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# Clayton County Public Schools

## Department of Safety & Security

### School Police Department

1098 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, GA 30236 · (678) 479-2650 · FAX (678) 479-2649

**Dr. Morcease Beasley**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Thomas Y. Trawick, Jr.**  
Chief of Safety & Security  
Chief of Police

**Date:** April 30, 2019

**To:** Damaris Garrett

**From:** Officer A. J. Burgess

**Subject:** Continuous Harassment and Retaliation

Greetings,

I am writing you this letter so my issue can be well-documented with the Clayton County Public Schools' System. As you are aware, I work in the Safety and Security Department as a School Resource Officer. As you are aware, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have been documenting retaliation from the School Police Department ever since.

As you are aware, I have been retaliated against by Chief Thomas Trawick. Sgt. Mitchell has attempted to retaliate against me. Sgt. Lockett has retaliated against me when she refused to give me overtime hours, but gave overtime hours to officers who are documented for exceeding in overtime. Recently, Sgt. McClendon has retaliated against me by failing to supervise a Campus Security Officer (Keesha Jones) who has threatened my safety and partook in numerous criminal acts. On April 17, 2019, I sent you an email concerning those complaints. Despite the knowledge of CSO Jones' actions and the numerous complaints from myself, as well as, staff at Mundy's Mill High, Sgt. McClendon and Chief Thomas Trawick have allowed CSO Jones to remain at Mundy's Mill High as a form of retaliation against me. They want my work environment to be hostile and unsafe.

Around April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. McClendon became upset with me. He became upset because I sent him an email with a police report attached making him aware it was my 5<sup>th</sup> time submitting documentation about CSO Jones threatening my safety and the department had failed to take action. The attached police report was concerning criminal activity CSO Jones had participated in, and threats made against my safety. After sending that email, Sgt. McClendon made statements such as, "I thought we were better than that" and "You could have pulled me to the



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side with your concerns instead of documenting it through email." I advised Sgt. McClendon that I attempted to call him via county cell phone to discuss concerns. However, Sgt. McClendon made it clear he did not want to hear my complaint and would rather speak about a parent at Brown Elementary being upset about findings in a report I took as the initial reporting officer.

Due to the email I sent Sgt. McClendon, we had to have a meeting about my concerns. During that time, Sgt. McClendon launched an investigation into the reports I made to him. Apparently CSO Jones was made aware of Sgt. McClendon's investigation because she told students being questioned to write a false statement. CSO Jones telling students to write a false statement was the 5<sup>th</sup> crime committed during the duration of CSO Jones' employment.

Today, I was instructed by Sergeant McClendon to report to 1058 5th Ave (headquarters) for my evaluation. My evaluation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As it relates to my evaluation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sgt. McClendon is upset with me because I documented his failure to supervise CSO Jones. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His statements

do not make sense, and it is blatant retaliation. I am attaching a copy of my rebuttal to my evaluation.

Outside of my evaluation, what concerned me most was Sgt. McClendon indicating people are "on my back daily." I give 100% to Clayton County Public Schools daily. I have voiced many concerns about the Safety and Security Department. However, instead of those concerns being rectified, I have been, and continue to be targeted. Case #: 19-0327-0001 is another example of me being targeted.



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I was advised that [REDACTED] initiated a complaint against me, and an investigation is being conducted in secrecy. I have the right to face an accuser just as a person has the right to complain. As you are aware, [REDACTED] is upset because she stated her daughter was being bullied. During the time of my investigation, I was not able to substantiate her claim. [REDACTED] sent me an email stating she found the report written in regard to her daughter's case comical. [REDACTED] wanted me to verify the other party's statements with her prior to including it in the report. Each party to a report is entitled to their statement being in the report just as they stated it. I documented information just as it was shared with me. I was only the responding officer who took the initial report. The Safety and Security team has a Criminal Investigations Unit and the report could have went to that unit if my report was not thorough enough, or needed any further investigation. To my knowledge, this did not occur. Sgt. McClendon signed off on the report. Therefore, I am not understanding why an investigation is being launched against me in secrecy. I do not know either party in this incident. I operated in good faith. Furthermore, Sgt. McClendon pulled me away from my school to write the initial report because he stated, "You are the best writer that I have, and I know you will do this report right."

Considering I continue to be a target for being vocal about employee wrongdoing, it is apparent certain individuals of Clayton County Public Schools is conspiring against me in attempts to ruin my career in law enforcement. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Just like many individuals, I want to see students gain a great education in a safe environment around officers who do not have criminal backgrounds. Just like many professionals, I would like to complete duties within my job description without being subjected to continuous termination plots, retaliation and harassment.