

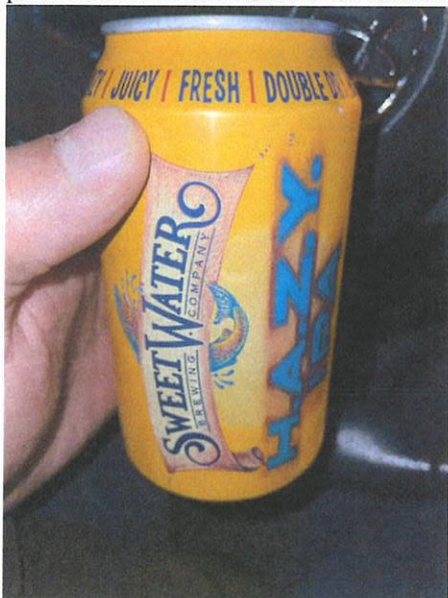
I am writing this out of concern for his personal safety, the safety of others, and the reputation of the department. Overtime, I have noticed behaviors that, I believe, stem from mental health issues that have been presented and explicitly spoken upon, but unnoticed by the majority. The unhealthy and concerning coping mechanisms result in self destructive and dangerous actions that are not only questionable in moral turpitude, but criminal and life threatening. I have witnessed a pattern of impaired driving, drinking while driving, illegal substance usage, and suicidal ideologies. I have voiced these concerns prior. However, the behavior continues to progress and I am especially concerned as February will be the 1 year death anniversary of his friend, mentor, and co-worker, Clay Culpepper. As I was reading the PowerDMS policies that were republished for the year, the Early Warning System policy, especially, is the reason I have chosen to bring these concerns to a higher level, as I have tried to help and have sought out help for him, but the issues go unaddressed.

I have listed a few instances where these behaviors can be specifically identified:

On October 6th, 2021, Chris was kicked out of his house. Needing a place to stay, I allowed him to stay with me until he was able to get a place of his own. Around 0230 hours, Chris arrived at 4600 Roswell Road in his patrol vehicle. When I welcomed him, I noticed that his eyes were low, watery, and bloodshot, the odor of an alcoholic beverage was overwhelmingly emitting from his person. It was clear that he had consumed alcohol to the point that he presented physical manifestations, even for his size and stature. I asked him if he had been drinking and he said that he had been.

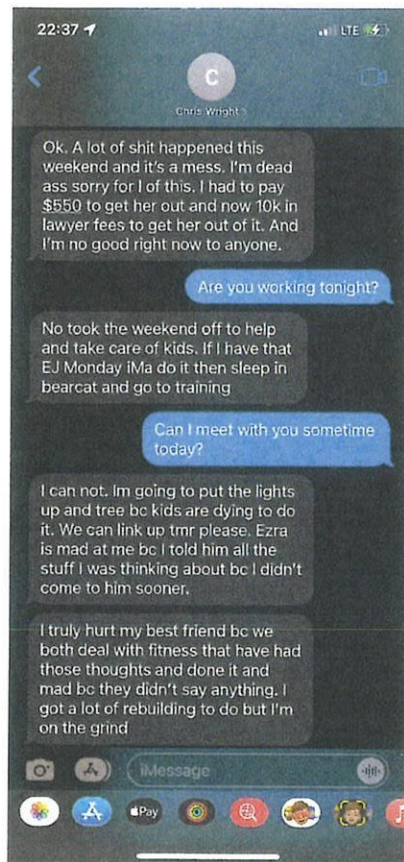
On December 23rd, 2021, I dropped off a Christmas gift (that was wrapped in paper, secured with tape, tied with string, and sealed with wax on the front) to Chris while he was on duty, which included a few items and two mini bottles (small shooters) of his favorite whiskey "Buffalo Trace", for him to have on Christmas. I left the area and went back home prior to him opening it. He texted me later that he had opened it and thanked me for the items. I later learned that around 0500, on his way home in his patrol vehicle, he had consumed the two bottles while driving (in the area of the North Springs Marta Station while on GA 400).

In another instance, on January 17th, 2022, Chris had attended BJJ off duty, and afterward, while we were talking, he stopped by the gas station to buy alcohol to consume on the way home. He later sent me a picture of the drink in front of the steering wheel of his 4 runner. See below:



On his way back to GA, he turned his location off, which prompted me to think he was going to hurt himself. I called him, and we spoke for about 30 minutes, where I learned that he had purchased a “6 pack” and was consuming the beers while driving. We ended the phone call and around 0200 hours on December 4th, 2021, Chris called me and let me know that his wife had just been arrested by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office for DUI on GA400 at McFarland Road. This was especially concerning as I knew he was impaired, but he was now going to the scene to pick up her vehicle with Ezra's help. When I brought up him being under the influence he said that he didn't care and it is what it is at this point.

On December 5th I followed up with him and he said the following:



While the messages seem like he was going to get help, Chris has continued to express suicidal thoughts and has not accepted any help.

Coming forth with this information is one of the most difficult things I have done, and I have wrestled with this back and forth. There is a lot of potential for Chris and with the proper help I do think he could be an even better father, friend, and co-worker. However, at this moment in time, I am worried for himself, his family, his co-workers, and his career as any of the concerns expressed above could have a lasting impact that causes him to lose his family, his career, or his life.



There have been numerous instances of him drinking while driving and driving under the influence (both in a patrol vehicle and in a personal vehicle). However, I do understand that these are testimonials.

Chris had always mentioned his use of testosterone and steroids, which explained the mood swings, irritability, acne, headaches, mania, and intense lows and concerning ideologies that come about, especially when he is near the end of a “cycle”. However, Chris (at the time- it’s unknown if he has obtained one since) does not have a prescription for it, and obtains it from friends. He mentioned the idea of asking a doctor he knew to write him a prescription for testosterone so at least if he was tested, he would be able to say that he had a prescription, but could still obtain it by illegal means. For instance, he was supposed to compete in IBJJF on February 12th, 2022, but had to pull out because they test afterward for substances and he said that it wouldn’t be out of his system by then. It is clear that his use of unregulated testosterone only heightens his mental health issues and causes them to present worse, although his intended use for them is to combat and aid in the issues he is wanting to change (have more energy, be less tired, perform better, and put on more mass).

I mention the use of testosterone, as I have been around to experience the negative effects pertaining to him, his work, his family, and his decision making. There is a long-standing history of family issues (and instances where I have had to ask his wife if she is safe) concerning Chris and his wife, which leads to constant separation and reconnecting. On December 3rd, 2021, this came to a head when Chris expressed that he wanted to kill himself. On December 2nd, 2021, Chris worked his shift, took a nap, and then drove to a firearms training course in Alabama. I had already noticed that week that he was in a “low” and while on the way down, he was asking for advice on various topics pertaining to his home life and his divorce. He stopped responding for a while and said he would call me later. Later that night, he texted me, telling me that he needed to get some help. I provided him with numerous resources and asked him if he was planning on killing himself (I have attached messages of our conversation below). I later learned that he only brought the clothes on his back and a personal firearm, with the intention of not coming back. He stated that once he arrived, he drove to a field and recorded a goodbye video for his children, sat there and contemplated (before I, essentially, “ruined it”). He thought that doing it in Alabama was better than his co-workers finding him at work, or his children finding him, as he was out of state and nobody would know who he was and it wouldn’t be our problem.

