



## BEAUFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

1901 BOUNDARY STREET  
Suite 102  
BEAUFORT, SC 29902

Dale McDorman  
Chief of Police

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**To:** Scott Marshall, City Manager  
**From:** Chief D. McDorman  
**Date:** June 5, 2023  
**Subj:** Evidence Discrepancy Issue

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Sir, the evidence room discrepancy investigation has been completed and I offer the below information as our summary.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Lt. Raley alleged in a memo that there were 849 pieces of evidence that he could not account for by inventory or through a check of records. These pieces of evidence dated from 2005 through 2015. After I located several of these records on the evidence drive, I directed Lt. Raley to conduct a thorough investigation to determine if any evidence was missing.

I contacted Capt. Neill from SLED and advised him of the allegation, and we determined the best course of action was for us to investigate further to determine whether this was a clerical issue or a criminal issue and if I felt it was a criminal issue, I would request SLED investigate.

The examination of the information contained on the evidence drive located documentation on 414 of the cases initially listed by Lt. Raley as unaccounted. These cases were disposed of properly and in accordance with law and department policy. We brought back Carissa Garnes, who was the evidence technician from 2017 to 2021, as a consultant to help us locate documentation on the remaining 435 cases. It should be noted that our department used three different software products for evidence documentation from that time period, Evidence Tracker, Law Trak, and now Spillman.

It was determined that the 435 cases that remained were authorized to have been disposed of in accordance with law and department policy, and the disposals were documented in the Tracker software. The department made the decision not to manually enter documents from tracker to Spillman if they could properly be disposed of at time of entry and a notation was made for authorization in the Tracker system.

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In 2019, the owner of Tracker died unexpectedly and the service contract with Tracker expired, and we lost the ability to access those records. Mrs. Garnes contacted the company that bought Tracker and they advised that the records from that timeframe were not archived, leaving us no way to review the disposal records.

Sgt Re, the current evidence custodian conducted a parallel investigation, and his findings were that all of the items that Lt. Raley initially claimed were unaccounted for were eligible for disposal following law and policy. Sgt. Re's review indicates that items from one case did not have the proper paperwork digitally attached. However, the documentation would have been during utilization of the Tracker software period, which is inaccessible.

In October 2020, after becoming Chief I had SLED conduct a complete inventory of the evidence room which is common practice for a new chief taking command of an agency. SLED found no issues and no items missing and praised the organization of the room and records.

Based on the investigations, I am confident that we are not "missing", any evidence and no possible prosecutions have been jeopardized by the disposal of any evidence. I also believe that the actions taken by those in charge of the evidence from prior to me becoming chief were proper and within policy and the law.

It should also be noted that after losing access to Tracker, we made the decision to keep a subscription to LawTrak until any active case information can be manually moved to Spillman or the case is disposed of.

Internally I consider this matter closed. I have forwarded the information to SLED for review and any recommendations they may have. I will advise you of SLED's findings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale McDorman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale McDorman