



CONFIDENTIAL

**TO: O'DELL HENDERSON, DIRECTOR
LABOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

**FROM: JEANINE RILEY, COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATOR
COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATIONS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JR", is written over the name "JEANINE RILEY" in the "FROM:" field.

**SUBJECT: RONNIE STONER, SCHOOL SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR AND [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FORMER STUDENT, NEWBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL**

DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2022

Allegation: On May 17, 2022, the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) District was put on notice that [REDACTED] former District student, alleged that during the 2016-17 academic year, Ronnie Stoner, School Safety Administrator, who at the time of the alleged incident served as the Home School Coordinator at Newburg Middle School (Newburg), engaged in inappropriate sexual activity with [REDACTED]

District Response to the Allegations:

Various steps were taken by JCPS representatives concerning the allegation received, including:

- In May 2022, Child Protective Services (CPS) was notified of the allegations; however, CPS elected to not conduct an investigation.
- Also in May 2022, the District notified the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) of the allegations.
- In August 2022, Compliance and Investigations was advised that the District could proceed with an internal investigation of the allegations, per CACU.

Timeline of Communication Regarding the Allegation

A detailed timeline of the communication regarding this matter is included in the investigative file. This includes communication with David Mour, [REDACTED] legal counsel, as well as communication with Callie Walton, Rob Eggert and Trish Lister, Mr. Stoner's legal counsel (see file).

██████████ was not interviewed by this investigator for this investigation, although the following attempts were made to schedule an interview with ██████████ through her attorney, Mr. Mour:

- 1) On August 19, 2022 at 1:31 pm, Ms. Lindsay Wright, assistant general counsel of Compliance and Investigations, called and left a voicemail for Mr. Mour and sent him a follow up email.
- 2) On August 24, 2022 at 9:11 am: Ms. Wright called and left a voicemail for Mr. Mour. She sent Mr. Mour a follow up email, as well.
- 3) On August 26, 2022, Mr. Mour responded to one of Ms. Wright's emails and asked that she contact him via his cell phone. Ms. Wright called his cell phone at 4:33 pm on that date but did not reach him. Ms. Wright received a missed call from Mr. Mour at 4:59 pm on the same date.
- 4) On August 29, 2022 at 11:05 am: Ms. Wright called Mr. Mour on his cellphone and spoke with him. He was unavailable to continue speaking but said he would return her call. Ms. Wright did not receive a returned phone call from Mr. Mour.
- 5) On September 1, 2022, Ms. Wright emailed Mr. Mour and provided him with four dates and various times that his client could participate in an interview that same week. Mr. Mour responded on the same date and said he would contact his client.
- 6) Ms. Wright followed up with Mr. Mour on Wednesday, September 8, 2022 and asked if he had an opportunity to speak with his client so that an interview could be scheduled. Mr. Mour did not respond.
- 7) On September 14, 2022, Ms. Wright emailed Mr. Mour once more, requesting that his client, ██████████ be interviewed on Monday, September 19th. Mr. Mour did not respond.
- 8) Lastly, on October 18, 2022, Ms. Wright emailed Mr. Mour and requested that ██████████ be interviewed during the week of October 24-28, 2022. Mr. Mour did not respond to Ms. Wright's email.

Findings:

██████████ former student
David Mour, legal counsel for ██████████

JCPS received an email from David Mour regarding the specific allegation that was made by ██████████ (see file).

Details of the allegation presented to the District by Mr. Mour included:

- ██████████ is a former JCPS student.
- ██████████ attended Newburg Middle School during the 2016-17 school year.
- ██████████ was 13 years old at the time.
- ██████████ alleged that Mr. Stoner transported her from school to his house.
- ██████████ reported that Mr. Stoner had inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with her.
- ██████████ claimed that Mr. Stoner had sex with her at his home and/or office on five occasions.

- In addition to the incidents of alleged sexual intercourse, ██████ alleged that there were 10 incidents of sexual interactions with her, including oral sodomy, that occurred in Mr. Stoner's car.
- It was reported that ██████ contacted Mr. Stoner recently (date unknown) for closure.

Ronnie Stoner, School Safety Administrator

October 6, 2022 Interview

On October 6, 2022, Mr. Stoner was interviewed via Zoom. Individuals that were present for the interview included: Jeanine Riley, JCPS Compliance Investigator, Mr. Stoner, Callie Walton, legal representative for Mr. Stoner, Rob Eggert, legal representative for Mr. Stoner and Tricia Lister, legal representative for Mr. Stoner

The interview began at 8:30 a.m., as scheduled. Mr. Stoner was in a conference room with his legal representative, Callie Walton. Rob Eggert, additional legal representation for Mr. Stoner was present on the Zoom call; however, he did not participate verbally nor via video. This investigator confirmed with Ms. Walton and Mr. Stoner that Mr. Eggert was also to remain on Zoom as his representation. At this time, Ms. Lister was not on the call. Next, Ms. Walton asked this investigator if the interview was going to be recorded. She was advised that the interview was not being recorded by this investigator. There were no other disclosures made by any party that anyone intended to record the interview. Ms. Walton asked if this investigator would tell them the allegation. This investigator confirmed that she would share the allegation but said she wanted to obtain some background information regarding Mr. Stoner's employment with the district, first.

Mr. Stoner was asked about his role with the District, in which he responded that he had been reassigned to Material Productions pending this investigation. Mr. Stoner was asked what his job was prior to being reassigned. He responded that he was the Youth Service Coordinator (YSC) at Newburg. Mr. Stoner was asked how long he served in that role, and he said for one and a half years. Mr. Stoner was asked what his role was prior to that, and he stated he was the Home School Coordinator at Newburg. Mr. Stoner then confirmed that he was the Home School Coordinator at Newburg during the 2016-17 academic year. When Mr. Stoner was asked what his job duties were as the Home School Coordinator, he stated that he was expected to assist families and students in removing barriers to the education process and to make home visits.

Mr. Stoner was asked if he recalled working with a former student named ██████. He confirmed that he did recall ██████. Mr. Stoner was asked how frequently he worked and/or interacted with ██████ and Mr. Stoner responded that he worked with "a lot of students." Mr. Stoner was asked if he knew ██████ beyond the scope of his job, such as via family, friends, or community engagement, and Mr. Stoner replied, "No."

At that point, Tricia Lister, legal representative, joined the Zoom interview. She stated that she worked in Rob Eggert's office and was joining on behalf of Mr. Eggert, who was in a legal proceeding. This investigator then clarified, "So, are you saying you are Mr. Stoner's legal representation, as well?" Ms. Lister confirmed, "Yes." Ms. Lister then stated that Mr. Stoner's representatives would advise Mr. Stoner not to answer any further questions until they heard the allegation.

This investigator told the individuals who were on the call that the District received an allegation that Mr. Stoner had inappropriate sexual contact with [REDACTED]. When Ms. Lister asked if the District received the complaint in writing, this investigator stated, "Yes." Ms. Lister stated that they were not going to answer any further questions until they received a copy of the complaint. This investigator advised Ms. Lister that it is not customary for her to provide copies of written complaints or documentation. This investigator further stated that any request for written documents must be requested through the District's Open Records Office.

Ms. Lister again expressed that Mr. Stoner would not be answering any questions until they received the complaint in writing. This investigator confirmed, "You are saying Mr. Stoner will not be answering any further questions, correct?" Ms. Lister confirmed, "Yes." This investigator advised Ms. Lister that she would send her information regarding the District's Open Records Request process, and the Zoom call ended.

Following the October 6, 2022 interview, this investigator sent an email to Ms. Lister, instructing her on how to make a records request with the District.

On October 7, 2022, General Counsel Kevin Brown sent a letter to Ms. Walton and Mr. Eggert outlining Jefferson County Board of Education Policy 03.233, which states, "all employees shall cooperate fully with all investigations conducted by the district as authorized by policy or law. Failure to comply may be considered insubordination." The letter served as notice that Mr. Stoner will be required to respond to all questions asked of him in this administrative investigation. The letter provided the date for a second interview to be held on October 18, 2022, to further address the concerns brought to the district's attention (see file).

October 18, 2022 Interview

On October 18, 2022, a second interview with Mr. Stoner occurred, via Zoom. Mr. Stoner was in a conference room with his legal representative, Callie Walton. In addition to this investigator, Ms. Lindsay Wright, assistant general counsel for Compliance and Investigations, was also present on the Zoom call. After this investigator recapped the details that were provided in the first interview, questioning proceeded regarding the allegation that the district received regarding Mr. Stoner's interactions with [REDACTED].

Mr. Stoner was asked if he provided transportation to students in his role as a Home School Coordinator at Newburg. Mr. Stoner responded, "No." Mr. Stoner was asked

specifically about transporting ██████ in his car, and Mr. Stoner reported that he had never transported ██████ to her home, not to his home, nor to any other location.

During his interview, Mr. Stoner was asked how he established his caseload during his role as the Home School Coordinator, and Mr. Stoner stated that he did not recall how his caseload was established.

Mr. Stoner was asked if ██████ had contacted him by phone recently, as was alleged in the initial complaint. Mr. Stoner reported that she had not. Mr. Stoner further stated that to his knowledge, ██████ does not have his phone number.

Mr. Stoner was asked about the last time he had any type of interaction with ██████ and Mr. Stoner responded that it was within the past year. More specifically, his last interaction with ██████ occurred in the latter part of 2021. According to Mr. Stoner, at the time, he was cutting grass at a doctor's office in the area of Lyndon Lane and Westport Road in Louisville, when ██████ approached him. During his interview, Mr. Stoner reported that ██████ was alone when she approached him. Mr. Stoner reported that she asked him personal questions including asking if she could obtain his phone number and if they could "hang out."

During his interview, Mr. Stoner reported that he could tell ██████ was attempting to "come onto him" during the conversation. Mr. Stoner explained that he had drawn that conclusion based on her body language, facial expressions, and the questions she was asking him. Mr. Stoner reported that he told ██████ that he was not going to provide her his number nor would they spend time with one another. Mr. Stoner further stated that he did not provide any personal information to ██████ during their conversation. Mr. Stoner reported that he ended the conversation, and he proceeded with his grass cutting duties. Mr. Stoner was asked if ██████ lived in the area where he was cutting grass and he replied he is unsure of where ██████ resides.

Next, this investigator asked Mr. Stoner if he had any contact with ██████ between 2017, her final year at Newburg, and the 2021 incident when she approached him while he was cutting grass. Mr. Stoner replied, "Nothing sticks out for me."

Mr. Stoner stated that he did not have any type of sexual interactions with ██████. Mr. Stoner was asked if he had an opinion as to why ██████ would allege that they had sexual interactions with one another, and Mr. Stoner stated, "Because she is obsessed with me." Mr. Stoner was asked to elaborate, and he stated that he believed this to be true because of the questions ██████ was asking him during their last face to face encounter, including asking him for his phone number, asking him if they could get together, and asking him about his wife.

At the conclusion of his interview, Mr. Stoner reiterated that he never had any type of inappropriate encounters with ██████. Mr. Stoner reported that he never transported ██████ anywhere. Mr. Stoner also expressed that he never went to ██████ home, nor had she been to his home. During the interview, Mr. Stoner did disclose that his daughter attended Newburg during the 2016-17 academic year;

however, he was uncertain if [REDACTED] was friends with or an acquaintance of his daughter.

During the interview, Ms. Walton asked how the District received the allegation regarding Mr. Stoner and [REDACTED]. Ms. Walton was informed that David Mour, representative for [REDACTED] submitted the concerns to the District. During his interview, Mr. Stoner reported that he was never contacted by Mr. Mour, nor had anyone else brought any concerns to his attention regarding [REDACTED].

Following the interview, Ms. Walton submitted a statement recapping some of Mr. Stoner's responses that were supplied during the interview and providing additional details pertaining to Mr. Stoner, his former role as the Home School Coordinator, as well as addressing his family dynamics during the time of the alleged incidents (see file).

Conclusion:

This investigator concludes that the allegation that Mr. Stoner engaged in inappropriate sexual activity with former student, [REDACTED] at school and at his home to be unsubstantiated. Although Mr. Stoner recalled that [REDACTED] attended Newburg during the 2016-17 school year and stated he was in contact with [REDACTED] as recently as late 2021, there is no evidence to demonstrate that Mr. Stoner had inappropriate or unprofessional contact with [REDACTED] at any time. The only evidence provided to the District was the original complaint that was submitted in May 2022. Ultimately, this investigator was unable to ascertain specific details regarding the concerns because [REDACTED] was not made available for an interview, despite multiple requests made to her representative, and Mr. Stoner denied ever engaging in inappropriate contact with [REDACTED]. Additionally, there was no witness corroboration provided during this investigation that would support a finding that the alleged incidents occurred.

JR:gdl

c Michael Newman