

JIM HOOD ATTORNEY GENERAL

Statement by Jonathan Compretta, campaign manager for Jim Hood for Attorney General:

Thursday, September 24, 2015

"Out of desperation, Mike Hurst has manufactured a complete lie using a defeated sheriff as a mouthpiece. A 2010 investigator's report from the Office of Attorney General clearly shows that Jim Hood's office was investigating the Mendenhall case and then coordinated with the FBI, which was already investigating the charges. The FBI stated they planned to bring federal charges. Based on that information, the Attorney General's Office transferred its case file to the FBI and closed the state case.

"The fact is that Jim Hood has prosecuted three times as many public officials on public corruption charges as Mike Hurst. Just today, Jim Hood received endorsements from 31 sheriffs and 10 district attorneys from across Mississippi. Each one can attest to Jim Hood's integrity as a prosecutor and character as an individual."

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC INTEGRITY DIVISION

REPORT

CASE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: Request for Case Closure
DATE: 8/20/10
INVESTIGATOR: [REDACTED]

On July 27, 2010, Investigator [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were assigned to conduct a follow-up investigation in reference to allegations of misconduct / criminal activities being committed by Officer [REDACTED] and Chief Bruce Barlow of the Mendenhall Police Department.

Assistant Director [REDACTED] received information in confidence from a police officer with the Mendenhall Police Department (MPD). This officer along with another officer with MPD would like to meet with investigators with the Attorney General's Office to give details in reference to these allegations. Investigators [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were given contact information for this officer.

Shortly thereafter, additional information was provided by the Asst. Director [REDACTED] advised he would check with Investigator [REDACTED] in reference to details, but our office has received a complaint about possible criminal actions by officers of the Mendenhall Police Department. Upon checking with Investigator [REDACTED] she provided a prepared intake dated July 8, 2010. This intake containing information received from Deputy [REDACTED] with Simpson County Sheriff's Department. Deputy [REDACTED] had received a call from [REDACTED] who is a business partner with a Hispanic male, [REDACTED] which was arrested by Mendenhall Police Department Officer [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] alleges [REDACTED] was carrying approximately \$6000 to \$7000 in U.S. currency. Only \$7+ in U.S. Currency was logged in as [REDACTED] property. There were other allegations, in which one would have to refer to Investigator [REDACTED] intake report.

Based on the aforementioned information, a PID case number was assigned to the prepared intake by [REDACTED] but this investigation will consist of information on the intake as well as the allegations provided by MPD Officers.

Later on this date, Investigator [REDACTED] contacted and arranged a meeting with the officers from Mendenhall Police Department at Hemphill Park in Florence, Mississippi to gather any and all facts pertaining to these allegations.

During the meeting with officers [REDACTED] of the Mendenhall Police Department (MPD) they alleged illegal activities being conducted by Chief Barlow. According to these complaints, Chief Barlow is negotiating with suspects charged with crimes by the MPD to contribute a certain amount of money into MPD's "Drug Fund" in exchange for dismissals of their charges. The charges range from DUI (1st through 3rd) to a variety of misdemeanor and felony drug cases. Also, Chief Barlow was allowing his son to drive a seized vehicle (unknown year, model Nissan Altima) around town for personal use.

Furthermore, these officers provided cases in particular. One that was mentioned is the traffic stop on Highway 49 and another one was a case where Officer [REDACTED] seized approximately \$8000 on a felony drug arrest. According to these officers, there were illegal actions surrounding these cases that need to be investigated.

Upon conducting the initial follow up investigation, several other possible criminal violations, which needed to be investigated, were discovered.

However, during the course of these follow up investigations, these investigators were unable to obtain information due no cooperation by the alleged victims. Then on August 19, 2010, information from agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) revealed they are presently conducting an investigation based on the same allegations and they are planning to have this case prosecuted within the Federal Judicial System. The following allegations were revealed during this investigation:

- *Money & Property taken and converted to personal use in exchange for criminal charges being dropped.*
- *Reduction or Dismissal of DUI's in exchange for money being placed into a "Drug Fund"*
- *Reduction or Dismissal of criminal charges in exchange for money being placed into a "Drug Fund"*
- *Illegal Seizure and Forfeitures*
- *Extortion*
- *Money missing from the evidence vault*

Based on the results of this investigation, this investigator respectfully requests this case is closed with no further actions.