



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: 1st Sergeant Kim D. Chinn
Phone: 703.792.7245
e-mail: kchinn@pwcgov.org
FAX: 703.792.4555

Officer Erika Hernandez
703.792.4159
ehernandez@pwcgov.org
703.792.4555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prince William County Police Department Completes Administrative Review of Child Abuse and Neglect Procedures

New Policies and Procedures Instituted

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . Prince William County Police Chief Charlie T. Deane today announced that the internal administrative investigation into the police department's response to child abuse and neglect allegations has been concluded. Earlier this year, Chief Deane called for a comprehensive review of all police actions, policies and procedures related to the case after the death investigation of Alexis Glover revealed that a variety of agencies, including the police department, Department of Social Services (DSS), and school division, had multiple contacts over the course of several years with the victim and her mother, Alfreedia Glover. The findings are released to the public in a document titled, "Child Protection Review – Final Report."

The internal review was conducted by the Child Protection Review Team (CPRT), which consisted of five sworn members of the police department. As a result of a three-month investigation, the department discovered deficiencies in several areas and has instituted procedural changes for handling similar incidents. The improvements will occur in four categories: training, communication, policy implementation, and interagency cooperation. The department also disciplined three sworn staff members for failure to follow department policy.

"Part of our responsibility is to safeguard children from harm, and it is deeply disturbing to me that we failed to do so in Lexie Glover's case," said Charlie T. Deane, Chief of Police. "While there is only one person who caused her death, and that is her mother, Alfreedia Glover, I would be remiss in not stating that there are some things we could have, and should have, done differently in prior investigations with this family. As a result of the internal analysis conducted by the CPRT, we have already begun implementing the changes necessary to help prevent such a tragedy from happening again."

Chief Deane also asked the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to conduct its own inquiry to determine if the department's response met national standards, and to help improve its response to abused, neglected, and missing children. The NCMEC is a nationally recognized organization that has demonstrated expertise and success in helping law enforcement agencies work with parents and children who are in need of services.

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The NCMEC concluded that the police department's interaction with other agencies was positive, and all national standards were met, but that improvements could be made in several areas, which are detailed in the report. The police department will also participate in the Missing and Exploited Children Comprehensive Action Program (MCAP), which is designed to help front-line staff members in various agencies to work together on an ongoing basis to identify issues of concern in the community and to design workable solutions.

“Investigations into the victimization of children are intensely complex and often difficult for the variety of agencies involved in these cases,” said Peter Bellmio, Senior Policy Advisor with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. “Our review of the Prince William County Police Department's existing policies and procedures regarding abused and neglected children was positive, and Chief Deane's request to partner with the NCMEC illustrates his commitment to implementing a best practices approach and improving the process. I believe that through Prince William County's participation in the MCAP program, we can help the department continue to strengthen existing partnerships and improve the handling of runaway and abused children cases.”

The full document, “Child Protection Review – Final Report,” is available online at www.pwccgov.org.

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