

Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office

PRESS RELEASE

December 18, 2009

Contact Person - Sgt. Andy Norris

Statement of Sheriff Edmund M. "Ted" Sexton, Sr.

As you know, the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office received a complaint of sexual assault over the weekend. Because the Homicide Unit is composed of officers from multiple agencies, including the City of Tuscaloosa Police Department, Chief Anderson requested that the Sheriff's Office conduct this investigation. Our Office immediately put together an investigative group led by Chief Harry Montgomery and two Sergeants, and members of that unit have been intensively investigating the complaint since it was received. This week, over 180 man-hours were logged by members of the sheriff's office on this case. Witnesses have been interviewed and records subpoenaed. Throughout, we have carefully coordinated with the District Attorney's Office to make sure that they are fully informed of the progress of the investigation, and we have advised the FBI of the actions we have taken. The investigation is not complete, but substantial progress has been made. Obviously, because of the nature of the allegations and the fact that this is an on-going investigation, we are very limited in what we can say.

We can say, however, that this case is of special significance to us because the complaint includes allegations that the suspect was a law enforcement officer. Chief Anderson and I wanted to appear together to make clear that we will not stand for any law enforcement officer committing crime, much less one of this nature. We will devote all of our available resources to investigate fully any allegation such as this. We feel very strongly that we must do everything possible to protect the public's trust in law enforcement. If anyone has any information that they believe might be helpful in this case, or any other matter involving law enforcement, we encourage you to contact Chief Montgomery here at the Sheriff's Office at 752-0616. We will treat any information we receive with the utmost confidentiality.

We will provide the results of our investigation to the City for their use in any potential actions they may wish to pursue separate and apart from a criminal prosecution.

We won't have any other announcements about this case for several weeks, perhaps months, as we await material that has been subpoenaed. We want to emphasize, though, that if any one has any information they believe would be helpful in this case, they should contact the Sheriff's Office.