



Pullman Police Department

Supplemental Report 19-P10612

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Supplement number: 36

Reporting Officer: Heidi Lambley

Date: 15:32:20 01/22/21

RVWD: GSU/408 OFC: H. Lambley 447/hjl CASE #: 19-P10612

Pullman Police Department
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Defendant 1 Name: Wesley Oswald
Defendant 2 Name: Graham Stamey
Defendant 3 Name: Brent Knowles
Defendant 4 Name: Griffin Fish
Defendant 5 Name: Maxwell Rovegno
Defendant 6 Name: Jaron Selset
Defendant 7 Name: James Rauch

SUMMARY OF FACTS

State of Washington
County of Whitman

Summary of Facts

On 11/12/2019, Pullman Police responded to 710 NE Linden Street, Pullman, Washington, the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, for the report of an unattended death. Detective Cornish and I arrived at 710 NE Linden Street and we were shown to the basement and a room called the Chapter Room. Officer Heroff explained the fire department was not going to transport and the subject had been declared deceased. The deceased, who was identified as Samuel H. Martinez (DOB 10/03/2000), was reportedly drinking across the street at the fraternity's "live out" last night. Another person located Martinez this morning and started CPR.

The room where Martinez was located had several couches, chairs, and garbage cans. There was what appeared to be vomit on the floor near a couch on the north side of the room. Martinez was on the floor next to a couch on east side wall in the room.

Simon Stiles came down to the chapter room and explained he just wanted to see Martinez. Sergeant Umbright asked Stiles if there was a special house occasion yesterday. Stiles told him "no, not really" and hesitated. Stiles told us it was "Big/Little" and the night they were getting their big brothers. This is a type of mentor relationship where the "big brother" is expected to help guide the "little brother" during college.

Stiles didn't know where Martinez was most the night but assumed Martinez was

with his big brother. Stiles was unable to say who Martinez's big brother was. This event occurred across the street at Delta Chi (800 NE Monroe Street, the old Delta Chi fraternity). He said the event was in the basement.

There were no signs of trauma on Martinez's body. Martinez had what looked like a long scratch on his right hand and wrist. It also appeared there was an imprint on Martinez's mid-thigh caused by his pants waist band. Martinez was transported to Kimball's Funeral Home in a locked bag.

Sergeant Umbright told me he met with the President of the WSU Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega, Luke Hawksford, and learned the following:

Hawksford was not part of the planning of the big brother reveal and it was planned by the sophomores who got their freshmen little brothers. The pledges had been at study table at the library prior to the reveal and were called to the house (Delta Chi live-out 800 NE Monroe Street) to clean. Big brothers and little brothers for generations create a "family" within the fraternity. The families all have their family drink. Hawksford thought Jacob Havard could be a "twin brother" with Martinez and Wes Oswald was their big brother.

Hawksford was pretty sober and later left the fraternity house at about 2324 hours to go to his girlfriend's residence. As he was leaving, he saw about five freshmen carrying Martinez down the stairs in front of him. Wes Oswald was leading the group down the stairs toward the chapter room.

Detective Cornish told me he talked with Wesley Oswald and learned the following:

It was big/little night and Martinez was one of Oswald's little brothers. Oswald had a half gallon Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum. Martinez had taken a good amount of "pulls". Oswald never forced Martinez to drink at any point and Martinez seemed to be okay. At about 2230 hours, Martinez seemed really drunk. Oswald took Martinez to his bedroom and put Martinez on the couch and put a trash can next to him. Oswald and several pledges took Martinez to the bathroom to try and get him to throw up. Martinez did not throw up and was kind of fighting them. Oswald indicated the three of them were all drinking off of the half gallon together. Toward the end of the night Oswald thought Martinez had enough and kept trying to keep the bottle away from Martinez. Martinez continued to ask Oswald for more alcohol and he refused.

Detective Cornish talked with Jacob Havard and was told the following:

Martinez and Havard were both drinking out of the same bottle and Havard was pretty sure they finished the bottle of rum. Havard did not have much memory of the previous night. Havard and Martinez drank a lot of the bottle. After about 30 minutes he looked at the bottle and there was only about 2.5 inches left by what he showed Detective Cornish with his fingers. The bottle was completely full when they started. Martinez and Havard were drinking out of the bottle and Havard was unsure if Oswald had any. Havard believed Oswald had some and it was possible some other people had a few sips out of it but Martinez and Havard were the two main people drinking from the bottle.

During our subsequent investigation we learned the following:

On 11/11/2019, Alpha Tau Omega revealed to their new members or pledge class their big brothers. This event was located in the basement of 800 NE Monroe

Street, Pullman, Washington. New members were surprised by the event and went to the location believing they had to clean it. New members were greeted by their big brothers and other "family" members and were welcomed to partake in their family drink. The drink was some type of alcohol and varied depending on the family. That night many people consumed alcohol and became intoxicated. Martinez died from acute alcohol intoxication and another new member, Christian Cisneros, was located outside of 600 NE Colorado "obviously intoxicated with spit and vomit running down the steps around him." This type of big brother little brother reveal has occurred for a few years.

Martinez was provided alcohol by his big brother Wesley Oswald. In addition to being Martinez's assigned big brother, Oswald also was an officer in the fraternity and listed by the rental management company of 800 NE Monroe Street, as a resident of 800 NE Monroe Street, Pullman, Washington during the 2019-2020 school year. A search of involvements in Spillman also showed multiple residents that were warned and infractioned for city ordinance violations.

The residents of 800 NE Monroe, who were named as involved in the events on 11/11/2019 and at other Alpha Tau Omega fraternity events include:

Wesley Oswald - present and big brother to Sam Martinez and Jacob Havard
Brent Knowles - present according to Finn Anderson
Griffin Fish - present according to Brayden Harris
Maxwell Rovegno - present according to Brayden Harris
Jaron Sleset - present according to Brian Munro
James Rauch - Present according to Brayden Harris

Investigators also learned more about the new member period. New members were expected to clean the residence at 800 NE Monroe Street. That location was rented by several members of Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Nu and was used as a place to party for Alpha Tau Omega.

New members reported having various punishments for failing to complete tasks or clean appropriately and for failing to memorize information. New members reported eating or taking bites of onions, drinking some type of mixture as a group, cleaning up disgusting messes, having to clean messes with a toothbrush, and completing physical tasks like pushups and wall sits.

Oswald was repeatedly identified as an officer "Pledge Ed". Martinez's parents provided me with his copy of "Alpha Tau Omega, The Positive Experience" which is the "official manual of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity". This book had a list of officers but did not list "Pledge Ed". According to the book, as Membership Education Chairman, Oswald was "responsible for conducting the New Member Program as well as coordinating continuing education for all undergraduate members. He serves as chairman of the membership education committee. He is responsible for the chapter's continuing education on the Fraternity's no-hazing policy and is empowered to stop any member from attempting to haze any other member." (Pages 108 & 109)

The book also stated: "At no time during your pledgship or membership in Alpha Tau Omega should you be subjected to hazing. What is hazing? Any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or of fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, paddling in any form, creating excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shocks, quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, "kidnapping" trips, wearing

clothes that are conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities that are not consistent with fraternity policy or the Ritual, servitude. Doing chores or errands for initiated brothers is also a form of hazing." (Page 11 &12)

The book defines the roles of various officers. The Vice President is in charge of the "chapter's internal affairs. He has charge of the committee system." The Chaplain "is responsible for encouraging moral standards and proper conduct. He should be an expert on Fraternity ritual and further serves as the chapters spiritual leader." Social Chairman "is in charge of planning, scheduling and directing a balanced program of social function (i.e. dances, sorority exchanges, brotherhood events, etc.). He is responsible for encouraging social maturity and providing members with the social skills they will need after graduation. He is also in charge of assisting the Health and Safety Officer in educating and implementing the ATO Health & Safety policies."

Various regulations regarding alcohol and safety are found on pages 143- 145. On page 144 it states: No alcohol shall be present at any membership education programs or ritual activities of the chapter. This includes but is not limited to activities associated with "bid night," "big brother/little brother," "family" activities and initiation."

There were conflicting statements regarding who planned this event. At one point, the President, Luke Hawksford said the sophomores planned the event. I was advised by other people the event was possibly planned by the social chair (Cole Soreano or Jonathan Via), the Chaplain (Graham Stamey), and the brotherhood committee (unknown).

On 12/20/2019, I talked with Coroner Pillers, who advised she would be finalizing the death certificate for Martinez. Coroner Pillers told me Martinez's cause of death was Acute Ethanol Intoxication and the Manner of death was accident. Coroner Pillers advised me Martinez's Ethanol level was 0.372, he had 12ng/mL of THC in his system, there were no anatomical findings, and the Ethanol was the cause of Martinez's death.

While reviewing various statements in this case, I found that the Chaplain, Graham Stamey was part of planning this event and requested the pledges come to 800 NE Monroe the night of this event.

I am requesting criminal charges for Wesley Oswald for violation of RCW 28B.10.901, Hazing and RCW 66.44.270 Furnishing Liquor to Minors. I am requesting criminal charges for Graham Stamey for violation of RCW 28B.10.901, Hazing. I am requesting criminal charges for Brent Knowles, Griffin Fish, Maxwell Rovegno, Jaron Selset, and James Rauch for RCW 66.44.270 Furnishing Liquor to Minors.

Case Closed. Charges requested.

HJL

I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Officer Heidi Lambley ID #447
Pullman Police Department

Fri Jan 22 15:34:21 PST 2021