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PRESS RELEASE

March 7, 2013

On Monday, March 04, 2013, I requested from Chief David Eubanks of the Fort Oglethorpe Police Department permission to speak to Officer Greg Cross in reference to a traffic stop he made involving FBI Agent Ken Hillman.

My Office spoke to Officer Cross on that afternoon and confirmed the following:

On August 08, 2009, at approximately 2:10 A.M., Officer Cross, while employed at the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office, performed a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied by FBI Agent Ken Hillman for something dragging the ground from his car. Officer Cross asked agent Hillman for his driver's license and told him why he stopped him. He provided his identification and stated he had already contacted his supervisor about the damage on the vehicle. Agent Hillman called Detective Tim Deal on his cell phone. Agent Hillman then asked Officer Cross if Tim could come pick him up. Officer Cross then got on the phone with Tim Deal and Tim asked him if he could come and pick-up agent Hillman and he allowed it. We asked Officer Cross:

If he recalled any reports of a hit and run accident prior to or after his traffic stop involving agent Hillman and he replied "no".

If at any time did he feel intimidated or threatened by agent Hillman or Detective Tim Deal and he replied "no".

Were any field sobriety tests performed? "no".

At what point did you notify your supervisor? "never" (contrary to what has been alleged)

Was agent Hillman driving under the influence of alcohol "could tell he was drinking, he had blood shot eyes, would raise the question"

Were the decisions made yours and solely yours? "yes"

Further checks of the Computer Aided Dispatch database for any wrecks, hit and runs, criminal trespass, and damage to property did not reveal any matches several hours prior and after this traffic stop. Records show the duration of this stop to be approximately 16 minutes.

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Detective Tim Deal has stated that he did tell his immediate supervisor (who no longer works at the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office) about this incident the next day but it appears it never went any further than that.

As Chief Deputy this incident never crossed my desk and Officer Cross is no longer employed with the Catoosa County Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office is reviewing our policies and procedures to see what changes need to be made to ensure this does not happen again.

As Sheriff, I want to make it very clear that I **DO NOT** condone these actions but I do support my Officers in their ability to apply discretion afforded them by law.

My inquiry continued by contacting the Agent in Charge of the Dalton office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and requested all the registration numbers assigned to Agent Hillmans vehicles since 2008 and confirmation that agent Hillman did report the damage to his vehicle properly and if any police reports were included. The Agent in Charge did confirm the damage was reported properly and no police reports were included.

A further search of the Computer Aided Dispatch database, using the registration numbers provided revealed another traffic stop.

On October 29, 2012 at approximately 5:40 P.M. a vehicle driven by agent Hillman was stopped by a Catoosa County Deputy for rolling through a stop sign. The Officer stated he recognized agent Hillman as he approached the vehicle and instructed him to go on. Records show this traffic stop lasted approximately a minute and a half.

No other encounters were revealed by the search of the Computer Aided Dispatch database using the registrations provided from 2008 to present but my inquiry did uncover one other traffic stop.

On an unknown date an officer revealed that he stopped a vehicle driven by agent Hillman for speeding. The Officer believes the stop occurred approximately 2 or 3 years ago. At the time the Officer did not know agent Hillman by sight but the agent did provide identification and told the officer he was responding to the Dalton Office to deal with an incident. The Officer released him and reported the incident to the Patrol Captain after the fact. No further action was taken.

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On Wednesday, March 06, 2013 around 2:00 P.M. I met with Special Agent in Charge Greg Ramey, who is over the Calhoun office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and District Attorney Buzz Franklin. I presented to both of them all of the allegations and correspondences that I have received regarding this incident along with my findings to date. I invited either of them to give their opinion if there was anything that either of their agencies needed to investigate. Both reported they did not see anything for their agency to investigate.

Furthermore, I contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigations Agent in Charge of our region and requested that if their internal investigation reveals any criminal activity that I be notified. The Agent in Charge informed me that if criminal activity is uncovered, that is out of their jurisdiction; they are mandated to report it to the agency with jurisdiction.

In summation, my inquiry has revealed 3 traffic stops involving FBI agent Hillman over the past 5 years and contrary to allegations none of them have any evidence of criminal wrong doing on the part of past or present Catoosa County Sheriff's Office employees. The Sheriff's Office is reviewing our policies and procedures to see what changes need to be made to ensure this does not happen again. I hold myself, my office, and my employees to the highest of standards and will always strive to maintain the public's trust.