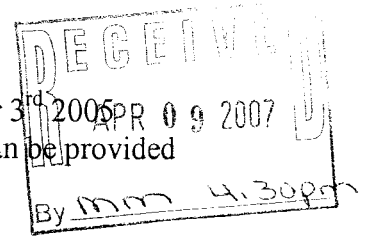


The below letter is a synopsis of the events that I encountered on September 3rd, 2005 while assigned as a Sergeant on road patrol. If needed, all witness names can be provided verbally for further information.



On September 3rd, 2005 at approximately 1130PM I responded along with Dep. Worrall, Dep. Jenkins, and Dep. Richardson to a house explosion that occurred at 3660 E. Copas Rd. in Caledonia Twp. This was an extremely devastating incident where a house had been completely destroyed by an explosion and there were 6 children that had died from fatal injuries and were located by deputies in the debris. It should be noted that law enforcement personnel were the first units on scene to this incident and immediately a search and rescue operation was established. Additional law enforcement personnel included Trp. Gooch and Trp. Philipps from the Michigan State Police along with Ofcr. O'leary from the Corunna Police Dept. Due to no fire departments or medical personnel on scene with us I immediately gathered all law enforcement personnel together and divided us into search groups so that we could search for survivors. I then set up a grid of the property and gave each group an assignment to search their particular grid for survivors. It should be noted that this type of incident was extremely hazardous to all personnel that was on scene due to explosions, a large fire, and the vast amount of debris that was spread out across the property. Due to my knowledge and experience as a firefighter for the previous 13 years there was no way that I going to allow any of my law enforcement personnel into a scene like this without myself being with them. Also, after the incident I was advised by all of my deputies along with the troopers that they were glad that I was there with them because they all felt safer due to my knowledge of fire incidents.


Dep. Worrall, Dep. Jenkins, Dep. Richardson, and I began searching our area and located several deceased children lying amongst the debris. We then located a victim that had critical injuries, but was still alive. We were able to pull this victim from the debris to a safer area and then began administering first aid. This residence is surrounded by corn fields on the south, east, and west and due to such a large area of debris that was spread out it was necessary to also search the corn fields on all sides of the residence. I also called for K-9 units from the Sheriff Dept. along with Flint Twp. Police Dept. I felt that at this point I was doing everything that I could to manage the situation. During this time I directed medical personnel to this subject so that advanced life support could be started. Additional medical personnel began arriving along with several area fire departments and I advised all units to park on the south side of Copas Rd. so that one lane could be left open for ambulances to be able to get in and out of the scene. All of the medical and fire personnel then began their own operations of medical treatment and fire extinguishment. During this time also is when Sheriff Wilson arrived on scene. I did observe Sheriff Wilson to be standing on Copas Rd. along with the Corunna-Caledonia Fire Dept. Fire Chief Scott Johnson. In seeing this and understanding the Incident Command System it was my belief that Sheriff Wilson was now in charge of all law enforcement personnel on scene and that I would stay in the incident with my deputies.

While still out in the incident along with my deputies I was advised by Sheriff Wilson to clear all deputies out of the area and let the firefighters work on the scene. I did have all

deputies clear out and we went and stood at Copas Rd. at the northeast corner of the property. At this time I decided that due to us not knowing at that time as to whether or not this was a criminal act, that I would begin to photograph the scene. I did take several photographs of the scene along with the bodies of the deceased children and their positions relative to the residence. I felt that the body's locations would come into play later during the course of the investigation as to where the blast may have occurred inside the residence and also to possibly the locations of the victims prior to the explosion occurring. As I was taking pictures I was advised by another deputy that Sheriff Wilson wanted to speak with me at the road. I then went up to the roadway and approached Sheriff Wilson. Sheriff Wilson immediately threw his right arm around my neck, pulled me towards his body and began yelling at me "How many times do I have to tell you to stay out of there, you are not a fireman!". I said "Sheriff, we are out here trying to do a good job and have been helping people, now I'm trying to take pictures of a potential criminal matter". Sheriff Wilson eventually took his arm off of me and I walked away and went over to my deputies and stood there. This entire incident was observed by my deputies, Det/Sgt Mike Shenk along with several Corunna-Caledonia firefighter's and Corunna Area Ambulance personnel, needless to say as a Sergeant with this department I was highly embarrassed and felt like a complete fool. I was approached by my deputies about what had happened because they witnessed the event and could not believe it.

After this incident I was approached by several people from area fire departments, ambulance services and police departments about what they themselves had even witnessed and wondered if I was going to file a complaint. My response to them was that this was something that I did not want to deal with, that I was a new Sergeant on probation and that I did not want to get into a dispute with Sheriff Wilson over this. Many people that witnessed this were outraged that I would have to be treated this way and then not do anything about it.

A couple of weeks after this incident I was called into Sheriff Wilson's office and he advised me that he threw his arm around me to talk with me about this incident because of the fire trucks being too loud and that he wanted me to hear him. I accepted this statement, but did not believe it, and moved on. Now, a year and a half later I am bringing this matter to light to show that there is a pattern of behavior with Sheriff Wilson that creates a hostile work environment.


4-9-07