

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
FACE SHEET

INCIDENT TYPE: Administrative CASE NUMBER: 2013-03-001  
CLASSIFICATION: Misconduct DATE OPENED: March 30, 2013  
INCIDENT DATE: September 17, 2012 DATE CLOSED: April 10, 2013  
INCIDENT LOCATION: Lake Blackshear Resort, Cordele

**BRIEF NARRATIVE:**

Investigation into allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

**FINAL INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS:**

4-10-13 Investigative Actions Terminated 

4-10-13 Forward to Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_ Forward to Personnel

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

**FINAL INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

COMMISSIONER BLACK was contacted by a former and retired member of GDA, MS. PEGGY GATES. MS. GATES alleged that COO BILLY SKAGGS, DIVISION DIRECTOR OSCAR GARRISON and other departmental members attended a training session at Lake Blackshear in September of 2012. She also alleged that during this training session, a party was hosted by GDA leadership resulting in behavior that would bring discredit upon the department. COMMISSIONER BLACK immediately interviewed BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON after hearing the allegations made by MS. GATES. Both SKAGGS and GARRISON denied the allegations and went on to say they were false. They both admitted inviting a few employees to their room to watch a televised football game. They also acknowledged staying up too late and consuming some alcoholic beverages, but were adamant their behavior and conduct was not such that would bring discredit upon the department or their leadership ability. COMMISSIONER BLACK and CSO STEWART HICKS interviewed a few other employees who were present on the night in question and they received conflicting information.

BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON were directed to meet with COMMISSIONER BLACK and GDA Leadership on the morning of March 30, 2013. Both SKAGGS and GARRISON gave personal accounts of the Lake Blackshear event that conflicted with their original interviews. BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON both tendered their resignations and same were accepted by COMMISSIONER BLACK. It was at this point COMMISSIONER BLACK requested a formal investigation into the matter.

After conducting interviews of several employees who were present, the following is a collective summary of the events in question:

A department sponsored training seminar was held at Lake Blackshear September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. On the evening of September 17, 2012, approximately 30-40 GDA employees had gathered at the cabin of COO BILLY SKAGGS, Food Safety Division Director OSCAR GARRISON and GDA employee TREY JOYNER. The gathering occurred after the training session had ended for the day. There was heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing, and the environment became similar to that of a college fraternity party.

After several hours of socializing, dancing and alcohol consumption, the party began to wind down and people began to leave. A small group of seven male employees and one female employee stayed after everyone else had left. (Six of the males present held supervisory or management positions with GDA.) They decided to go swimming in the lake. The employees were in various stages of undress while in the lake. After exiting the lake, everyone went back to their respective rooms and went to bed.

A review of the financial documents and travel expense statements related to this training indicate that State funds were not used to purchase or supply alcoholic beverages.


**FINDING OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGATION: Sustained**

**Additional findings:**

As a result of the interview process, it was learned that minor damage occurred to a departmental vehicle on the night of September 17, 2012. The vehicle was assigned to COO BILLY SKAGGS. The damage occurred while Mr. SKAGGS was off-duty and repairs were made utilizing State funds. When contacted on 4-8-13 regarding the vehicle's damage, Mr. SKAGGS agreed to make restitution for the repair expenses. MR. SKAGGS reimbursed the Department in the amount of \$ 151.65, which was the total paid by the Department for the repairs.

This case is now closed.

CSO STEWART HICKS: 4/10/13  
sfh: 4/10/2013



2013-03-001

## INTERVIEW LIST

<u>INTERVIEW #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
#1	Interview Summary with Trey Joyner
#2	Interview Summary with Oscar Garrison
#3	Interview Summary with Billy Skaggs
#4	Interview Summary with Trey Joyner (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
#5	Interview Summary with Rich Lewis
#6	Interview Summary with Mike Stafford
#7	Interview Summary with Marvin Pound
#8	Interview Summary with Alec Asbridge
#9	Interview Summary with Lauren Barchi
#10	Interview Summary with Cedric Lloyd
#11	Interview Summary with Trey Joyner (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
#12	Interview Summary with Trey Joyner (4 <sup>th</sup> )
#13	Interview Summary with Doug Killingsworth
#14	Interview Summary with Amy Abbott
#15	Interview Summary with Trey Joyner (5 <sup>th</sup> )
#16	Interview Summary with Marcia Crowley
#17	Interview Summary with Billy Skaggs (2 <sup>nd</sup> )

# INTERVIEW #1

Trey Joyner

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Friday, March 29, 2013, at approximately 8:00 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with LEON "TREY" JOYNER who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The interview with TREY JOYNER took place in CSO HICKS'S departmental vehicle, after parking on Mitchell Street near the SW corner of the State Capitol Building. Hand written notes were taken during the interview and were later transcribed into an official signed statement. (See attachment 1.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached signed statement of TREY JOYNER.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

On the evening of September 17, 2012, approximately 30-40 GDA employees had gathered at the cabin of COO BILLY SKAGGS, Food Safety Division Director OSCAR GARRISON and GDA employee TREY JOYNER. The gathering occurred after a departmental training session had ended for the day. There was heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing, and the environment was similar to that of a college fraternity party.

As the evening progressed and it began to get very late, most of the crowd began to disperse leaving a small gathering of six or seven males and one female (all departmental employees) at the cabin. The group decided to go swimming in Lake Blackshear which was only a few hundred yards away from the cabin. Everyone got into the water and all were in various forms of undress. The female employee voluntarily became topless for a brief period of time. Everyone swam around for a while, exited the water and put their clothing back on. According to JOYNER, nothing sexual took place between any of the participants.

The female employee was staying at the hotel near the main complex and SKAGGS and JOYNER were not comfortable allowing the female to walk back that distance in the late night hour. They decided to drive her back to the hotel in SKAGGS'S vehicle, and JOYNER drove. They dropped her off back at her room and then returned to their cabin and went to bed.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Signed Statement of TREY JOYNER

**ID DATA:**

**Joyner, Leon "Trey"**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/3/2013

sfh: 4/3/2013

1 Statement given by Trey Joyner on Friday, 3-29-13 @ approximately 8:30 a.m. regarding Lake Blackshear

2

3 We were at Billy and Oscar's cabin having a party after class and dinner. There were about 30-40 people  
4 there. There was heavy drinking, music and dancing taking place. People were inside the cabin, out on the  
5 deck/porch area and outside in the yard. Alec Asbridge and I were having a discussion about things  
6 seeming to get a little out of hand and he decided to leave and go back to his room. I agreed that it was  
7 getting out of hand, but decided to stay up and hopefully try to control it from getting too crazy.

8 At one point during the party, I had gone into one of the bedrooms to call my wife. While I was in there  
9 talking to her on the phone, Lauren Barchi walked in and I told her to leave. Then she flashed me by  
10 pulling up her shirt. (Similar to what you might see in Marty Gras.) I didn't look and turned my head and  
11 told her to leave again and she left.

12 Ultimately, it began to rain and some people were forced inside and between showers.

13 As the party started to wind down around midnight, there were about seven or eight people left at the  
14 cabin. They were Billy Skaggs, Oscar Garrison, Marnie Pound, Rich Lewis, Doug Killingsworth, Lauren  
15 Barchi and me. There may have been one or two more, but I think that was about it.

16 We went outside and it was muggy so we decided to go swimming. We walked down to the lake jumped  
17 into the water. We had taken off our clothes and were in our boxer shorts and Lauren was in her  
18 underwear. At one point, Lauren took off her bra and threw it towards the dock. I retrieved her bra from  
19 the water and laid it on the dock. We all swam around and jumped off of the dock for a while and then  
20 got out and put our clothes back on.


21 It was getting very late (around 3:00 a.m.) and I was tired. Lauren's room was back at the main hotel and  
22 we didn't want her to have to walk that far at night, especially since she had been drinking so heavily. I  
23 drove Billy and Lauren back to the hotel in Billy's car. When we got to the building, Billy and Lauren  
24 knocked on Alec's room door and woke him up. We all talked for a few minutes and then Billy and I

0



25 walked Lauren to her room which was basically next door to Alec's room. Billy and I returned to his cabin  
26 and went to bed.

27 Name (printed) Trey Werner Leon

28 Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

# INTERVIEW #2

Oscar Garrison

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Saturday, March 30, 2013, at approximately 9:45 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS, CIO DAN BROWN, CAO JAMES SUTTON, and COMMISSIONER GARY BLACK were located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with OSCAR GARRISON who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

OSCAR GARRISON was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at his cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol occurred in a party-like atmosphere.

As the evening began to wind down and it became very late, he and seven or eight other employees (one being a female) decided to go swimming in the lake. MR. GARRISON is a division director and was the second highest ranking person present. He was unable to confirm or deny whether or not the female became topless while they all swam. He stated that he had too much to drink and couldn't clearly remember.

The version of events described in this interview was inconsistent with what he had originally told COMMISSIONER BLACK when interviewed several days earlier. OSCAR GARRISON submitted his resignation to COMMISSIONER BLACK and same was accepted.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Copy of resignation letter from OSCAR GARRISON

**ID DATA:**

**Garrison, Oscar**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: 404-656-3627

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/4/2013

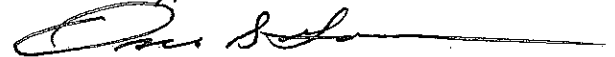
sfh: 4/4/2013

March 30, 2013

Commissioner Black,

I hereby tender my resignation effective April 1, 2013. I have enjoyed my work at the department for 19 years. It has been a pleasure serving the public and protecting public health in Georgia and the nation. I will miss my department family and will always have a love for this place.

Sincerely,



# INTERVIEW #3

Billy Skaggs

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Saturday, March 30, 2013, at approximately 9:45 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS, CIO DAN BROWN, CAO JAMES SUTTON, and COMMISSIONER GARY BLACK were located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with BILLY SKAGGS who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

BILLY SKAGGS was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at his cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere.

As the evening began to wind down and it became very late, he and seven or eight other employees (one being a female) decided to go swimming in the lake. All of the employees present were subordinates of his. MR. SKAGGS stated that everyone was in various stages of undress, but undergarments were still on. After being pressed for clarity, he admitted the female did become topless before getting out of the water.

The version of events described in this interview was inconsistent with what he had originally told COMMISSIONER BLACK when interviewed several days earlier. BILLY SKAGGS submitted his resignation to COMMISSIONER BLACK and same was accepted.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Copy of resignation letter from BILLY SKAGGS

**ID DATA:**

**Skaggs, Billy**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: 404-656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/4/2013

sfh: 4/4/2013

March 30, 2013

Commissioner Black,

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation effective immediately. I have truly enjoyed serving you and this Department. I thank you for the opportunity you provided to me and only wish that I could fulfilled my obligation and commitment to you. I pray for you and the entire staff of the Department of Agriculture, and wish you much success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Skaggs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Billy Skaggs

# INTERVIEW #4

Trey Joyner

2013-03-001



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 7:25 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with LEON "TREY" JOYNER who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with TREY JOYNER was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-1.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

After transcribing the written notes from the interview with TREY JOYNER on 3/29/13, they were reviewed and acknowledged to be an accurate representation of his statements. MR. JOYNER signed the statement and a copy is attached to this file.

Another oral review of the September 2012 Lake Blackshear event was also conducted. MR. JOYNER clarified certain events more clearly after having time to reflect over the last few days. He was now able to remember that OSCAR GARRISON and BILLY SKAGGS both held the female employee in the water while swimming, but was certain it was not in a sexual way and their conduct appeared to be consensual.

No further information was obtained at this time.

**Attachment(s):**

1. Signed statement of Trey Joyner
2. Hand written apology note to Commissioner Black from Trey Joyner

**ID DATA:**

**Joyner, Leon "Trey"**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/3/2013

sfh: 4/3/2013

1 Statement given by Trey Joyner on Friday, 3-29-13 @ approximately 8:30 a.m. regarding Lake Blackshear

2

3 We were at Billy and Oscar's cabin having a party after class and dinner. There were about 30-40 people  
4 there. There was heavy drinking, music and dancing taking place. People were inside the cabin, out on the  
5 deck/porch area and outside in the yard. Alec Asbridge and I were having a discussion about things  
6 seeming to get a little out of hand and he decided to leave and go back to his room. I agreed that it was  
7 getting out of hand, but decided to stay up and hopefully try to control it from getting too crazy.

8 At one point during the party, I had gone into one of the bedrooms to call my wife. While I was in there  
9 talking to her on the phone, Lauren Barchi walked in and I told her to leave. Then she flashed me by  
10 pulling up her shirt. (Similar to what you might see in Marty Gras.) I didn't look and turned my head and  
11 told her to leave again and she left.

12 Ultimately, it began to rain and some people were forced inside and between showers.

13 As the party started to wind down around midnight, there were about seven or eight people left at the  
14 cabin. They were Billy Skaggs, Oscar Garrison, Marnie Pound, Rich Lewis, Doug Killingsworth, Lauren  
15 Barchi and me. There may have been one or two more, but I think that was about it.


16 We went outside and it was muggy so we decided to go swimming. We walked down to the lake jumped  
17 into the water. We had taken off our clothes and were in our boxer shorts and Lauren was in her  
18 underwear. At one point, Lauren took off her bra and threw it towards the dock. I retrieved her bra from  
19 the water and laid it on the dock. We all swam around and jumped off of the dock for a while and then  
20 got out and put our clothes back on.

21 It was getting very late (around 3:00 a.m.) and I was tired. Lauren's room was back at the main hotel and  
22 we didn't want her to have to walk that far at night, especially since she had been drinking so heavily. I  
23 drove Billy and Lauren back to the hotel in Billy's car. When we got to the building, Billy and Lauren  
24 knocked on Alec's room door and woke him up. We all talked for a few minutes and then Billy and I



25 walked Lauren to her room which was basically next door to Alec's room. Billy and I returned to his cabin  
26 and went to bed.

27 Name (printed) Trey Jenner Leon

28 Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Commsisiner -

I regret to even have to write this letter, but I hope you accept my sincerest apologies for the events that took place. I apologize for disrespecting you and the Department for the actions I took part in. My actions were in direct contradiction to the standard you have set for the Department and for each of us personally. I understand my actions have significantly deteriorated the trust that you placed in me, and I only hope that you will allow me to restore it over time. Please accept this apology not as a substitution for any rightly due punishment but as a sincere acknowledgment of my failure.

Sincerely,  
Trey

# INTERVIEW #5

Rich Lewis

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 12:50 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with RICH LEWIS who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with RICH LEWIS was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-2.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

RICH LEWIS was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which he and several others were watching. At one point in the evening, MR. LEWIS remembered seeing MR. SKAGGS go into a bathroom with a female employee for approximately 10-15 minutes. He also saw one of his subordinate employees go into a bedroom of the cabin with a female (who was not an employee) for approximately 10-15 minutes.

As the evening began to wind down and it became very late, he and seven or eight other employees (one being a female) decided to go swimming in the lake. MR. LEWIS is a division director and three of his subordinates were present at this time. He stated that everyone was in various stages of undress and he saw the female employee take off her jeans in the water and later took off her bra. He went on to say, however, that she put it back on after a very short period of time. MR. LEWIS stated he was not in the water at the time the female became topless. He went on to say that he believed the act was voluntary.

MR. LEWIS also said that BILLY SKAGGS'S vehicle had become damaged sometime during that night. He was not personally familiar with how this occurred, but knew one of the exterior mirrors had been broken off.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Inter-departmental memorandum of suspension notice
2. Letter of reprimand
3. Personnel transaction form/suspension without pay

**ID DATA:**

**Lewis, Rich**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3605

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/5/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013




Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

COPY

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE : April 8, 2013  
TO : Rich Lewis, Fuel & Measures Division Director  
FROM : Gary W. Black, Commissioner   
SUBJECT : Notice of Suspension Without Pay

This is to advise you of my decision to place you on suspension without pay. Your suspension will be for two weeks (10 working days), and will begin on Monday, April 15, 2013, and will end on Monday, April 29, 2013. Your first day of return to paid duty will be on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.

(Monday, April 22, 2013, is a State Holiday and does not count toward the 10 days.)

You are to direct any questions you may have regarding this matter to my attention.

C: Personnel



# INTERVIEW #6

Mike Stafford

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 2:08 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with MIKE STAFFORD who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with MIKE STAFFORD was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-3.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

MIKE STAFFORD was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which he and several others were watching.

After being there for 45 minutes to an hour, MR. STAFFORD decided to leave. He said the party "wasn't his thing," so he decided to leave and go back to the main hotel building and visit with other colleagues he hadn't seen in a long time.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Stafford, Mike**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3605

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/5/2013

sfh: 4/5/2013

# INTERVIEW #7

Marvin Pound

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 2:26 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with MARVIN "MARNIE" POUND who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with MARNIE POUND was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-4.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

MARNIE POUND was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which several were watching.

MR. POUND acknowledged that the party had gotten out of hand and he and several others had consumed an excessive amount of alcohol. At one point during the evening, he and a female acquaintance went into a bedroom together for several minutes resulting in consensual "horseplay". The female was not an employee of GDA, but was the relative of an employee who was attending the party.

As the party began to wind down and people started to leave, he and seven other employees decided to go swimming in the lake. There were a total of seven males and one female. Everyone was in various stages of undress. MR. POUND remembers seeing OSCAR GARRISON holding the female employee in the water while her shirt was off. When they all exited the water, MR. POUND saw the female employee put on BILLY SKAGGS'S shirt. MR. POUND made it clear that in his opinion the female acted on her own volition and was a willing participant in the night's activities.

MR. POUND also indicated that BILLY SKAGGS asked him a few days later if he could assist in getting his vehicle repaired. BILLY SKAGGS told him he had hit something the night of the party and had knocked off one of the side-view mirrors.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Inter-departmental memorandum of suspension notice
2. Letter of reprimand
3. Personnel transaction form/suspension without pay

**ID DATA:**

**Pound, Marvin**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3605

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013



Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

COPY

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE : April 8, 2013  
TO : Marvin Pound, Fuel & Measures Division, Asst. Director  
FROM : Gary W. Black, Commissioner *GWB*  
SUBJECT : Notice of Suspension Without Pay

This is to advise you of my decision to place you on suspension without pay. Your suspension will be for one week (5 working days), and will begin on Monday, April 29, 2013, and will end on Friday, May 3, 2013. Your first day of return to paid duty will be on Monday, May 6, 2013.

You are to direct any questions you may have regarding this matter to my attention.

C: Personnel

# INTERVIEW #8

Alec Asbridge

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 3:06 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with ALEC ASBRIDGE who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with ALEC ASBRIDGE was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-5.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

ALEC ASBRIDGE was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which several were watching.

Upon MR. ASBRIDGE'S arrival to the gathering, he stayed outside for the majority of the evening and socialized while smoking a cigar with a co-worker. As the evening progressed, people began to become more heavily intoxicated and he didn't feel comfortable staying there. MR. ASBRIDGE decided to leave and walked back to his hotel room around 11:00 p.m. that evening.

MR. ASBRIDGE was awakened at approximately 3:00 a.m. by a knock on his hotel room door. He heard the voices of BILLY SKAGGS and LAUREN BARCHI. When he opened his room door, he saw LAUREN BARCHI standing in the doorway and BILLY SKAGGS and TREY JOYNER standing at the bottom of the stairway. TREY JOYNER was fully clothed, BILLY SKAGGS was wearing boxer shorts and a white t-shirt, and LAUREN BARCHI was wearing a Polo shirt. All three of them were wet and appeared to be inebriated. After a brief encounter, MR. ASBRIDGE went back into his room and the others left.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None



**ID DATA:**

**Asbridge, Alec**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3600

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/7/2013

# INTERVIEW #9

Lauren Barchi

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 1, 2013, at approximately 3:55 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS and JOYCE WHITE were located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with LAUREN BARCHI who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with LAUREN BARCHI was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-6.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

LAUREN BARCHI was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. She confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. She also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a fraternity-like party atmosphere.

MS. BARCHI stated that she was invited to the gathering by BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON. She acknowledged that she became inebriated after several hours of drinking alcohol. She also acknowledged going swimming in the lake with BILLY SKAGGS, OSCAR GARRISON, TREY JOYNER, MARVIN POUND and one or two other male employees. MS. BARCHI said she jumped into the lake wearing all of her clothing and denied that she removed any clothing articles while in the water.

MS. BARCHI said BILLY SKAGGS and TREY JOYNER drove her back to her room at the conclusion of the evening. MS. BARCHI said she willingly attended the party and was not forced to go swimming.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Barchi, Lauren**

SEX/RACE: Female/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3368

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/7/2013

# INTERVIEW #10

Cedric Lloyd

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at approximately 8:04 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with CEDRIC LLOYD who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with CEDRIC LLOYD was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-7.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

CEDRIC LLOYD was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at GARRISON'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which several were watching.

As the football game ended, people began to leave. MR. LLOYD and a small group of others decided to go down to the lake and go swimming. The group was comprised of one female (who MR. LLOYD had not met before) and five or six other male employees that he knew. While the group was in the water, he saw the female being held by, and acting playfully with, BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON. It was the opinion of MR. LLOYD that the female was a willing participant and was not forced to be present.

After they exited the water, everyone returned to their respective rooms and went to bed.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Inter-departmental memorandum of suspension notice
2. Letter of reprimand
3. Personnel transaction form/suspension without pay

**ID DATA:**

**Lloyd, Cedric**

SEX/RACE: Male/Black

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

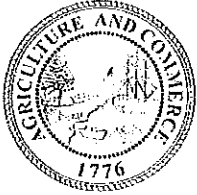
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3605

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013



Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

COPY

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE : April 8, 2013  
TO : Cedric Lloyd, Fuel & Measures Division  
FROM : Gary W. Black, Commissioner *GWB*  
SUBJECT : Notice of Suspension Without Pay

This is to advise you of my decision to place you on suspension without pay. Your suspension will be for one (1) day, and will begin on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Your first day of return to paid duty will be on Thursday, April 18, 2013.

You are to direct any questions you may have regarding this matter to my attention.

C: Personnel



# INTERVIEW #11

Trey Joyner

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at approximately 8:54 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with LEON "TREY" JOYNER who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with TREY JOYNER was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-1.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

TREY JOYNER was asked to review and clarify his previous accounts of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. During this review (his 3<sup>rd</sup> interview), he now remembered leading people in shots of alcohol. He also remembered that going swimming in the lake was likely his idea. When pressed for details about the damage to BILLY SKAGGS'S vehicle, MR. JOYNER appeared reluctant to give specifics as to how and when the damage occurred. MR. JOYNER was certain, however, that he was not responsible for the damage.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Joyner, Trey**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/7/2013

# INTERVIEW #12

Trey Joyner

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at approximately 1:05 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at Sam's Club Warehouse Parking Lot, 2901 A Clairmont Road, Atlanta, DeKalb County, Georgia and met with LEON "TREY" JOYNER who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with TREY JOYNER was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-1.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

TREY JOYNER was asked to review and clarify his previous accounts of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. During this review (his 4<sup>th</sup> interview), he now remembered the female employee wearing BILLY SKAGGS'S shirt when JOYNER and SKAGGS dropped her off at her room. MR. JOYNER was unable to explain or describe when and/or how SKAGGS'S shirt was returned by the female employee.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

Joyner, Trey

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/7/2013

# INTERVIEW #13

Doug Killingsworth

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Wednesday, April 3, 2013, at approximately 10:25 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with DOUG KILLINGSWORTH who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with DOUG KILLINGSWORTH was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-8.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

DOUG KILLINGSWORTH was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. He confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. He also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which several were watching.

As the evening began to wind down and it became very late, he and seven or eight other employees (one being a female) decided to go swimming in the lake. Everyone jumped into the lake in various forms of undress. The female employee jumped in fully clothed, but eventually took off her jeans and shirt and placed them on the dock. BILLY SKAGGS and OSCAR GARRISON were in close proximity to the female while in the water.

At some point MR. KILLINGSWORTH remembered having a conversation with RICH LEWIS that the swimming incident was probably not a good idea. When everyone began to get out of the water, MR. KILLINGSWORTH saw the female employee put on a shirt belonging to one of the male employees. Everyone then left and went back to their respective rooms.

BILLY SKAGGS approached MR. KILLINGSWORTH the following morning at training and gave him a directive not to speak about the previous night's events or anything that he saw.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

1. Inter-departmental memorandum of suspension notice
2. Letter of reprimand
3. Personnel transaction form/suspension without pay

**ID DATA:**

**Killingsworth, Doug**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

**EMPLOYER:**

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3605

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/7/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013




Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

COPY

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE : April 8, 2013  
TO : Doug Killingsworth, Fuel & Measures Division  
FROM : Gary W. Black, Commissioner   
SUBJECT : Notice of Suspension Without Pay

This is to advise you of my decision to place you on suspension without pay. Your suspension will be for one (1) day, and will begin on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Your first day of return to paid duty will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

You are to direct any questions you may have regarding this matter to my attention.

C: Personnel



# INTERVIEW #14

Amy Abbott

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Thursday, April 4, 2013, at approximately 9:00 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS and JOYCE WHITE were located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with AMY ABBOTT who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with AMY ABBOTT was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-9.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

AMY ABBOTT was asked to give an account of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. She confirmed there was a large gathering of employees at SKAGGS'S, GARRISON'S and JOYNER'S cabin on the night in question. She also confirmed that heavy consumption of alcohol, music and dancing occurred in a party-like atmosphere. There was also a Monday-Night Football game on television which several were watching.

Sometime later in the evening, BILLY SKAGGS made an inappropriate verbal comment to MS. ABBOTT. She construed the comment as offensive and deemed it to be sexual harassment. She decided to leave and was about to walk back to the hotel when BILLY SKAGGS approached her and insisted on driving her. MS. ABBOTT told him she would rather walk, but SKAGGS insisted. MS. ABBOTT said SKAGGS was having a very difficult time backing out of the driveway and made several attempts. At one point, SKAGGS'S vehicle came very close to a tree or pole while backing and MS. ABBOTT heard a crack. SKAGGS told her the noise was from a limb and he proceeded to drive her to the hotel. MS. ABBOTT immediately exited the vehicle upon arrival to the hotel and went to her room alone. She estimated the time to be around 11:30 p.m.

It was not until later that she heard about the damage to SKAGGS'S vehicle. MS. ABBOTT could not confirm whether or not the crack she heard while in the vehicle was that of the mirror, or a tree limb as SKAGGS alleged.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Abbott, Amy**

SEX/RACE: Female/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3627

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/8/2013

sfh: 4/8/2013

# INTERVIEW #15

Trey Joyner

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Thursday, April 4, 2013, at approximately 9:50 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with LEON "TREY" JOYNER who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with TREY JOYNER was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-1.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

TREY JOYNER was asked to review and clarify his previous accounts of what occurred at the Lake Blackshear training event in September of 2012. During this review (his 5<sup>th</sup> interview), JOYNER was asked to go back over his knowledge of the damage to BILLY SKAGGS'S vehicle. Specifically, when the damage occurred and whether or not the vehicle was damaged before he (JOYNER) drove it that same evening. JOYNER was unable or unwilling to definitively state whether or not the vehicle was damaged when he drove it. JOYNER had been certain during a previous interview that the damage had to have occurred after he drove the vehicle, but now was uncertain and couldn't clearly remember.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Joyner, Trey**

SEX/RACE: Male/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-4887

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/9/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013

# INTERVIEW #16

Marcia Crowley

2013-03-001

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Friday, April 5, 2013, at approximately 9:50 a.m., CSO STEWART HICKS and JACK SPRUILL were located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia and met with MARCIA CROWLEY who is an employee of GDA. This meeting was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The entire interview with MARCIA CROWLEY was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-10.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

MARCIA CROWLEY was asked to recount a conversation she had several weeks earlier with LAUREN BARCHI. MS. CROWLEY stated that LAUREN BARCHI confided to her a story about "skinny-dipping" with several others in Lake Blackshear while away at a departmental training session. MS. BARCHI described the type of underwear that others were wearing and went on to say that BILLY SKAGGS helped her put her bra back on. The names of the others identified by MS. BARCHI were TREY JOYNER, BILLY SKAGGS, OSCAR GARRISON and MARVIN POUND. MS. BARCHI also said they tried to wake ALEC ASBRIDGE up around 2:00 or 3:00 a.m., but he refused to participate.

MS. CROWLEY said LAUREN shared the incident with her approximately two weeks after it had taken place. This condensed version of events is consistent with that of all the other eyewitness accounts.

No further information was obtained at this time.

Attachment(s):

None

**ID DATA:**

**Crowley, Marcia**

SEX/RACE: Female/White

EMPLOYER:

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

BUSINESS: (404) 656-3678

Chief Security Officer Stewart Hicks: 4/9/2013

sfh: 4/9/2013

Page 1 of 1

# INTERVIEW #17

Billy Skaggs

2013-03-001



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE/INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

**2013-03-001**

On Monday, April 8, 2013, at approximately 4:47 p.m., CSO STEWART HICKS was located at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Building, 19 MLK Jr. Dr., Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. CSO HICKS called (by telephone) BILLY SKAGGS who is a former employee of GDA. This call was to serve as an interview into the allegations of misconduct of departmental leadership. These allegations were made by PEGGY GATES, a former and retired employee of GDA.

The telephone interview with BILLY SKAGGS was recorded using an Olympus VN-8100PC digital voice recorder. This digital recording was downloaded and copied onto a CD and is attached to this case summary. (See exhibit #A-11.) For complete details of the interview, please reference the attached recording.

A brief summary of the interview is as follows:

BILLY SKAGGS was asked if the damage to his departmental vehicle occurred on the morning of September 18, 2012, as originally reported, or on the night of September 17, 2012, while off-duty. MR. SKAGGS stated "it happened that night." He agreed to make restitution for the cost of the repairs.

No further information was obtained at this time.