

MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 276
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Case Number
MG1700802

Date
07/13/19

Deputy
M.CHARMAN

Supplement 16

On July 6, 2019 at approximately 1600 hours, I met with Brandon Hall and Tyler Cole in front of the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office. Two female subjects were also with them but I did not get their information. The following is a summary of our conversation but multiple subjects present also recorded our interaction on their cell phones.

Brandon told me that he was at some relatives property (Brooks Ranch off of Brooks Road) hanging out with a few subjects including Levi Brown, Luke and Brandi Willey, and some unknown female subjects. Brandon told me that Luke offered to fix his tattoo and he agreed. Brandon said that during the conversation, Luke introduced himself and then Brandon told him that he had heard of him and heard that he "did some stuff". Brandon said that Luke then bragged that he, Brandi, and Louis Botello beat up Ronnie Cole and threw him off a cliff into the river. I confirmed that Luke made this "admission to a murder" after Brandon had already told him that he didn't like him and Brandon confirmed.

Brandon was not certain of the exact date but stated that it was the end of August or beginning of September as it was after his child was born. I then went inside and checked Tracnet and found that Luke Willey was in custody from early August until he was sent to prison and remains there as of this date. Luke Willey could not have been present as he has been in custody since before the birth of Brandon's child. I walked back outside and confirmed again that it was definitely after the birth of his child and he said that it was. All other subjects then said that it must have been when Luke had bailed out of jail. I went back in and confirmed that Luke had bailed out of jail after an arrest in 2017 but not during this time.

I presented this information to everyone present. They then began to argue that Brandon must have his dates slightly mixed up. Brandon agreed that he could have the dates mixed up because he was busy being worried about "his girl" as she had a hard labor and he was having to help her out. I again pointed out that this "party" would have had to have been after his child was born near the end of August in order for him to have had to help her heal after a hard labor and therefore would have been impossible for Luke to have been present. It was around this time that all subject's phones had died and they were no longer recording.

All other subjects continued to argue that I was wrong and that nobody cared that Luke killed Ronnie. I spent awhile trying to convince them that if there was evidence that this was the case, we would absolutely file the report with the DA. I explained again (as I have with members of the Cole family on multiple occasions) that there was no evidence against Luke, let alone enough to file charges. I explained that the only true evidence we have is that of the Coroner Autopsy and that showed no evidence of injury to Ronnie and did not support their claims he was beaten up. I again explained that all that has been presented is evidence of Luke being a violent bully but that did not mean he committed murder.

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Brandon said that on the night that Luke allegedly admitted to murdering Ronnie, he became Facebook Friends with Luke. They attempted to get that info but their phones weren't working. Tyler and Brandon agreed to get the date that Brandon and Luke became Facebook Friends to me as well as speak to Levi Brown and have him come speak to me about a date that Luke may have been at his residence. Brandon said that Levi was not in the room when Luke made his admission but the unknown females were and Levi could at least identify who else was there.

As of July 13, 2019, I have not heard back from anybody regarding this matter.

Recommendations:

Case remain suspended pending evidence of a crime.

Approved by : SGT.CHARMAN Date : 07/13/2019 11:35 AM