

UCF Police Department

Incident Report

Case Number: **2020-1292**

ORI: FL0481400

Related Other Agency Case Number:

Report Date: **04/14/2020** Report Time: **10:55** Time Received: **10:54** Time Dispatched: **10:54** Time Arrived: **10:54** Time Cleared: **10:56** Occurred From: **08/21/2019** at: **05:00** Occurred To: **08/21/2019** at: **06:30** Weather: **CLEAR**
Incident Type: **HAZING** Hate Crime: Dom. Violence: Location Type: **SCHOOL/ COLLEGE** Arson Amount: Inhabited: **No**

Location of Occurrence

Building #: **4274** Apt: Street: **PLAZA** Street Type: **DR** Direction: **W** City: **ORLANDO** Zip Code: **32816**
Area/Business: **CAMPUS** Zone: **01**

Offenses

Statute #: **1006.63(3)** Statute Title: **COLLEGE HAZING-RISK OF INJURY OR DEATH** Attempted Committed

Person # 1 REPORTER

Name: **GOOCH, LINDA ELIZEBETH** R/S: **W/F** DOB: **01/23/1961** Age **59**
Height: **5'04"** Weight: Hair: Eyes:
Ethnic: Skin: Shirt:
Pants: Shoes: Affiliation: **FACULTY/STAFF** DL Number: **G200525615230** DL State: **FL**
Address: **Bldg: 3887 PERCIVAL RD ORLANDO, FL 32826** Home Phone:
Employer Address: **UCF** Work Phone:
Employer: **UCF** Occupation: **UCF CHEER/DANCE HEAD COACH**
Email: Provided Business Card
Description:

Narrative:

Investigative Report:

On December 5, 2019, I received a Maxient (conduct) report from the Office of Student Conduct. The report was submitted by Linda Gooch (UCF Cheer/Dance Head Coach). The report detailed a KnightMoves incident that occurred on the morning of August 21, 2019.

KnightMoves is a UCF Athletics dance team with approximately 21 members. Only 20 members were present during this incident referred to as a "traditional sleep over." After interviewing each team member, the following events are believed to have transpired the morning of August 21, 2019:

The veteran members organized a sleepover in room 319 of Tower 1 for the seven new team members (rookies), who became official members in April, 2019. On August 20, 2019, they were instructed to make gifts (e.g. key ring charms) for the coaching staff and veteran members of the team. They went to sleep around midnight. On August 21, 2019, at approximately 0500 hours, the rookies were awakened by the veterans. Some veterans had pots and pans, as they shouted to awake their rookie teammates. Once awake, the rookies were blindfolded and assisted with putting their shoes on. They huddled the rookies up in the living room area and quizzed them. They were asked questions about players and coaches from different sports within UCF. While answering questions, one or two veterans had water bottles with holes punctured in the top. They squirted water at the rookies. This lasted for approximately ten minutes. The rookies were then instructed to link up, placing their hands on the shoulders of the girl in front of them. They walked blindfolded through the 3rd floor halls, to the staircase. Once at the staircase, the girls remained linked up. Some rookies stated they removed their blindfolds and others side they were able to see underneath their blindfolds, as the veterans assisted them down the staircase. (They possibly went back up the staircase because they utilized the wrong staircase to place them between Tower 1 and garage "G.")

Prior to leaving Tower 1, the rookies were instructed to remove their blindfolds. They did not want to attract unnecessary attention from

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this

Day of **20**

I swear or affirm the above statements are correct and true

Date: Officer ID / Name:
131 Alexander, Terrell

Disposition Date: **04/14/2020** Disposition: **UNFOUNDED** Disposition Type:

Notary Public Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer
Personally Known Produced ID

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either a police officer or a maintenance worker who possibly was in the area. They loaded up into four vehicles awaiting nearby. Three of the vehicles were at garage "G" and the other was across the street at the Addition Arena loading dock. Two of the rookies stated they were placed inside a trunk. After interviewing several of the team members, all the rookies were transported in vehicles considered to be SUVs. The following vehicles were used to transport the rookies to the Oviedo Chick-fil-A: Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Explorer, Lexus Rx 350 and a Volkswagen Tiguan.

Once at Chick-fil-A, the rookies were blindfolded again. They utilized the parking lot to perform a dance routine for the UCF fight song, which was played aloud from a veteran's vehicle. While the rookies performed the routine, water was again squirted (up in the air) at them. When they completed the routine, the veteran's purchased breakfast for them at Chick-fil-A. They discussed team expectations and rules (e.g. social media use, team image, etc.), prior to returning to campus for their morning practice.

This report was written without names, because the focus was to determine if the incident warranted criminal charges for criminal hazing. The determination of "hazing" should be made from the appropriate university official.

Based on the following information and the collective interviews conducted, this case does not meet the elements of criminal hazing therefore it should be considered UNFOUNDED:

No one was pressured, coerced, or forced to violate state or federal law; to consume any food, liquor, drug, or other substance; conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment; or participate in physical activity that could adversely affect the health or safety of the members involved.

A few of the rookies stated they were deprived of sleep, because they lost additional sleeping time prior to practice. However, there is no evidence to believe the loss of sleep caused extreme mental stress. In fact, excluding one rookie, others said they "had fun and believed it to be a good experience."

The concern in this investigation was, the two females being seated in a "trunk," during transport to Chick-fil-A. The initial belief was they were placed in an enclosed trunk of a sedan style vehicle (unknown if forced). However, this was not the case. They were seated in the rear space of an SUV, which is not enclosed in the same manner of a car (isolated with no windows). One of the two females said the following: "I did not care, I was just having fun." The other female stated in her interview, this incident was "bottled-up" and caused recent depression, so she mentioned it, in her letter to quit the team. The rest of the team, viewed the incident as a "team bonding" event. Unfortunately, for one of the rookies, this event separated her from the rest of the team over time. Based on interviews with her teammates, they were not comfortable around her. As a result, she felt she was no longer a part of the team. Her reason for leaving the team was "I no longer was having fun."

After Gooch learned of this incident from the member who decided to leave the team, she reprimanded the entire team. They were not permitted to travel for away sporting events nor were they permitted to participate in the 2019 Gasparilla Bowl game.

All current members of the KnightMoves team experienced a similar event as a new team member. The upper classmen believed it was their responsibility to continue the "tradition." Although they considered their experiences to be team bonding, many of them expressed their remorse after learning how a team member was affected because she did not share the same views.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this		I swear or affirm the above statements are correct and true		
Day of	20	Date:	Officer ID / Name:	
			131 Alexander, Terrell	
Notary Public	Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer	Disposition Date:	Disposition:	Disposition Type:
Personally Known	Produced ID	04/14/2020	UNFOUNDED	