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**Subject:** Edward's In-Custody Death - OPEN LETTER - FDLE's REVIEW

**Date:** Tue, 16 Jun 2020 11:01:16 -0400

Gretl Plessinger  
Lee Massie  
Florida Department Of Law Enforcement  
Orlando, Florida

June 16, 2020

OPEN LETTER

Ref: FDLE's Brevard County Review – Gregory Edwards' In-Custody Death  
Please forward to appropriate investigative authorities (Mr. Lee Massie - FDLE).

Gretl / Mr. Massie:

As you may be aware, per an invitation by Brevard Sheriff Wayne Ivey, FDLE is currently reviewing the Brevard County Sheriff's Department's 2018-2019 self investigation of the December 2018 in-custody death (Brevard jail) of Mr. Gregory Edwards.

Apparently, this review is being supervised by Mr. Lee Massie, out of the Orlando FDLE office. We (VolusiaExposed.Com) would appreciate it, if your office could forward our below list of observations, and concerns, to Mr. Massie's attention.

From our (VolusiaExposed.Com) understanding of some news reports, FDLE's review will consist of determining whether or not any pertinent information was left out of the BCSO's investigative paradigm.

<https://spacecoastdaily.com/2020/06/watch-brevard-sheriff-wayne-ivey-requests-florida-department-of-law-enforcement-to-review-gregory-edwards-case/>

According to the available BCSO investigative report, both BCSO Cpl. Brian Otto and Deputy Alison Blazewicz were involved in the Edwards use of force incident. Otto deploying pepper spray, and Blazewicz deploying her taser.

<http://volusiaexposed.com/brevard/bcso/gregedwards72019/tab1a.pdf>

The BCSO documentation also states that Deputy Blazewicz accompanied Cpl. Otto to the hospital for treatment to his injuries.

However, from our review of the provided BCSO reports, there was no mention that Otto and Blazewicz were romantically / socially involved.

Within our (VolusiaExposed.Com) August 2019 article, we presented what has been purported to be a screen shot of Cpl. Otto's Facebook page. According to this Facebook posting – Otto and Blazewicz are (were) in a social relationship. There also is what appears to be a picture of both Otto and Blazewicz in a social setting.

<http://volusiaexposed.com/brevard/bcso/gregedwards82019.html>

We (VolusiaExposed.Com) are of the OPINION, that IF Otto and Blazewicz were in a social relationship, that this would have been a significant investigative fact that should have been memorialized within the BCSO investigative report.

Obviously, three basic inquiries emerge.

First, why wasn't this social relationship memorialized within the investigative report? Did the social relationship bias, or hamper, the ability of the BCSO to fully, and impartially, investigate, and document the incident?

Second, did this social relationship in ANY way influence the amount and / or type of force applied against Mr. Edwards? Was the force applied merely to gain compliance with lawful commands, or was retaliatory force applied, in response to injuries received by a romantic partner / fellow deputy?

Sheriff Ivey has stated that his agency's handling of the Edwards' death investigation is being questioned for political reasons. In part, this is most certainly true. However, we (VolusiaExposed.Com) counter charge that the BCSO's death investigation was politically driven by Sheriff Ivey. It is difficult for the public to accept M.E. Qaiser's finding that Edwards' death was an "accident"- so much so that M.E. Nelson came out with his declaration that Edwards' death was more consistent with being a "homicide". Sheriff Ivey has lashed out at Dr. Nelson, as well as officials from the City of West Melbourne for their release of the arrest video, in what can only be seen as an attempt to politically manhandle a death investigation.

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2020/06/13/sheriff-ivey-talks-transparency-on-edwards-case-but-actions-tell-another-story/>

Edwards' Autopsy Report

<http://volusiaexposed.com/brevard/bcso/gregedwards72019/mereport.pdf>

Law enforcement investigations should be guided by facts, and not political agendas. Therefore, it is somewhat poetic justice, that Ivey's political manhandling of this, and other investigations (Derossset & Hafza), has flushed out a political opponent to challenge him for his office.

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2020/06/12/watch-live-at-9-alton-edmond-announces-run-for-brevard-county-sheriff/>

Given that Sheriff Ivey, and State Attorney Archer initially advised the public that BCSO deputies acted appropriately in the 2015 arrest of Mr. John Derossett, only to have the appeals court award to Mr. Derossett a “stand your ground” defense in 2020.

<https://www.wesh.com/article/brevard-deputy-shooting-john-derossett-free-stand-your-ground/32173714>

Given that Sheriff Ivey initially defended the actions of his off duty deputy in the 2016 shooting death of Clarence Howard – only to have FDLE arrest Deputy Hafza for the homicide of Mr. Howard.

[https://digitaledition.orlandosentinel.com/tribune/article\\_popover.aspx?guid=d61ca870-0365-4cde-be8e-dbc58185ecb7](https://digitaledition.orlandosentinel.com/tribune/article_popover.aspx?guid=d61ca870-0365-4cde-be8e-dbc58185ecb7)

Given that initially Sheriff Ivey refused to publicly release the Edwards jail video – even to Mrs. Edwards. However, now over eighteen months later, while facing a political opponent, and a firestorm of criticism from both the public, and other members of the criminal justice system, Ivey is willing to allow Mrs. Edwards to review the video. Does that sound like a good law enforcement decision, or more like a politically motivated decision?

We (Volusiaexposed, public in general) are finding ourselves at a national crossroads, especially given, that Georgia law enforcement, and their local district attorney’s office, both were willing, prior to the release of the shooting video, to give the McMichael’s a complete walk in the February 2020 fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery. It is hoped, that your office can appreciate our lack of faith in law enforcement in general, and in the particular, with Sheriff Wayne Ivey.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting\\_of\\_Ahmaud\\_Arbery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Ahmaud_Arbery)

<http://volusiaexposed.com/brevard/bcso/gregedwardsahmaudarberydeaths52020/districtattorneyletter.pdf>

Currently, American law enforcement is going through a complete paradigm shift. Some smart law enforcement professionals, and agencies, will ride this paradigm wave, others will be sucked out by the undertow.

Surf’s Up !

<https://youtu.be/2s4slliAtQU>

Regards,

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cc – [LeeMassie@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:LeeMassie@fdle.state.fl.us) (unknown if email is correct), others

bcc – several (general public, media, elected officials)