



June 11, 2020

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1457466-000
Subject: JOHNSON, ROCKY

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552		Section 552a	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)	
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<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6)	
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12 pages were reviewed and 7 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].
- This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

See additional information which follows.

The enclosed documents represent the final release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Enclosed are 6 cross-references which are identifiable with the subject of your request. Cross-references are defined as mentions of the subject of your request in files to other individuals, organizations, events, or activities. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages which mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject of your request was mentioned. The cross-reference pages were processed pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA and are being released to you in redacted form.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records.
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552


- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1457466-0

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Page 3 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
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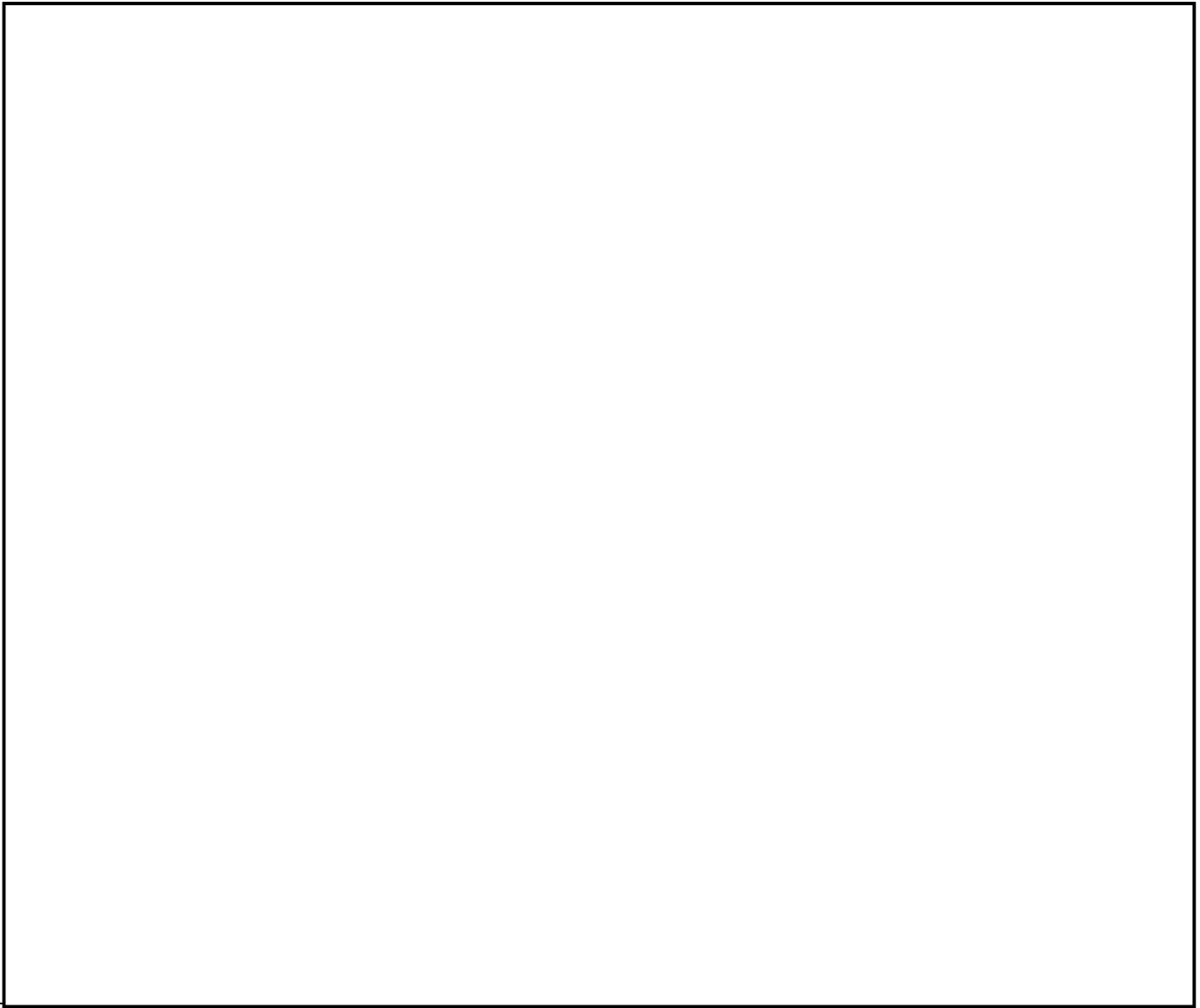
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 03/27/2001

SOURCE, who is in a position to testify, provided the following information regarding possible ongoing criminal activity in the City of Davie. After being advised of the nature of the interview and the identity of the interviewing Agents, source provided the following information:

(Handwritten initials)



b6
b7C
b7D

Investigation on 02/09/2001 at Davie, Florida

File # [redacted] 194B-MM-96426 Date dictated 02/16/2001

by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] GNS:baa/mcb

b6
b7C
b7D

(Handwritten signature)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
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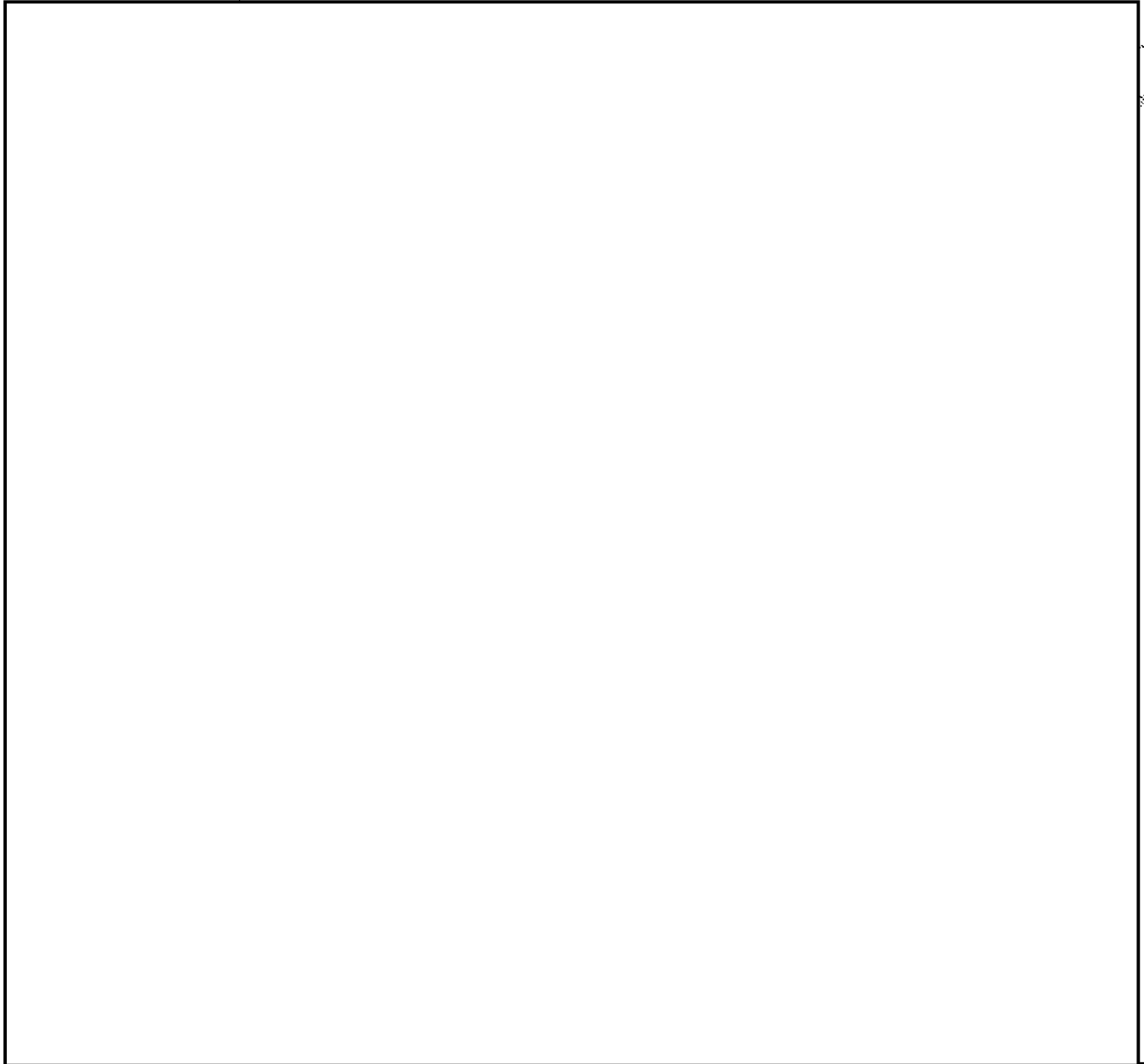
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 03/05/2002

An individual who is in a position to testify provided the following information:



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b7C
b7D

[Handwritten initials]
3/5/02

Investigation on 09/21/02 at Ft. Lauderdale, FL *194B-MM-96426*

File # [redacted] 194B-MM-96426 Date dictated 03/05/01

by SA [redacted]
SA [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Sun Sentinel

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 10-14-00
Edition:

Title: Ex-wrestler at center of furor over sex allegations

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: 194B

Indexing: *[Handwritten initials]*

Below)

DAVIE

Ex-wrestler at center of furor over sex allegations

By JOHN W. ALLMAN
STAFF WRITER

DAVIE — It began with a rumor, the new town employee making out with a woman during work hours at a community center.

Then it snowballed.

Finally, the town began an internal investigation of Rocky Johnson, a friend and business partner of Mayor Harry Venis, hired in June to work part time as an activities leader and to supervise the weight room at Pine Island Community Center.

Allegation upon allegation surfaced, each one more disturbing than the last: sexual activity in a back room, unwanted groping of a female employee, illicit discussions of sexual anatomy in front of children, even an invitation to a 12-year-old girl to play strip poker.

The investigation was conducted by Sharon Kent, the town's parks and recreation director. It involved accounts from 13 current and former town employees who worked for three months at a youth camp with Johnson, father of Dwayne Johnson, better known as "The Rock," a popular professional wrestler.

Kent delivered her report in memo form to acting Town Administrator Tom Willi, who said he then ordered her to delete references to Venis he deemed irrelevant.

That included statements claiming John

DAVIE continues on 16A

→ continued next page

194B-MM-96426-Sub-1
NC-1

[Handwritten initials]

Sun Sentinel
Oct. 14, 2000

[Handwritten initials]

Ex-wrestler at center of furor over sex allegations

DAVIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

son used Venis' name to intimidate other employees, statements asserting Johnson made frequent daily phone calls to the mayor and a statement alleging an incident in which Johnson told another town employee that he and Venis had spent time socializing with two women while Johnson was nude.

"It was garbage, unprofessional as it gets," Willi said, defending his order that the memo be changed.

Kent turned in a second memo, which was also ordered changed because it still contained references to Venis.

In late September, following the third draft, Kent sent Willi an electronic message questioning how he could allow Johnson to continue working around children after witnesses were questioned and substantiated the allegations.

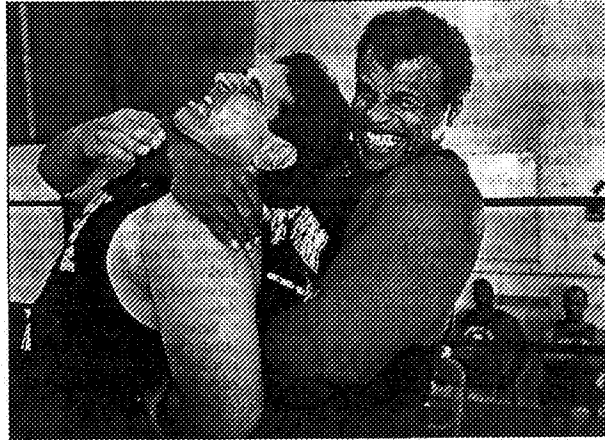
At the same time, Willi said he called Venis and Johnson into a private meeting to warn Johnson, 56, a former professional wrestling champion, that he might lose his 39-an-hour job.

A day later, Johnson was suspended with pay and all town records pertaining to Johnson and the investigation of his activities were turned over to police, Willi said.

Three weeks later, Willi placed Kent on administrative leave and fired Mark Dornacker, a sports coordinator for 4 1/2 years, who was one of the witnesses questioned in the investigation.

Dornacker had alerted his supervisors in early September that Johnson was soliciting personal business on town time and not working his scheduled hours.

But Willi said he had questions about Dornacker concerning an unrelated investigation into how sports officials were paid by the town. The system involved Dornacker receiving checks from the town, cashing them and then giving cash to sports officials who refereed the town's youth athletic events. The money was distributed without any taxes taken out and with no tax forms filed.



EX-CHAMPION:

Rocky Johnson, right, works out with Davie Mayor Harry Venis at Duke's Wrestling Academy in Miami. Johnson was suspended from his job as activities leader and weight room supervisor at the Pine Island Community Center when an investigation of his activities was turned over to police.

Staff file photo/
Associated Press

Willi said he only recently learned of the controversial payment system. But Town Council member Richard Weiner said he alerted Willi to the issue about two months ago.

Willi blamed Kent for not catching the problem. He also criticized her handling of the Johnson investigation, which he asked her to oversee in early September.

Kent's report to Willi said "the most notable findings that we were able to conclude" against Johnson were:

- He grabbed a female camp employee twice on the buttocks. The same employee told Kent that Johnson also made comments such as, "Why don't you take off your shirt to see what you look like in a bathing suit."

- He spent time with a woman not employed by the town in a room at the community center napping, kissing and getting massages.

- He twice complained about being interrupted while spending time alone with a woman. In one incident, a 16-year-old female employee walked in on Johnson receiving a massage from a woman straddling his back. On a separate occasion, Johnson allegedly complained to another employee that he was interrupted by a male employee while he was receiving oral

sex.

- He asked a 12-year-old girl to play strip poker.

- He wore a tank top in front of children bearing the word "PUTA," a Spanish word for prostitute. A parent complained about the shirt.

- He made a comment in front of a group of children about the size of his penis.

- He promised children that his son, "The Rock," would visit the community center. "The Rock" did not appear during the summer.

- He left children supervised by only a counselor in training while they wrestled and boxed, and several children suffered injuries.

While saying these allegations needed to be formally investigated by police, Willi said Kent, a 23-year town employee, went too far in trying to include the mayor in her findings.

"The investigation had to do with the alleged improper conduct on town property," Willi said. "I think the steps I took to focus the investigation directly where it needed to be, and keep all the information in that memo relevant, was within my purview."

Johnson's attorney, Daniel Aaronson, called the allegations "a smokescreen to keep town officials from focusing on the manner in which sports officials have been

paid.

"There is some crossover with the people who are accusing Rocky of some things and those people being accused of mismanagement of the parks," he said.

Aaronson, who has advised Johnson not to comment, said that Johnson's job was "sabotaged" and that his client "categorically denies" the allegations.

Johnson was to be considered for a full-time position on Oct. 1, but Willi said it is unlikely he will be hired in the future regardless of the outcome of the police investigation.

Town Council member Geri Clark said any information about Venis that did not pertain to Johnson's conduct during town time did not belong in Kent's memorandum.

"That was improper of Ms. Kent, very improper," said Clark, who added she had not been shown any of Kent's memos.

Neither had Weiner.

"I have a lot of questions," Weiner said. "I don't know where I'm going to come down on it, or when I'm going to come down on it, but I would like the benefit of a police investigation to know which parts are credible and which allegations may be questionable."

Venis said he saw a copy of the third revision of Kent's memo, dat-

ed Sept. 20. He said he was unaware of any previous versions.

The information deleted between the first and third versions came from an interview with Ed Hanson Jr., 29, who has worked part time with the town's sports programs since 1994. Hanson told Kent he heard Johnson use inappropriate language toward a female employee and that he saw town property being kept at Johnson's home.

Hanson said Johnson also told him about a night on which Venis and Johnson were "partying" with two women.

"He mentioned that the mayor was embarrassed because [Johnson] was walking around in the nude," Hanson said.

Venis denied the story.

"It never happened," he said.

In 1997, Venis apologized to town residents and employees after it was revealed he had paid for sex acts on several occasions at a Davia Beach massage parlor.

Venis and Willi assert Hanson is disgruntled because he had sought Venis' help in an unsuccessful attempt to secure a full-time town job.

"He wanted a full-time position very badly," Venis said.

Hanson said when he expressed an interest in a job in the town's building department, Johnson called Venis on his behalf. Hanson said he wasn't angry when the job didn't materialize. And he said he told the truth to Kent.

Although Venis insisted, "I don't get people jobs," he did in fact play a role in Johnson's employment with the town.

The mayor drove Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Department in April for his interview. Venis also admitted he sat in on the interview with Johnson.

Venis and Johnson plan to open Harry and Rocky's Sports Academy Inc., an educational wrestling school, in Davie. Venis said this week he is undecided whether to maintain his partnership with Johnson.

"I'll make that decision once I read the full [police] report," Venis said.

Willi, 36, a former bullying offi-

cial, was handed the job of acting town administrator after the Town Council voted June 21 to fire former administrator Robert Middaugh.

Venis suggested Willi as a possible replacement, and the council voted 4-1 to offer Willi the job.

The State Attorney's Office is investigating a complaint filed in July alleging improprieties on the part of the Town Council in its firing of Middaugh.

Willi, who has an associate's degree in business administration and management, has no experience as a town administrator. Since assuming the office, he has fired two veteran employees and demoted a third. A fourth resigned in August after learning he was to be demoted by Willi.

The employees lost since June had more than 60 years of combined experience in Davie.

On Thursday, Willi said some municipal employees get "promoted to a point where they're no longer effective."

"This has been the case with a few longstanding positions within the town," Willi said.

He said Davie needs "team players" and "teamwork."

As for the recent spate of firings at Town Hall, Willi suggested the town's personnel changes might not be finished.

"You know who's afraid of me, and should be afraid of me, the people who are dead weight and haven't been doing their job," he said.

Willi said Johnson's experience as a fitness instructor and professional athlete made him "an asset to the town." Johnson was well-liked by children and parents, he said.

However, Willi said Johnson might not have been a perfect fit as an employee.

"He was an older guy," Willi said. "He's one of the 'good old boy' guys, one of the people who still think it's OK to talk to women in a certain way."

John W. Allman can be reached at jallman@sun-sentinel.com or 354-385-7915.

The Herald
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: 11-2-00
Edition: Broward

Title: Fired Davie Official Back In

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: 194B

Index

Fired Davie official back in

Sports supervisor reinstated, town's citizens still angry

BY JERRY BERRIOS
jberrios@herald.com

A Davie administrator reinstated popular sports supervisor Wednesday after firing him almost three weeks ago — a move that did nothing to appease an angry crowd of 120 that packed council chambers hours later.

Acting Administrator Tom Willi refused to say why he changed his mind about rehiring Mark Dornacker. He said he would explain his decision today.

The Dornacker affair was only one reason the crowd jammed the council chambers at Davie's regular town meeting.

Much of the shouting was over an allegedly racial remark Councilwoman Kathy Box made to Greg Clark, the only minority on the council, on Oct. 18.

But there was vitriol for almost everyone on the dais. Former council member Terry Santini, sporting a black T-shirt reading "We have a no-confidence vote in Davie's council," said she was embarrassed by the town leaders.

"I am appalled at the behavior of all of you."

I.E. Schulz of Davie called for officials, including the mayor, Councilman Richard Weiner and Dornacker, to be fired. "It would reduce the aroma of Davie being the chicken coop of Broward County," he said.

Gerry McClinton, an assistant soccer commissioner for the travel soccer league who had campaigned for Dornacker's reinstatement, called on Willi and Mayor Harry Venis to step down.

"We are demanding a professional town administrator. He certainly doesn't belong in that position."

BROWARD

The Herald 11-2-00

Veteran sports supervisor is reinstated in Davie

In a surprise move, acting Town Administrator Tom Willi reinstated veteran sports supervisor Mark Dornacker on Wednesday after firing him almost three weeks ago. Mayor Harry Venis said the town administrator received additional information that changed his mind. Parents and coaches loudly protested Dornacker's firing on Oct. 12. At a meeting a week ago, 75 people called for his reinstatement and a petition was circulated to get his job back, 1B.

Mayor, town officials are asked to step down

BY DAVIE FROM 1B

To the mayor, McClinton said: "You are not the ambassador we are looking for. If I were you I would step down."

Others in the crowd supported Willi. "Mr. Willi hasn't been in the kitchen, he's been in the boiler room," said Dean Alexander, a Davie resident.

Row by row, angry residents stood up to shout at the silent council.

Several people accused Clark of baiting Cox.

A shaken Clark called out to Police Chief John George, who was at the meeting, along with several other uniformed officers. George rose and walked amid the rows.

Some demanded Councilman Weiner resign, alleging he is a pawn of the firefighters union.

The council silently took

the abuse, then took a break at 9 p.m. before dealing with a single item on its agenda.

When council members returned, Cox and Clark apologized to one another.

Clark took the lead, saying "I will apologize to you for baiting you."

Cox then replied: "I will apologize for what I said."

Toward the end of a heated exchange Oct. 18, Cox had told Clark, "You can take your little insults back to the hood."

ADMINISTRATOR

The rehiring of Dornacker on Wednesday came on the heels of a series of controversial moves that have shone an unflattering spotlight on the town.

Since he became acting administrator in June, Willi has fired Deputy Fire Chief Len DePinto and Town Clerk Gail Reinfield.

He demoted Fire Chief Michael Donati, and precipitated the retirement of Town Engineer Bob Rawls by proposing to remove his assistant administrator duties.

And, on Sept. 21, he suspended Rocky Johnson, who was hired by the town to lead activities at the Pine Island Community Center, amid accusations of sexual misconduct on the job.

SPORTS PAYMENTS

Dornacker reported back to work at 2 p.m. Wednesday, said his supervisor, Parks and Recreation Director Sharon Kent.

Dornacker keeps his title, parks and recreation athletic supervisor, and his salary, \$45,258.

Dornacker, a town employee for 14 years, was fired by Willi after an investigation into how Dornacker and Kent managed \$250,000 in sports payments to

referees.

Checks were made out to Dornacker, who cashed the and said he then paid 11 umpires in cash. No records were kept.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Late into the evening, the Town Council discussed a zoning ordinance to create a district where lots could be smaller than in the rest of Davie.

The district would allow lots that are smaller than the currently required 35,000 square feet, but they couldn't exceed the town's density limit of 20 units per acre.

The council denied the district on Oct. 4. Clark, who voted against the district, asked for it to be reconsidered Wednesday.

A second reading on the ordinance is scheduled for the council's next meeting.

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Davie leader puppet, some say

Mayor really makes decisions, residents claim

BY JERRY BERRIOS
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Who is running the town of Davie? According to Davie's charter, interim Town Administrator Tom Willi is in charge. He runs the day-to-day operations and oversees Davie's \$61 million budget.

But some residents say Willi is the puppet of the Town Council majority, who are, in turn, controlled by the town's fire union.

Willi took over the town's top spot when the Town Council fired Town Administrator Bob Middaugh on June 21. In the almost five months since his promotion from chief building official, Willi has fired three town officials, demoted one and rehired one.

Since then, the town of about 70,000 residents has seen more than its share of scandals:

- Allegations of sexual impropriety on the job by Rocky Johnson, a professional wrestler and father of wrestling superstar "The Rock." Johnson was an activities leader for the town at the Pine Island Community Center. He was suspended and his temporary employment with the town ended Sept. 30.

- Allegations that the town broke the Sunshine Law with its 11th-hour vote to fire Middaugh and promote Willi.

- The firing and rehiring of a popular sports supervisor, who allegedly made racial comments and was

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Interim administrator labeled puppet by some Davie residents

DAVIE, FROM 1B

alleged to have mismanaged \$250,000 in referee fees.

A comment, which some town residents considered a racial remark, made by Councilwoman Kathy Cox, who is white, toward Councilwoman Geri Clark, who is black and Hispanic, during the Oct. 18 council meeting. The two council members apparently settled the issue and apologized to each other at the Nov. 1 meeting.



CLARK

Willi has been at the town's helm through trying times. He tends to attract strong feelings.

Resident Lisa Edmondson, a vocal participant in Town Council meetings, said she believes Willi's appointment was staged by Mayor Harry Venis, Vice Mayor Richard Wejner and Councilwomen Judy Rauli and Clark.

"They set up a puppet administration so they could run the town, but make it look like they aren't," Edmondson said.

In June, Cox was the lone dissenting vote when the council voted to oust Middaugh and then mirrored that vote to hand Willi the town's reins.



COX

At the June 21 meeting, Cox asked about Willi's qualifications. Edmondson has also questioned Willi's qualifica-

tions and why council members didn't look at other department heads.

"He is absolutely, totally, without a doubt not qualified for that position," Edmondson said.

Willi holds a two-year associate's degree from Palm Beach Community College. He supervised a building staff of seven in Hallandale Beach before being named chief building official in Davie, where he led a staff of 38.



WILLI

Now, he oversees more than 500 employees.

Bruce Megee, a council supporter, said Willi should not be criticized for doing his job.

"If it's on the desk to be done, what do you do, ignore it?" Megee asked.

He said Willi is doing what previous administrators wouldn't do.

"He is not afraid to act," Megee said. "If he makes a mistake, he corrects it."

Many think Willi's appointment is the impetus to create an executive mayor style of government. At the June 21 meeting, Cox called Middaugh's firing a late-night massacre and said the town was headed toward a strong-mayor form of government.



MIDDAUGH

Michael Ravenport, a member of the Planning and Zoning Board, said the town needs a profes-

sional town administrator and better checks and balances.

"The place is ripe for someone to walk in and say we need to have a strong mayor..." The groundwork is laid," Davenport said.

Venis says he wants the people of Davie to decide whether they want a full-time mayor. When asked whether he would support such a measure, Venis declined to comment.

Some residents say Venis is the real decision maker in Davie, but he denies it.

"I'm just a ceremonial mayor," Venis said. His duty, according to the charter, is to be the official head of the town for all ceremonial purposes. He is not given administrative duties.

"I personally don't have the time to run the town," Venis said.

But many Davie residents aren't buying that. They claim Venis does the hiring and firing from behind the scenes.



JOHNSON

Venis drove Rocky Johnson to his job interview with the town, was a reference for Johnson and sat in on his interview. Residents say the mayor's presence clouds the hiring process.

"I don't think the mayor should accompany someone on a job interview. It's inappropriate," Davie resident Sandra Switzer said.

Venis says he has done the same for other residents. He doesn't see it as a problem.

"It doesn't mean they will

TALK TO US

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get the job," Venis said. Cox and others say the town's politically connected fire union has too much pull with town leaders. Three of the Town Council's five members elected since 1998 — Wejner, Paul and Clark — gained office with strong firefighters' support.

Even Venis has strong ties to the union, which endorsed him and helped his campaign. Jim Bunce, president of the Davie professional firefighters union, said the union doesn't run Davie.

"The firefighters backed Gore for president. Does that mean the firefighters run the country? I don't think so," Bunce said.

He said the firefighters want to serve Davie residents. Bunce said he doesn't want someone on the council that can be "owned." He said he wants members who look at the facts and make up their own minds.

Davenport said residents don't have confidence in the Town Council.

Cox's seat and positions held by Wejner and Paul are up for reelection in March.

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The Rock's dad relieved legal worries are over

Davie worker was probed

BY JERRY BERRIOS
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Former Davie activities leader Rocky Johnson said he is ready to move on, now that the Broward state attorney's office has announced it will not prosecute him on battery and theft allegations.

"This may sound silly, but right now, me and my family are probably the happiest people in Davie because we learned a valuable lesson," said Johnson, father of wrestling superstar The Rock and a former pro wrestler himself.

Johnson said he wants to put the allegations behind him and start over. He is involved in a new project called the Urban Wrestling Alliance, a sports entertainment wrestling venture. He was interviewed at the new venture's offices in Davie.

"I feel 100 percent better," Johnson said. "I had my family behind me 100 percent. I will just be very, very careful in picking my friends this time around. Those who I thought were my friends were the ones that were stabbing me in the back. I'm not fingering anybody. I'm not bitter. I just want to go on with my life."

The state attorney's office investigated allegations stemming from Johnson's temporary employment as an activities leader in Davie last summer.

On Friday, the office announced it would not pursue charges. According to the state attorney's memo, Johnson, 56, is said to have touched the buttocks of a female camp counselor twice without her consent.

The state attorney declined to prosecute on the battery allegation, in part because the victim didn't want to testify because she wanted to maintain her privacy. "Although there is no eyewitness to the incidents, the victim makes a very credi-

ble witness," the memo states. "Her allegation is supported by the other individuals she told immediately afterward and her demeanor while relaying the incidents."

Johnson denies the accusations. "It was definitely not true," Johnson said. "How much class would I have if I went around grabbing somebody in the butt?"

The theft allegation centered around a piece of exercise equipment called Slam Man stored at the Pine Island Community Center. The equipment was recovered several months later at Johnson's residence. Johnson said his supervisor gave him permission to take the Slam Man home.

"I was doing them a favor and I got caught in the middle," Johnson said.

The state attorney's office found conflicting information and no evidence of intent in the theft allegation.

Johnson also denied other allegations, including that he engaged in sexual acts in a storage facility at Pine Island Community Center; played poker during work hours; did not work assigned hours; and that he cursed and used sexual language in front of children.

Johnson came to Davie to retire and he closer to his son, who introduced him to Mayor Harry Venis. He applied for a job with the town's parks and recreation department. Venis drove Johnson to his interview, acted as a reference and sat in on his interview.

Venis has said that he doesn't believe his presence had an influence on the town's decision to hire Johnson.

Johnson said people were intimidated by him because he had friends at Town Hall. He said he was a target because of his son's fame.

"If it had been anybody else who went through [this], they never would have gotten a quarter of the publicity that they put on me," Johnson said. "... When you are in the public eye, you are a target for everybody that's trying to get a little bit of publicity."

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