

DRIVE
PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA

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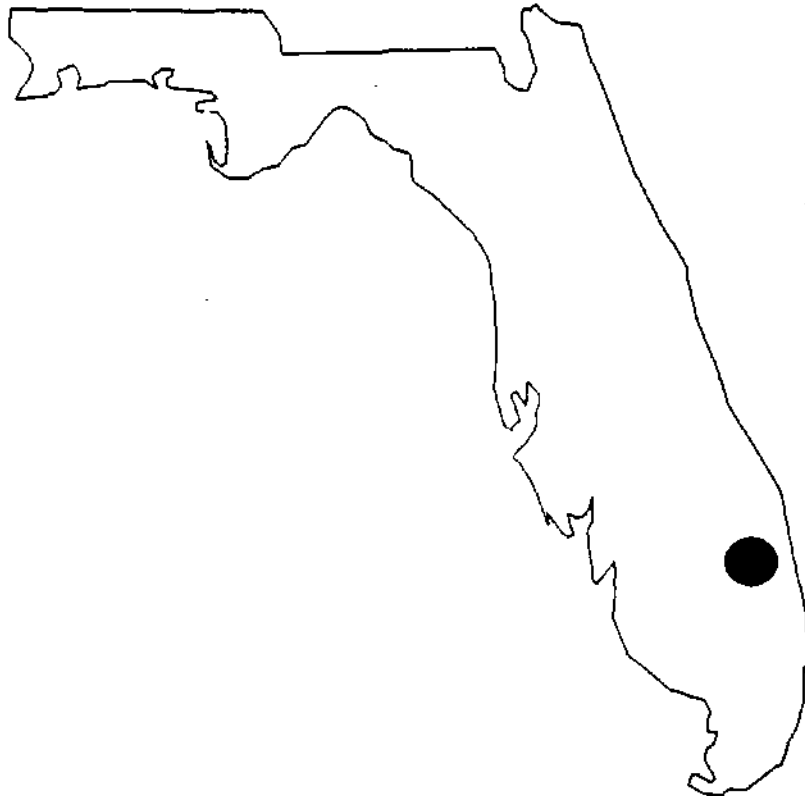
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*Prepared By: Sergeant Jeff Harsh
District HI
Port St. Lucie Police **Department**
June, 1995*

The city of Port St. Lucie is located on the east coast of Florida, approximately 100 miles north of Miami.

The city encompasses 86 square miles and has a population of 70,000 people.

The police department employs 105 sworn officers.



In November, 1992, [REDACTED] years of age, purchased a home in a very affluent neighborhood known as St. Lucie West Heatherwood Estates in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The cost for a home in this area ranges from \$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00. The personal make-up of this community includes television news anchor people, physicians, attorneys, entrepreneurs, engineers, professional baseball players, and retired professionals.

On November 17, 1992 the Port St Lucie Police Department responded for the first time to the residence of [REDACTED] Port St Lucie, Florida. The nature of the call was that of a disturbance created by an unwelcome person by the name of [REDACTED]. The responding officers learned that Mr. [REDACTED] was the current boyfriend of [REDACTED]. Seven days later, November 25, 1992, the police responded back to the residence only to take [REDACTED] into custody and admit him into a detoxification facility.

On December 12, 1992, officers again responded to the [REDACTED] residence in reference to a domestic disturbance with property damage. The responding officers learned that a third party, [REDACTED], was at the residence creating a disturbance over [REDACTED] relationship with [REDACTED].

Through the next 22 months the Port St. Lucie Police Department responded to the [REDACTED] residence on 54 occasions. Each occasion was a result of a domestic disturbance between two of the three parties, or all three parties.

This ongoing behavior brought great concern to the police department. Each call for service required a minimum of two officers, and in most cases, a supervisor to respond. A pattern had developed where a majority of the disturbances were alcohol related, and the level of violence increased into reported stabbing, beatings, and self inflicted injuries. It was only a matter of time before an officer would be injured or killed and/or one of the parties murdered.

Not only was this a police problem, it had also been a problem for the neighbors. Each time there was a disturbance the neighbors would be alerted, and their quality of life would be interrupted. The homeowners association initiated legal action against [REDACTED] asking for her removal from the community.

As the evening shift district supervisor for the St. Lucie West area, I realized that the routine response to the [REDACTED] residence had not resolved the problem, and to continue to handle this situation in a similar manner would not resolve it either.

In September of 1994 I began to analyze all the calls for service involving [REDACTED]. I contacted the police department's Records Section and requested all written reports concerning these individuals. I then contacted the St. Lucie County Dispatch Accounting System and requested a record of all dispatched calls for service to [REDACTED] Drive.

Within a few days I received all requested information. I then began to analyze each call for service and offense reports. Next I developed a chart showing the dates of the service call, case number, the type of incident, who the suspect was, the name of the victim, were there any injuries or weapons used, alcohol influence, and was there an incarceration.

As a result, the report showed that there were 25 offense reports written, and a total of 54 police responses to that address. 96 % were domestic related. This report showed that [REDACTED] was classified as the suspect in 76% of the cases, and alcohol was a factor in 64% of the calls. 28 % resulted in injuries, and 64% showed [REDACTED] as the complainant/victim. There were 16 arrests made, 15 of which were the arrest of [REDACTED]. The report identified the problem as [REDACTED], and alcohol abuse.

During the period of June, 1993 through April, 1994 police did not respond to the [REDACTED] residence. During this period [REDACTED] was in the state of New York.

Now that the problem was identified, a plan to resolve it had to be made and implemented. The solution to the problem was to prevent long-term contact between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and to place [REDACTED] into an alcohol treatment center.

The only feasible way to accomplish this was to convince the judicial system into realizing that [REDACTED] was a danger not only to [REDACTED] but to anyone at [REDACTED] Drive, and his need for extensive treatment for his alcoholism.

In October, 1994, I met with St. Lucie County Judge [REDACTED]. Judge [REDACTED] presided over all of [REDACTED] misdemeanor cases. Judge [REDACTED] was given a copy of the [REDACTED] report. After discussing the facts surrounding this problem, Judge [REDACTED] agreed that the situation between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would only become worse.

Judge [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] was still incarcerated and that he would revoke his current bond amount and place a "No Bond" order. Judge [REDACTED] then directed me to meet with the assistant state attorneys who were prosecuting [REDACTED]

A meeting was set with [REDACTED]. Both prosecuting attorneys were aware of this situation and concurred that it had to be resolved. Both attorneys reviewed my report and requested that I testify on behalf of the state.

On November 21, 1994, [REDACTED] was delivered from the County Jail to appear before Judge [REDACTED] in County Court. [REDACTED] agreed to a plea agreement and was sentenced to time served. He was also placed on one year probation with the stipulation that he attend mandatory treatment at an alcohol rehabilitation facility. Additionally he was not to consume any alcoholic beverages and not to visit or reside at [REDACTED] Drive.

On November 22, 1994, [REDACTED] was again delivered from the County Jail to appear before Circuit Court Judge [REDACTED]. This was a bond reduction hearing. [REDACTED] had requested this hearing in order to obtain a lower bond so he would be released from jail pending his circuit court trial.

I testified at this hearing, and my testimony was based on the information found in my report. Upon completion of my testimony Judge [REDACTED] found [REDACTED] to be a danger to society and increased his bond from \$5,000 to \$100,000. [REDACTED] was unable to post bond.

On February 27, 1995 [REDACTED] again appeared in circuit court for sentencing. [REDACTED] was sentenced to time served and placed on 4 1/2 years probation. His probation also included 6 months of alcohol rehabilitation in a state facility, and a 414 year restraining order prohibiting any association with [REDACTED]

Since [REDACTED] release from the St. Lucie County Jail on February 27, 1995, the Port St. Lucie Police Department has responded to the [REDACTED] address on one occasion due to actions by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had placed a phone call to [REDACTED], which caused a disturbance between [REDACTED] and her current boyfriend.

The violent relationship has now been terminated, and the probability of death or great bodily harm to either party has greatly diminished. Our police officers will no longer be subjected to the day-to-day violence caused by this couple, and their chances for injury have all but been eliminated.

[REDACTED] is currently residing in the city of Fort Pierce (20 miles north of Port St. Lucie, Florida) and is undergoing alcohol abuse treatment.

The agencies that assisted in this situation were the State Attorney's Office, 19th District, with Assistant State Attorney's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The judges that assisted were County [REDACTED] and Circuit Court Judge [REDACTED]



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*Prepared By: Sergeant Jeff Harsh
District III
Port St. Lucie Police Department
September, 1994*

FINDINGS

On November 17, 1992, the Port St. Lucie Police Department started their first response to [REDACTED] Drive, Port St. Lucie. From that date to September, 1994, a total of twenty-five (25) written reports were taken which involved [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The following list the percentages of these incidents:

- V 96 % were related to domestic dispute.
- V 76 % classified [REDACTED] as a suspect.
- V 20 % classified [REDACTED] as a suspect.
- </ 64 % classified [REDACTED] as a victim or complainant.
- V 16 % classified [REDACTED] a victim or complainant,
- V 6 % classified [REDACTED] a victim or complainant.
- V 28 % of incidents resulted in injury to one of the parties.
- V 64 % show that alcohol was a factor.
- V 64 % of the incidents resulted in arrests with:
 - 94% [REDACTED] (15 arrests)
 - 06% [REDACTED] (1 arrest)

NOTE: These figures are derived from the written police reports. It does not reflect the total number of police service calls. The St. Lucie County dispatch accounting system report shows Port St. Lucie Police service calls at fifty-four (54) — all disturbance related.

SUMMARY

After analyzing the calls for service (25), it clearly shows the inability of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to co-habitate together. Further, the alcohol appears to be a contributing factor to the disputes. As these disputes continued, so did the violence and injuries. With the Aggravated Assault (knife) by [REDACTED] towards [REDACTED] and most recently [REDACTED] deliberately pounding his face into tile flooring causing several lacerations (blood alcohol content .44), it is evident that [REDACTED] is the agitator and aggressor in the majority of the incidents which results in his arrest or Marchman Act. [REDACTED] is also responsible of these acts by always allowing [REDACTED] back into her home knowing the probability of violence exists.

Additionally, [REDACTED] places additional stress to the relationship by allowing her former husband in the residence at the same time [REDACTED] is present. According to the police report, as early as March, 1993, [REDACTED] made the statement "You are going to find [REDACTED] dead some day."

[REDACTED] has been indicated as a suspect, victim, and witness in thirty-two (32) percent of all the written reports of domestic dispute.

Alcohol is a major factor in these cases. Not only is [REDACTED] alcohol consumption great (vodka), the other two parties are known to consume too much also.

Incidents have ranged from a reported stabbing with a cross, to a knife wielding person, to a bottle propelled at another, to battering with fists, and self inflicted injuries. [REDACTED] Drive has become the home of a violent love triangle that will ultimately end in tragedy.

To prevent any further violence and injury to either of the three parties involved and to police officers, it is requested that a court order be issued preventing the three parties from associating with one another for a period of time to be determined by a judge or the order for [REDACTED] to enter a rehabilitative center for alcohol abuse.

DATE	CASE NUMBER	INCIDENT	SUSPECT	VICTIM/ COMPL.	INJURY/WEAPON	ALCOHOL INFLUENCE	JAIL
1-17-92		UNWANTED PERSON			YES UNK.	UNK.	NO
1-25-92		MEYERS ACT			YES UNK.	YES	YES
2-12-92		CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE			NO	UNK.	NO
2-15-92		DOMESTIC DIST.			NO	YES	NO
2-18-92		DISTURBANCE			NO	UNK.	NO
01-18-93		BATTERY/BAKER ACT			YES FIST	UNK.	YES
02-15-93		AGG. ASSAULT			NO BOTTLE	YES	YES
03-12-93		BATTERY			YES FIST	UNK.	NO
03-12-93		DOMESTIC VIOLENCE			YES FIST	YES	YES
03-18-93		DOM. VIOLENCE			YES UNK.	YES	YES
03-22-93		MEYERS ACT			NO	YES	YES
04-08-93		DISTURBANCE			NO	YES	YES
06-02-93		DISTURBANCE			NO	YES	YES
04-14-94		TRESPASS			NO	UNK.	YES
04-26-94		MARCHMAN ACT			NO	YES	YES
05-02-94		DISORDERLY INTOX.			NO	YES	YES

