



CASE # 16-10317 BL

Brigid M. Sweeney

S/A R. Slayback 5940
Illinois State Police
Zone 5 Investigations



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	Lead No:
16-10317 BL	01/15/16	R. Slayback (Z5/BL)	5940	-
Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed by
Brigid M. Sweeney Et Al.	R. Slayback	5940	Z5/BL	RTS
Purpose:	Date:			
To Document the Meeting at Decatur City Hall in regards to this case.	01/26/16			

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police, Zone 5 Agents, met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

NARRATIVE:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, I, Special Agent Rodney Slayback #5940, Master Sergeant Akil Smith #5379, Lieutenant Gregg Cavanaugh #5136, and Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux, met with Decatur City Manager Tim Gleason and Assistant City Manager Jerry Bauer. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the allegations made by Decatur Police Officer, Andrew Wittmer, and to obtain any documents pertaining to the investigation currently being held by Tim Gleason. We were provided with the following documents, which will be attached to this report:

ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum written by DPD Officer Andrew Wittmer and his knowledge in regards to the incident which took place at Kroger. (4 Pages)

Police Bulletin written to Tim Gleason from DPD Deputy Chief of Administrative Operations, David Dickerson. (2 Pages)

2 CD-R disc, created by Kroger employee Aaron Morgan, which depict video surveillance from the date of the theft. This disc was originally created by Aaron and he had given it to Officer Wittmer, who turned it over to Chief Deputy Dickerson.

ISP 1-10

Dissemination:

To: Dep. Chief Dickerson

From: Ofc. A. Wittmer

Date: 011216

RE: 04/12/15

On 041215 while I was working as a second shift patrol officer I received a text message from a friend of mine named Aaron Morgan who worked at the time as a loss prevention officer for Kroger's in South Shores. Aaron lived near me for several years in Blue Mound. This message said something like "I have an urgent question for you." At the time the message was sent I was on another detail and didn't immediately answer. I messaged Aaron back later that night, and he told me that he had taken care of it. I would frequently take phone calls from Aaron while I was working, because we were neighbors and he frequently called in details from Kroger. I assumed at the time that Aaron had had questions about a detention or how long he would've waited for an officer to respond to his store. I checked CAD to see if there had been a detail at Aaron's store, and saw that there hadn't been one on that day. I called him back, and Aaron advised me that the reason he had called was that he had detained a female subject for shoplifting who had identified herself as being the wife of Chief Sweeney.

Aaron advised me that the female had been brought to his attention by store employees who were familiar with her, and told me that store employees had observed her shoplifting on previous occasions by not ringing up all the items in her cart at the self check out. Aaron advised me that on that date he had observed the female loading items into her cart and then check out at the self check out. Aaron advised that the female did not scan several items, which he described as "steaks and stuff" worth about \$25. He stated that he followed her out of the store to the parking lot when she left with the stolen merchandise and detained her. He stated that the female initially refused to return to the store with him and told him that she didn't want to go back in because she was the wife of the chief of police.

Aaron advised me that the situation had been "taken care of." I asked him what that meant, and he told me that two Deputy Chiefs had responded to the scene and told him that the female was in fact Mrs. Sweeney. He told me that when he had not been able to get a hold of me, he called his chief in Moweaqua (Aaron was a part time officer there at the time) and asked if he knew Mrs. Sweeney. He said that his chief is friends with Deputy Chief Moore, and that a short time later Deputy Chief Moore and Deputy Chief Getz responded to his store. He did not tell me specifically what conversation took place, but that as a matter of "professional courtesy" Mrs. Sweeney was not charged with retail theft. Aaron did tell me that his manager was not happy

with his decision to not pursue a criminal complaint because there had been multiple alleged offenses.

I told Aaron that it seemed very inappropriate that two officers of such high rank had shown up to that type of detail, and that no call for service/detail had been entered in our CAD system. I asked Aaron if he had done an internal report and burned the incident to video, because it might look like he was trying to help cover something up if he didn't. I encouraged Aaron to burn the footage to DVD to protect himself from accusations of doing something improper. Aaron mentioned that one of the Deputy Chiefs remarked to him that he should put in an application with DPD the next time they were being accepted. I know that Aaron had applied to DPD previously and not been hired. I also know that Aaron is young and extremely enthusiastic about trying to get into police work, and I worried that he may have been taken advantage of in this instance. Aaron stated that when he was dealing with Mrs. Sweeney, that she smelled like alcohol and may have been intoxicated. He stated that he told the two Deputy Chiefs about it prior to Mrs. Sweeney being released, but that they allowed her to drive away.

I let Aaron know my concerns about this incident, and asked him to show me the video of the incident. At this time I did not immediately report the incident, as the allegation was extremely serious, involved several high ranking officers, and I had no evidence other than what Aaron had told me to prove the allegation. My intention was to determine whether or not there was anything to substantiate this allegation, so that I could initiate appropriate action to report this incident. Aaron seemed somewhat put off by my request, and slightly defensive of what had happened. As such, I didn't push him for information at the time.

Due to working second shift hours and having moved away from the area where Aaron lived, I had infrequent contact with Aaron after that. I did occasionally ask him about the video, because I was hoping to obtain it and determine if I needed to report this incident as official misconduct. Aaron always put me off, or made excuses why he hadn't gotten it for me yet. Aaron once gave me a DVD which contained footage of an unrelated incident. I eventually obtained a DVD from him in early September which contained footage of this incident. The footage is of extremely poor quality, and appears to be a still image taken about every other second showing interior cameras from the store. The footage shows Mrs. Sweeney in the store, at the self check out center, and Aaron following her out of the store. Due to the time-lapse type photography, it doesn't show what items she rang up or what items may have been stolen. Aaron did not provide me with footage of him detaining her in the parking lot, or either Dep. Chief Moore or Dep. Chief Getz at the store.

Due to the poor quality footage I did not feel at the time that I had substantial enough information to report this incident, and I believed very strongly that if I came forward with an

allegation this serious without significant evidence that I would be subject to serious retribution at work.

I have spoken briefly with other officers regarding this incident. I made mention of this incident in vague terms with Det. Phares while I was assigned to a hireback unit for the Decatur Celebration. The context of the conversation was that I was discussing with him recent department personnel assignments including promotions. During this discussion one of the things discussed were recent Lieutenant promotions, and assignments to various additional duties within the patrol division. Specifically, officers were speculating as to what may have changed in the personal relationship between a recently promoted Lieutenant and the Chief, as they had been rumored to not get along prior to the promotion. I made mention of being passed over for several assignments despite having been extremely qualified. Someone present stated that I would need to have dirt on somebody to get ahead, in a joking manner. I said something in a similar joking manner about having "dirt" on several people, and it was still not getting me anywhere. At this time I had still not obtained the DVD of this incident from Aaron. I made mention that it had been reported to me that some senior command officers had possibly engaged in misconduct on video, and that I hoped that incident came to light because if the report was true then I did not wish to work for people who would engage in that behavior. I also made mention that I was very obviously deriving no benefit from this incident, as I had been passed over for every assignment I put in for.

On 011016 I was approached by Sgt. Maxwell while off duty at an event out of town. Sgt. Maxwell expressed concern to me that there was a rumor going around the department regarding an incident involving Mrs. Sweeney shoplifting at Kroger, and that there may be a video of the incident. He advised me that he was concerned because I was the subject of the rumor. I advised Sgt. Maxwell that I was unaware of the rumor, but that I was aware of the incident he was referring to. I advised him of the circumstances of this incident and my concerns regarding retribution if I reported this incident. I advised him that I would gladly report the incident, but that I was unsure if our own agency would be able to handle the incident fairly given that it involved the most senior members of the department command. I also expressed concern for my career based on past incidents involving my brother reporting what he perceived as misconduct and suffering retribution. We both agreed that the incident needed reported. After discussing the matter again by phone on 011216, Sgt. Maxwell and I decided that the best course of action would be to turn this matter over to Professional Standards at the beginning of my shift.

At the beginning of my shift on 011216, I verbally reported this incident to Dep. Chief Dickerson in the presence of Lt. Brandel, Sgt. Maxwell, and Ofc. T. Cline acting in the capacity of my union representative. At the conclusion of this meeting, Lt. Brandel drove me to my residence where I obtained the DVD given to me by Aaron and turned it over to him.

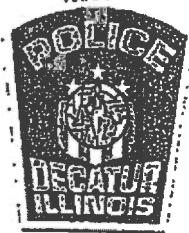
At no time have I had any communication directly or indirectly with Chief Sweeney, Dep. Chief Getz, or Dep. Chief Moore regarding this incident. I have never attempted to use this information for personal gain.

Aaron Morgan can be contacted at (815) 508-0949.

Respectfully submitted,



Ofc. A. Wittmer.



David Dickerson
Deputy Chief - Administrative Operations
Decatur Police Department
707 West South Side Drive
Decatur, Illinois 62521
217/542-3404 Office
ddickerson@decaturil.gov

Police Bulletin

To: Tim Gleason - City Manager
Date: 01/13/2016
Re: Officer Andy Wittmer Information

Mr. Manager,

On 01/12/2016, at approximately 1400 hours, Sgt. Tim Maxwell came to my office and indicated that Officer Andy Wittmer wanted to speak to me alone about an issue. Not knowing what the discussion would be about and considering the fact that I am in charge of Internal Affairs, I informed Sgt. Maxwell that I would meet with Wittmer in my office in the presence of Lt. Shane Brandel.

Andy Wittmer came to my office and was accompanied by Sgt. Tim Maxwell and Officer Todd Cline, President of the PBPA Union. Officer Wittmer explained that it was with reservation that he had come to me and requested once again that he speak to me and me alone. Wanting to have a witness to any discussion that could be of significant importance, especially considering this request to be completely out of the ordinary, I told Officer Wittmer that I would be glad to have a discussion with him, however with Lt. Brandel present.

Officer Wittmer then proceeded to tell me that he was aware of a situation which occurred in April of 2015 that he wanted to report. Officer Wittmer said that he had spoken to Sgt. Tim Maxwell about the situation and Sgt. Maxwell convinced him that the best thing to do was to bring forth this information, regardless if there was any misconduct involved or not. Officer Wittmer advised that it could be construed as Official Misconduct depending on what exactly transpired during the event in question. Wittmer said that his fear was that if this situation turned out to not be anything that he would be retaliated against for bringing this matter forth for inquiry. I informed Officer Wittmer that there was policy prohibiting retaliation against a City Employee for bringing forth and reporting potential misconduct or potential criminal activity.

Officer Wittmer then went on to advise Lt. Brandel and I of a retail theft situation involving Chief Sweeney's spouse at Kroger Grocery Store last April and his (Wittmer's) concerns surrounding how that matter was handled. Upon Wittmer explaining the circumstances with the situation involving Chief Sweeney's spouse, I informed Officer Wittmer that he needed to complete a police bulletin with all details relayed during our conversation. Officer Wittmer explained that he had a copy of Kroger surveillance video at his house in Blue Mound. I told Lt. Brandel to accompany Officer Wittmer to Blue Mound to retrieve the video footage. Lt. Brandel later handed me two CD-R's. One of the CD-R's has "924 Unit 1 4/12/2015 Theft" written on it. The other CD-R has "924 Unit 2 4/12/2015 Theft" written on it.

On today's date, 01/13/2016, shortly after 2nd Shift started, Officer Todd Cline and Officer Andy Wittmer came to my office. Officer Wittmer handed me a (4) page police bulletin detailing his knowledge of the retail theft incident involving Chief Sweeney's spouse. The bulletin details, in his typed words, the information which he verbally relayed to Lt. Brandel and I yesterday, 01/12/2016.

The original bulletin and original CD-R's will be turned over to you within the City Manager's Office. I am a huge advocate of following the chain of command, however considering the information relayed to Lt. Brandel and I, I felt that it was necessary to take this information directly to you pursuant to Administrative Policy F-160, 4.3.1.1.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David T. Dickerson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Dickerson

Deputy Chief – Administrative Operations

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
EVIDENCE INVENTORY
AND RECEIPT

1. Date 01-15-16 3. File/Field Report # 16-10317 BL
2. Time 11:20 AM 4. District/Office # I. S. P ZONE 5

Tim (FISOL). DEAN CITY MARR

ITEMIZED LIST OF EVIDENCE

7. (List all items by name and serial no., if any, amount of currency, coins, etc.)

LOCATION EVIDENCE FOUND
(Specify Location)

8. (Specify Location)

[illegible]



[Faint, illegible text or markings covering the main body of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	Lead No:	
16-10317 BL	01/19/16	R. Slayback <i>W. S. Slayback</i>	5940	-	
Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed by	Date:
Brigid M. Sweeney Et Al.	R. Slayback	5940	Z5/BL	RTS	01/26/16
Purpose:					
To Document the Meeting with the Kroger Management					

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police, Zone 5 Agents, met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

NARRATIVE:

On January 19, 2016, at approximately 9:30 AM, I, Special Agent Rodney Slayback #5940, and Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux #5852, met with ELIZABETH D. VAN AVERY, F/W, DOB: 05/18/71, 12161 TALLY CT, MACON, ILLINOIS 62544 and GRETCHEN E. HENDRICKS, F/W, DOB: 01/04/81, 919 HAWLEY, TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS 62568, at the South Shores Kroger Grocery store, located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. The purpose of this meeting was to gather information pertaining to how thefts at Kroger are handled. The following is only a synopsis of our conversation and not verbatim unless otherwise noted.

VAN AVERY first explained to us she was currently in charge of store and HENDRICKS is the administrative assistant. VAN AVERY explained to use she became store manager in May of 2015 and was not familiar with the incident, which occurred in April 2015. It was explained by both VAN AVERY and HENDRICKS that Kroger Store managers aren't involved with the loss prevention side of the store. VAN AVERY stated Kroger's are split into districts and each district has a loss prevention manager and loss prevention officers. They both were unable to answer any questions regarding retail theft from the Kroger stores and asked we speak with Nathan Brown, loss prevention manager for the Kroger district.

VAN AVERY recalled Daniel Thomas and Aaron Morgan were loss prevention employees during April of 2015 and identified Ronda L. Smith as being one of the co-managers. VAN AVERY was able to provide us with the contact information for Ronda, who was reassigned as manager at their Taylorville location. VAN AVERY and HENDRICKS both said Kroger management doesn't get involved/make decisions regarding retail theft from their stores. They both said the responsibility lies with the loss prevention team.

Dissemination:



Case Name: Brigid M. Sweeney

Case #: 16-10317 BL

1/26/16

Page 2 of 2

This conversation concluded at approximately 9:45 AM.

IDENTIFIERS

ELIZABETH D. VAN AVERY

F/W, DOB: 05/18/71

12161 TALLY CT

MACON, ILLINOIS 62544

GRETCHEN E. HENDRICKS

F/W, DOB: 01/04/81

919 HAWLEY

TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS 62568

RONDA L. SMITH

F/W, DOB: 08/25/76

1424 E. VANDERHOOF

DECATUR, IL 62521

Dissemination:



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s): <i>CD #5852</i>	ID#:	Lead No:
16-10317BL	1/19/16	C. Dumonceaux	5852	-

Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed by	Date:
Ronda Smith et al.	R. Slayback	5940	Z5/BL	CD	1/25/16

Purpose:

To document the interview of Ronda Smith.

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016 at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police Zone 5 Agents met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

DETAILS:

On January 19, 2016 Special Agent Rodney Slayback #5940 and I, Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux #5852, met with RONDA L. SMITH (F/W, DOB: 08/25/76) at the Kroger store in Taylorville, IL. The interview started at approximately 10:48 AM. On April 12, 2015, SMITH was the Co-Manager of the Kroger store in Decatur when Mrs. Sweeney committed the theft in question. SMITH agreed to have the interview audio recorded. The following is a summary of the interview and not verbatim unless noted.

SMITH was hired by Kroger as a store manager in 2014. She was aware of the incident in April, 2015 involving the wife of the chief of police for Decatur and easily recalled the event. AARON MORGAN was working the night of April 12, 2015 at SMITH's store. MORGAN was a loss prevention officer for Kroger.

On the evening of April 12, 2015, MORGAN informed SMITH he was keeping an eye on a lady, later identified as BRIGID SWEENEY, who had put items from the store into her bag or purse. As SWEENEY exited Kroger, MORGAN followed her to her vehicle and SMITH followed MORGAN to be a witness. SWEENEY was parked in the area of the parking lot by the pharmacy and was close to the store.

According to SMITH, MORGAN approached SWEENEY and had a conversation with her while standing at her vehicle. SMITH said she could not hear the conversation very well but understood SWEENEY was denying she had just stolen anything from Kroger. Eventually SWEENEY agreed to return to the KROGER store. SMITH stated she heard SWEENEY admit to stealing items from Kroger. SMITH heard SWEENEY make a comment stating something to the effect of, do you know who my husband is?

Dissemination: 0

SWEENEY was walked to the back of the Kroger store by MORGAN and SMITH to handle the incident. The stolen items were rang up at a register to get a total amount. SMITH did not recall the amount. SMITH stated two adult men showed up a short while later. Both were wearing street clothes and one identified himself as a police officer and showed her his police badge. SMITH did not know who they were and guessed they were SWEENEY's husband and father.

After the police had arrived, SMITH returned to the sales floor. SMITH stated she had no decision in the outcome of the theft committed by SWEENEY. SMITH stated she had no influence in the decision. SMITH stated she did not know what happened to SWEENEY related to this incident and she conducted no follow up to determine what happened. SMITH stated she really did not care about the outcome because it was up to loss prevention to make those decisions. According to SMITH, the loss prevention officers make the decisions regarding enforcement of theft from Kroger.

When asked if SWEENEY had ever been identified as stealing from her Kroger store prior to this incident, SMITH stated she did not believe so. SMITH said she had just recognized SWEENEY as a person who she had seen shopping in the store before.

SMITH did not see the police or SWEENEY leave the store. She had no additional information related to this case and interview was ended.

IDENTIFIERS:

Brigid M. Sweeney
F/W. DOB: 08/13/75
1424 W. Grove Road
Decatur, IL 62521

Ronda L. Smith
F/W. DOB: 08/25/76
1424 E. Vanderhoof
Decatur, IL 62521
(217) 855-0804



**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

File #:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	LEAD #:
10317 BL	01/19/16	R. Slayback	#5940 254940	

Title:	Case Agent: ID#	Office:	Typed by:	Date:
BRIGID M. SWEENEY ET. AL	S/A R. Slayback #5940	Z5/BL	RTS	01/25/16

Purpose:

To Document the Interview of Aaron T. Morgan

(Former Kroger Loss Prevention Employee)

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police, Zone 5 Agents, met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

NARRATIVE:

On January 19, 2016, at 12:02 PM, I, Special Agent Rodney Slayback #5940 and Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux #5852, interviewed AARON T. MORGAN, M/W, DOB: 05/14/87, 422 W. Lincoln St, Edinburg, IL 62531. The purpose of this interview was to gather information pertaining to the events that took place on the evening of April 12, 2015, at the South Shores Kroger Grocery Store, which involved Brigid Sweeney. Prior to the interview beginning, I asked for and received consent to audio record our interview from MORGAN. The following is only a synopsis of the interview and is not verbatim unless otherwise noted. This interview took place at the Edinburg Police Department.

Before we began I briefly discussed and told MORGAN the reason for our visit. MORGAN was formerly employed with Kroger Grocery Stores beginning in March of 2013. He stated his job responsibilities entailed identifying people stealing from the store, reviewing video footage for theft, and actively trying to prevent theft from occurring at different Kroger locations to which he was assigned to. MORGAN was assigned to "District 7," which encompasses Decatur, Bloomington, Lincoln, Taylorville, and different areas of Missouri. MORGAN would walk around the stores in plain clothes and pretends to shop. MORGAN would typically work at least two stores a day and spend approximately four hours in each one. MORGAN stated the Kroger South Shores location was his home store, and where he would clock in & out for the day. I next asked MORGAN if he could explain what transpired on April 12, 2015.

Dissemination:

as

MORGAN stated on that particular day he probably spent some time at the Fairview, and Brentwood, stores and described "Fairview," as being the worse store when it came to theft. MORGAN recalled he went to the South Shores, location to clock out for the day and to do some shopping. After MORGAN left the store, he had to return because he had forgotten to clock out for the day. Upon returning he walked into the store and saw a woman carrying a large duffel bag on her shoulder, which he said caught his eye. It attracted his attention due to its size and that it appeared to be empty. He described the woman as standing very close to the store items, and "hovering," over them. MORGAN couldn't recall where the woman was standing, but thought it was near the coffee K-Cups. MORGAN said the way the woman was acting was suspicious to him and he continued to watch her.

MORGAN said he observed the woman take lunch meat, two Kool-Aid drink mixes, coffee K-Cups and placed them into her shopping basket. He said the woman next went over to either isle three or four, which didn't have a camera and knelt down. MORGAN observed the female, take the items from her basket and place them into her bag. He continued to watch her as she went to the front of the Kroger store. MORGAN recalled the female purchased cereal and bread before walking towards the exit of the store. MORGAN alerted his manager, identified as Ronda L. Smith and they both continued to follow the female in order to confront her.

Once outside the door, MORGAN stated he identified who he was and told the female he was with loss prevention. The female continued to walk through the parking lot and walked to her vehicle, a van, parked near the pharmacy window. MORGAN confronted the female and told her she needed to return to the store with him and she replied by saying she couldn't. MORGAN told her he would have to call the police if she didn't return to the store and told her he had observed her steal items from the store. MORGAN said he didn't know who the female was and requested her identification. MORGAN didn't feel she was cooperating with him very well and said his intentions were to have her arrested because she was refusing to come back inside the store. The female next opened the driver side door and entered her vehicle. MORGAN said he placed himself in between the door and the female. He again asked her to comply with his request. He told her she wasn't going to be driving away and this could all be taken care of "in house." MORGAN said if the person appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol he may call the police to assist him.

He next described the South Shores location isn't the worst area in Decatur and sometimes it might take a Decatur Police officer a while to respond to his request. MORGAN said he couldn't recall if the event was near shift change for the Decatur Police Department, but he will sometimes call either Officer Andrew Wittmer, or Officer Tim Wittmer to gauge whether or not someone will respond or if officers are too busy. He said he made phone calls to these officers on the day of the incident and realized they probably weren't going to show up when they didn't answer their phones. MORGAN explained officers would probably eventually show up if he were to request them, but it may take a while, and he was ready to go home for the evening.

MORGAN said he wrote down the plate number on the car and the woman continued to tell him she couldn't go back in the store. MORGAN began to realize maybe he was dealing with a political person, or perhaps the girlfriend of a police officer. He said if that was the case, he was going to call the officer and come ask them to pick up their girlfriend/wife and deal with the situation themselves. MORGAN said he would have taken care of any of the paperwork on his end and deal with his boss later.

MORGAN stated the female told him she was indeed in a relationship with a police officer and showed her identification, identifying herself as Brigid Sweeney. MORGAN said he didn't know who she was and didn't realize he was dealing with Decatur Police Chief, Brad Sweeney's, wife. He told the female he was still going to take her back inside and get the stolen products back.

MORGAN next spoke about the Kroger employees and how they may gossip about the incident and said he didn't want to ruin the reputation of the Decatur Police Chief, due to an action his wife did. Brigid Sweeney agreed to walk back inside the store and he followed at distance with the stolen products. They walked to the back of the store to the manager's office. MORGAN said it was at this time he called Officer Andrew Wittmer to confirm the identity of the female, but he didn't answer his phone. He next tried to call Officer Tim Wittmer, Detective Dave Pruitt, but they didn't answer their phones either.

MORGAN called Moweaqua Police Chief, Robert Maynard, because MORGAN was working as a part time police officer there. MORGAN said Chief Maynard didn't know who Brigid Sweeney was and Chief Maynard told him he would make a phone call and call MORGAN back. MORGAN said Chief Maynard called him back and told him Decatur Police Deputy Chief Cody Moore would be calling him shortly. MORGAN said Deputy Chief Moore did indeed call him and told him he would be coming to the Kroger Store location in approximately 10 minutes. Deputy Chief Moore eventually arrived and was accompanied by Deputy Chief James Getz.

MORGAN said he began to type up his report while waiting for the Deputy Chiefs to arrive. MORGAN tried to get a background story from Brigid Sweeney and she told him things weren't going good at home and her husband was going to divorce her over this. MORGAN said she also told him they were hurting for money. MORGAN said manager Ronda Smith was present during this time.

MORGAN stated Deputy Chief Moore & Getz arrived at the store within 10 minutes, and they asked him what he was going to do with Brigid. He told them he didn't want her arrested because Brigid didn't steal alcohol and the items stolen was a lower dollar amount. MORGAN didn't want this to hurt the reputation of the Decatur Police Chief and wanted to handle the incident himself. MORGAN said he would be issuing a Civil Demand to Brigid to repay Kroger for what she stole. MORGAN stated the Deputy Chief's said they went to the store to make sure Brigid didn't receive special treatment because she was the Chief's wife. MORGAN said he expressed his personal opinion about the situation and asked manager Ronda Smith if she had any objections to not having Brigid arrested. MORGAN explained Ronda didn't have a problem with it and told him to handle the situation the way he typically would. MORGAN didn't give any physical paperwork to Brigid and explained the Civil Demand is issued electronically through his computer. He said Brigid would later receive a bill in the mail at a later date.

MORGAN said the Deputy Chief's stated multiple times they expected Brigid not to receive any special treatment. MORGAN felt if Brigid had stolen alcohol and he decided not to arrest her that in turn could be a form of special treatment. MORGAN described the Deputy Chief's as wearing plain clothes and driving to the location in which he believed to be their personal vehicles. MORGAN said after he told the Chief Deputies of what he was going to do with Brigid, they left the Kroger. MORGAN later explained to us he has served two tours in Iraq and was not intimidated by the Chief Deputies and they allowed him to make his own decision in this matter.

MORGAN stated he filled out an order of no trespass, and said Brigid wasn't allowed to return to the store. This order of no trespass is an in house Kroger procedure and would not be on file with the Decatur Police Department. MORGAN said Brigid was escorted through the back door of the Kroger and allowed to leave.

MORGAN copied video from the Kroger video surveillance system onto a disc and made two copies of it. He said he would make two copies in order to provide a copy to the Decatur Police officer if there were to be an arrest involved. In this case, MORGAN said because he didn't have Brigid arrested, he destroyed one copy of the video and gave the other copy to Officer Andrew Wittmer. MORGAN said his manager, Nathan Brown, is against the Decatur Police Department after he received a parking ticket. MORGAN stated Nathan told him she should have been arrested, but MORGAN as seen instances where Nathan hasn't arrested people either.

MORGAN said the video quality from Kroger is poor, and it's hard to decipher what is going on. Prior to this interview I had reviewed the video and felt it was difficult to determine whether or not Brigid had stolen anything from the store and due to the fact certain grocery isles aren't recorded. I asked MORGAN why he gave a copy of the video and he said Officer Andrew Wittmer wanted to view it. MORGAN described Officer Andrew Wittmer as a mentor and he looked up to him. MORGAN asked him to review the video and to let him know what his opinion of it was.

I asked MORGAN when he provided Officer Andrew Wittmer with the video and he speculated it was a few months after the incident occurred. MORGAN stated he witnessed Brigid Sweeney steal the items from Kroger and the items she stole were rang up by a cashier in order to determine the amount for the Civil Demand. MORGAN thought the total dollar amount was around \$12.00 dollars. I asked MORGAN if there were any other witnesses to this incident and he said no, it pertained to him, Brigid Sweeney, Ronda Smith and the two deputy chiefs.

MORGAN said Chief Brad Sweeney never responded to the store that evening and he later saw Chief Sweeney shopping at the South Shores Kroger two weeks later. MORGAN was approached by Chief Sweeney, and he apologized to him for his wife's actions. MORGAN said he thought the Chief told him Brigid wasn't currently living with him either. MORGAN stated Chief Sweeney was wearing gym clothes and he wasn't quite sure how the Chief recognized him. MORGAN said Chief Sweeney talked to him about applying for the Decatur Police Department and he should apply. MORGAN explained he was currently working for the Moweaqua and had an obligation to that department and he also felt if he got hired by the Decatur Police Department it could be perceived as he was rewarded a job for not arresting the Chief's wife. MORGAN stated he hasn't applied to the Decatur Police Department since this incident occurred.

MORGAN said Officer Andrew Wittmer later returned his phone call after the incident occurred and MORGAN told him what had happened. He said Officer Andrew Wittmer was in disbelief about what happened. I asked MORGAN if Decatur Deputy Chief's typically respond to thefts at Kroger's and he said no, typically a patrol officer, but because he didn't call dispatch, no patrol officer was assigned to the incident.

I asked MORGAN when the last time he talked to Officer Andrew Wittmer was and he said it was on January 12, 2016. MORGAN stated Office Andrew Wittmer told him someone may be coming to talk to him from Decatur Police Department because he was being accused of roughing up some of his informants and he was holding this incident over the Chief Sweeney's head. MORGAN responded to him by asking Officer Andrew Wittmer how anyone knew about this incident because it was supposed to be confidential and he told MORGAN he didn't know. MORGAN began to question Officer Andrew Wittmer in regards to how anyone found out about this incident and he told MORGAN he didn't know. MORGAN described Officer Andrew Wittmer as being a cop who gets results and may not be liked well by his department. MORGAN said Officer Andrew Wittmer as told him to keep his name off of as a reference if he were to apply for the department because he's not well liked.

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Date: 01/25/16
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MORGAN said employees at Kroger knew he had caught Brigid Sweeney stealing and he told them to keep quiet about it. MORGAN stated they were probably upset with him in regards to how he handled the situation. MORGAN quit Kroger in October of 2015 to work for the Edinburgh Police Department. I asked MORGAN if he had talked to anyone else about the situation and he stated he told his parents and other members of the Moweaqua Police Department.

MORGAN again reiterated to us he didn't want to ruin the Decatur Police Departments reputation or the people involved. MORGAN said he was shocked this has all came to light now, and had questions in regards to if Officer Andrew Wittmer has said something about it. MORGAN said if the incident were to occur again he would have handled it the same way. MORGAN said he would typically try to determine each individual incidents and all have different factors in the way he makes his decisions.

This interview concluded at 12:54 PM

The audio recording from this incident was downloaded from my Sony IC recording device onto a CD-R disc. This disc will remain with the case file.

IDENTIFIERS

BRIGID M. SWEENEY

F/W, DOB: 08/13/75

1424 W. GROVE ROAD

DECATUR, IL 62521

AARON T. MORGAN

M/W, DOB: 05/14/87

422 W. LINCOLN ST.

EDINBURG, IL 62531



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	Lead No:	
16-10317 BL	01/19/16	R. Slayback <i>RS</i>	5940	-	
Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed by	Date:
Brigid M. Sweeney Et Al.	R. Slayback	5940	Z5/BL	RTS	01/26/16
Purpose:					
To Document the Interview of Nathan D. Brown (Kroger District Manager for Theft Prevention)					

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police, Zone 5 Agents, met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

NARRATIVE:

On January 19, 2016, at 1:58 PM, I, Special Agent Rodney Slayback #5940 and Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux #5852, interviewed NATHAN D. BROWN, M/B, DOB: 12/07/75, 3706 NORTH HAVEN COURT, APT # 2B, DECATUR, IL. The purpose of this interview was to gather information pertaining to the events that took place on the evening of April 12, 2015, at the South Shores Kroger Grocery Store, which involved Brigid Sweeney. Prior to the interview beginning, I asked BROWN for permission to audio record our conversation, which he refused. The following is only a synopsis of the interview and is not verbatim unless otherwise noted. This interview took place at the South Shores Kroger.

BROWN first explained to us he was in charge of loss prevention for Kroger stores in District 7. BROWN is in charge of the loss prevention officers and reviews their reports. I asked BROWN if he was familiar with the incident involving Brigid Sweeney and he said yes. BROWN explained he doesn't work on the weekends, but learned of the incident on April 12, 2015, a few days later when reviewing Aaron Morgan's report.

BROWN stated he wasn't happy with the way Aaron handled the situation and said anyone who steals more than \$5.00 dollars worth of items is arrested. He claimed this was an "unwritten policy." BROWN explained to us he was upset with the incident because it's not consistent with how they typically deal with thefts and Brigid Sweeney should have been arrested and prosecuted. BROWN however did state not every situation is handled the same and considerations are made when a juvenile is involved, or someone over the age of 65 years old.

Dissemination:

BROWN told us Aaron didn't have discretion whether or not to arrest and that discretion lies within the responding officers on scene. BROWN stated Kroger employees don't suggest on how the situation should be handled. While speaking with BROWN he confirmed Aaron did indeed complete a report, but described it as vague with not a lot of information. The report also indicated Aaron did complete a Civil Demand and issued a no trespass order to Brigid Sweeney, but the actual forms were not attached to the report. BROWN stated there may be paper copies in the file, but ISP investigators would need to obtain a subpoena to review any records in Kroger's possession.

BROWN had nothing further to add and this interview concluded at 2:15 PM.

IDENTIFIERSBRIGID M. SWEENEYF/W, DOB: 08/13/751424 W. GROVE ROADDECATUR, IL 62521NATHAN D. BROWNM/B, DOB: 12/07/753706 NORTH HAVEN COURTAPT # 2B, DECATUR, IL.

Dissemination:



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	Lead No:
16-10317 BL	01/22/16	R. Slayback (63) 5946	5940	-

Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed by	Date:
Brigid M. Sweeney Et Al.	R. Slayback	5940	Z5/BL	RTS	01/29/16

Purpose:

To Document the Interview with Decatur Police Officer Andrew J. Wittmer

SYNOPSIS:

On January 15, 2016, at approximately 11:00 AM, Illinois State Police, Zone 5 Agents, met with Decatur City Manager, Tim Gleason, at Decatur City Hall, in regards to allegations of theft committed by BRIGID M. SWEENEY, F/W, DOB: 08/13/75, 1424 W. GROVE ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521, on April 12, 2015, from the Kroger Grocery Store located at 255 W. 1st Drive, South Towne Plaza. Mr. Gleason stated this incident was brought to his attention by members of the Decatur Police Department, who have also alleged a potential cover up by the upper command of the Decatur Police Department because Brigid is married to Brad Sweeney, the current chief. I.S.P Zone 5 was asked to investigate the theft and how it was handled by the Decatur Police Department.

NARRATIVE:

On January 22, 2016, at approximately 12:58 PM, I, Special Agent Rodney Slayback and Special Agent Chad Dumonceaux #5852, interviewed Decatur Police Officer Andrew J. Wittmer in regards to his knowledge of the theft incident at Kroger and to have him review his memorandum for accuracy. Prior to this, Special Agent Dumonceaux had contacted WITTMER and asked him to meet with us at the Decatur City Hall. Before the interview WITTMER granted us permission to audio record our conversation and we explained to him he was under no obligation by either the I.S.P or his own department to speak with us, and he was there voluntarily. The following is only a synopsis of the interview and is not verbatim unless otherwise noted.

WITTMER was first provided with a copy of his memorandum and he reviewed it. He stated nothing was omitted from his memorandum and confirmed it was written by him. I asked WITTMER how he came to know Aaron Morgan. He stated they lived by each other in Blue Mound and were acquaintances. WITTMER knows Aaron to be a loss prevention officer with Kroger. I asked him if Aaron ever called him in regards to thefts at Kroger's and he said yes. WITTMER said Aaron would ask him questions on a monthly basis and would call him to gauge how long it might take for an officer to respond because Aaron stated he could only hold a person for two hours. WITTMER identified himself as somewhat of a mentor to Aaron, because Aaron was wanting to pursue a career in law enforcement.

WITTMER was asked whether or not he was a direct witness or had any further information about the theft incident involving Brigid Sweeney. WITTMER said Aaron had called him on the evening of April 12, 2015, but he was unable to answer it. He eventually called Aaron back and asked him what he needed. WITTMER described Aaron has being "cryptic," on the phone and eventually Aaron got to the details of the theft incident.

Dissemination:

Aaron told WITTMER he was wanting him to identify Brigid Sweeney and whether or not it was the Chief's wife. The word cryptic was later explained by WITTMER to mean Aaron was not providing him with all the details that occurred.

WITTMER checked the Decatur PD CAD reports to see if there was an incident created and he didn't see any calls for service at the Kroger store. Aaron told WITTMER he called a detective, WITTMER's twin brother, Tim, and Aaron eventually contacted Moweaqua Police Chief, Robert Maynard. WITTMER said Decatur Police Deputy Chief Moore and Getz eventually arrived at the Kroger and the situation was taken care of.

WITTMER stated Aaron told him, Kroger employees had pointed out Brigid Sweeney as a regular shop lifter and Aaron had observed her fail to scan items in a self-checkout isle. Aaron said he tried to detain her and Brigid Sweeney eventually identified herself as the wife of Chief Brad Sweeney. Aaron was eventually able to convince Brigid to return to the store and that's when he began to make phone calls in order to confirm her identity. WITTMER said he felt since it involved a high ranking member of the departments wife, Aaron wanted to maybe minimize the situation.

WITTMER explained he didn't specifically what Brigid Sweeney was accused of stealing, but it amounted to "Steaks & stuff," and the dollar amount was \$25.00 dollars. WITTMER said Aaron told him as a manner of professional courtesy, Brigid was not charged with retail theft. WITTMER next talked about Aaron applying for the Decatur Police Department and WITTMER felt maybe Aaron was taken advantage of because of Aaron's eagerness to pursue a law enforcement career. WITTMER told Aaron he should complete his internal report and to burn surveillance footage in order to cover himself. WITTMER explained he wanted Aaron to do this, in case it was to come back the Chief Deputies did something wrong, he didn't want Aaron to "get fucked over," and lose his Job at Kroger because of something they did.

I asked WITTMER when he came into possession of the video surveillance and he stated September of 2015. He explained Aaron became "cryptic," about the situation and felt Aaron's concerns were growing because WITTMER had told him it "didn't smell right," to him. WITTMER said he didn't feel good about the whole situation because that's not how the police department typically handles its business by sending two Deputy Chiefs to the scene and trying to convince somebody not to pursue a criminal complaint. He said a patrol sergeant and patrol officer should have responded to the scene.

WITTMER told us he wouldn't make an allegation of official misconduct against two Deputy Chiefs and commit "career suicide," over an issue which could be exaggerated, but felt this smelled bad. He continued to say Decatur Police Department has a "good ole boy network," and the State Police probably has something similar, to which people don't feel they are treated fairly.

I asked WITTMER if he had any evidence or anything to substantiate Aaron Morgan was directed or ordered not to arrest Brigid Sweeney by Chief Deputy Moore and Getz. He said Aaron never stated to him he was ordered to handle this situation in a particular manner, but stated the Deputy Chiefs had mentioned to Aaron he should apply for a patrol officer position for the department prior to leaving the store, which didn't sit right with WITTMER. WITTMER felt they were taking advantage of Aaron.

I explained to WITTMER based on my interviews with Kroger employees, it seems not all situations are handled the same way in regards to whether or not a criminal complaint is filed. WITTMER agreed with this statement and said if Kroger were to ask for a subject to be arrested, the Decatur Police Department would complete an arrest/complaint.

WITTMER said in this particular instance it was his understanding Brigid Sweeney had committed theft before from the store and if this was the case, he felt an arrest should have been made. I explained to Aaron based on my present knowledge, this was the first time Brigid Sweeney had been detained for shop lifting at the store and any other accusations would be merely allegations she had stolen before, which he agreed to. WITTMER said the store employees had told Aaron they suspected her of stealing before. WITTMER stated this would be a strong determining factor whether or not the subject would be arrested.

WITTMER stated Aaron told him this was his decision in regards to not having Brigid arrested. Aaron never told WITTMER about his specific conversations he had with Deputy Chief Moore and Getz, while they were at the store. We next briefly talked about the fact Aaron stated he was told to put in application for the Decatur Police Department. WITTMER stated he thought Aaron had applied before for the department, but wasn't hired. It should be noted Aaron told us he had indeed applied for the Decatur Police Department before, but hasn't submitted an application since his incident took place. This was later confirmed by I.S.P agents when reviewing application documents provided by Assistant City Manager Jerry Bauer.

We next talked about the video surveillance footage and I asked WITTMER why he had wanted a copy of it for himself. He said he wanted to review it for himself to see if the Deputy Chiefs had committed official misconduct. He watched the video and saw no evidence of official misconduct, and told us he was not concerned with the theft itself, but concerned with Aaron being pressured into not having a criminal complaint filed against Brigid Sweeney. After he reviewed the video, WITTMER said the video quality is poor, lacked audio, and there was no video footage of her stealing any products. Again, WITTMER stated he had no evidence to substantiate his claim of official misconduct taking place, but again stated he felt it was inappropriate if the Deputy Chiefs talked to Aaron about applying for a job with the department.

We spoke about the conversations him and Aaron had regarding the incident and WITTMER felt maybe Aaron wasn't be forthcoming about information and Aaron was maybe starting to question himself, whether or not he made the right decision. He said these conversations made him concerned and that's why he wanted the video footage.

WITTMER said he had mentioned what had occurred to Detective Phares during the Decatur Celebration, but didn't submit a departmental memorandum until he was approached by Sergeant Maxwell concerning the situation. I asked why he didn't come forward sooner and he said because he didn't have any evidence to substantiate his claim and feared retribution from his department.

WITTMER stated he didn't think there was a direct order given by the Deputy Chief's, but more along the lines of subtle hints on not to arrest Brigid Sweeney. He had concerns of what happened and felt the usual protocol was deviated from. I asked WITTMER if he had text messages or any physical evidence to verify his concerns, and he said no.

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1/29/16 RS

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S/A Dumonceaux asked WITTMER if he had left anything out of his memorandum that he would be willing to tell us and he said no. We explained to him this was his time to tell us about anything else concerning this incident, and he said this was everything he could think of. WITTMER again reviewed his memorandum to ensure he had told us everything to his knowledge

I asked WITTMER if he was aware of any administrative repercussions from Kroger towards Brigid Sweeney and he said no. We briefly discussed this incident as a whole and I concluded the interview at 1:50 PM.

The audio recording from this interview was later downloaded from my Sony IC recording device and copied onto a CD-R disc. This disc will remain in the case file.

IDENTIFIERS

BRIGID M. SWEENEY

F/W, DOB: 08/13/75

1424 W. GROVE ROAD

DECATUR, IL 62521

Dissemination:

1. Date 2-4-16 3. File/Field Report # 16-10317 BL
2. Time 355 pm 4. District Office # 25 BL

ITEMIZED LIST OF EVIDENCE	LOCATION EVIDENCE FOUND
7. (List all items by name and serial no., if any, amount of currency, coins, etc.)	8. (Specify Location)

2/4/2016 -
R. SLAYBACK SAID
THE REPORT FROM
KROGER OF THE INCIDENT
HAD BEEN SUBPOENAED
AND WOULD BE DELIVERED
TO THE CITY, WHEN
AVAILABLE.
(IN ABOUT 3 WEEKS)

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Jenny Bauer

1/19/2016

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Jerry Bauer
1/19/2016

