October 4, 2017

Statement Regarding Investigation into the Filing of a Police Report by Councilman Reginald Gaffney

In the days following the lawful traffic stop of Councilman Reginald Gaffney, for driving with a tag reported stolen, I committed to an investigation to determine if any laws were broken in the filing of that police report. Our Integrity Unit investigated and determined that no laws were broken.

These are the overarching facts of the case:

- Mr. Gaffney owns two cars of the same model and type
- Both cars have specialty license plates; both the same type
- Mr. Gaffney received notices of unpaid toll tickets from Central Florida
- Mr. Gaffney assumed they were for the car he drives.
- He didn’t associate the notices to his other vehicle, which was being driven by a friend and was in fact responsible for the toll violations.
- He made the (incorrect) assumption the notices weren’t his, due to the fact the car he drives was in the shop.
- He went to the repair shop and saw his car without its license tag. It is not uncommon for repair shops to remove a tag when a car is undergoing lengthy repairs, to prevent theft.
- Mr. Gaffney didn’t discuss the “missing” tag with the shop personnel; he filed a police report for a stolen tag.
- When his car was returned to him from the repair shop, his tag (that had been reported stolen) was on the car.
- He neglected to notify police and have the police report updated and essentially voided.
- There was no illegal act on Mr. Gaffney’s part, with regard to the “stolen” tag.

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Related to this incident, I committed to looking into the release of the police body camera video, from that same traffic stop. Although it is a public record, and would have been released, I wanted to determine if proper protocols for the release of information were followed. That is still under review.

Finally, as I stated last week in a news conference, and again this week, my review of the official footage of the traffic stop showed no wrongdoing by the officers involved. This was a lawful stop with a professional transaction between law enforcement and citizens.

Thank you

Sheriff Mike Williams
Duval County, FL