		
Requested Action	Call Taker	Source Type	
	PROVOST, CHRISTOPHER	TELEPHONE	

Brief Synopsis of Incident

DISPATCH INFORMATION

Unit Name	Action
49150	AVAILABLE (01/11/2023 18:52) AssignedToCFS (01/11/2023 10:38) Logout (01/11/2023 18:48)

SUBJECT INFORMATION

No Record Found

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

VEHICLE INFORMATION

No Record Found

INDIVIDUAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Posted Date	Contact Name	Contact Type	Address	Phone #	Posted By
01/18/2023	SKUNCA, JOSEPH S	ACCUSED	HOME: 134 KNICKERBOCKER RD, DUMONT, NJ 07628-2011	HOME: [REDACTED]	MALANGA, JOSEPH
01/13/2023	A [REDACTED], A [REDACTED]	INVOLVED	HOME: 566 SKETCH PL, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657	HOME: [REDACTED] CELLULAR: [REDACTED]	ANASTASSATO S, GREGORY V
01/13/2023	AVILA, ARTHUR	PARENT	HOME: 566 SKETCH PL N, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657-2744	CELLULAR: [REDACTED]	ANASTASSATO S, GREGORY V
01/13/2023	AVILA, ALANIS A	INVOLVED	HOME: 566 SKETCH PL N, RIDGEFIELD BORO, NJ 07657		ANASTASSATO S, GREGORY V

PD CASE DISPOSITION INFORMATION

Disposition	Closed Date	Closed By
CLOSED	01/17/2023	ANASTASSATOS, GREGORY V

Disposition

INAPPROPRIATE TEXT MESSAGES BETWEEN RMHS STAFF MEMBER AND A STUDENT

NOTES

RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Posted Date

01/13/2023 11:25

Note

On the above date and time, I was contacted by the Ridgefield Board of Education Superintendent, Dr. Letizia Pantoliano, regarding inappropriate text messages between a 13 year old female juvenile student, who for the purposes of this report shall be referred to as "AA", and the Ridgefield Memorial High School Social Worker, Mr. Joseph Skunca.

I responded to the Slocum Skewes School, which is the district's middle school, and met with the Principal, Mr. Tim Yang, in his office. Mr. Yang explained the school Social Worker, Mrs. Anna Maric, was approached by AA regarding text messages she received from Mr. Skunca. AA explained that she met with Mr. Skunca once a week for therapy sessions in his office in the high school, however these therapy sessions would take place after school hours.

On 1/5/23, AA received a text message from Mr. Skunca which showed a video of him playing the guitar. Mr. Skunca then sent a text message which stated, "You are my favorite person in this world... Please don't ever tell anyone, it would hurt so many people because I love everyone but you inspire me... Here's a little guitar... I want to bring guitar into work, what do you think... I think it would be good for the office and then I can play sometimes". Mr. Skunca then wrote "So when you finally stalk me properly you can blow up my house and then set off some fireworks and then cook me and eat my flesh in my burned backyard" followed by 3 firework emojis. A third message read "Imagine these messages on the front page of the news... 'Social worker encourages 13 yr old to burn house and cannibalize' I love you dearly and I believe you can and will change this world. I'm blessed to know you and feel privileged to be in your company. Much" followed by a hear emoji.

After reading these text messages, AA told Mrs. Maric she texted Mr. Skunca and asked if he was dying. (It should be noted that AA stated she deleted this message. That text message sent by AA does not show on the screen shots which AA sent to Mr. Yang, which are also attached to this report). Mr. Skunca then wrote back explaining that he is on a new medication which made him "...a little manic and extra emotional in general". Mr. Skunca then went on to repeatedly apologize before asking for AA's 18 year old adult sister's, Alrica Avila, phone number in order to schedule therapy sessions with her as well. While still in Mr. Yang's office, Dr. Pantoliano called and informed us the incident was reported to the Department of Children and Families Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit.

I returned to police headquarters and contacted the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes Unit and spoke with Detective Hill #3310. After giving him all of the pertinent information, Det. Hill stated this incident was not a sex crime and transferred me to the Cyber Crimes Unit. I spoke with Detective McCann #3313, who stated he would review the incident with his supervisors and advise me how to proceed. (It should be noted I emailed Det McCann a PDF of text message conversation for him to review).

I returned to Mr. Yang's office, and we contacted AA's mother, Mrs. Erica A. Avila, and briefly explained the situation. Mrs. Avila stated she was unable to respond to the school, however her husband, Mr. Avila, would come to speak with us. While awaiting Mr. Avila's arrival, Det McCann contacted me and requested I respond to the Prosecutor's Office with AA and Mr. Avila to conduct an interview.

Once Mr. Avila arrived at the school, Mr. Yang and I met with him and AA in Mr. Yang's office. Mr. Yang and I explained the entire situation to Mr. Avila, and I showed him a printed copy of the text message exchange between Mr. Skunca and AA for him to read. Upon completion of our meeting, Mr. Avila drove AA to the Prosecutor's Office, in his personal vehicle, while I followed. Upon our arrival, we met Det. McCann, who conducted an interview with AA (see Bergen County Prosecutor's Office report BCP2300035 for further). Det. McCann stated he wanted to interview Alrica as well. I responded to the Borough and gave Alrica a courtesy transport to the Prosecutor's Office, with my MDR recording. Upon our arrival, Det. McCann completed his interviews and Mr. Avila departed with Alrica and AA. Det. McCann explained he would speak with his supervisors and let me know if there would be any criminal charges filed against Mr. Skunca.

On 1/13/23, while in Mr. Yang's office, I spoke with Det. McCann, who stated there would be no charges filed against Mr. Skunca. Mr. Yang and I contacted Dr. Pantoliano and informed her of the conclusion of police involvement. Dr. Pantoliano stated she would conduct her own internal investigation of the incident. I cleared. GA/150