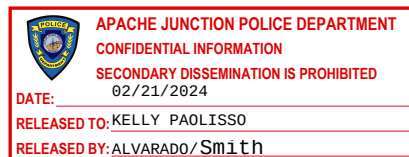


INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011		APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department INFORMATION GENERAL REPORT				ORI # AZ0111300			
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION									
Incident Description ANIMAL CRUELTY									
Report Date 11/20/2023 14:49		Incident Start Date 11/20/2023 14:49			Day of Week MON		Incident End Date 11/21/2023 20:51		
Location of Incident 1000 W APACHE TRL, AJ, AZ 85120							Case Status INACTIVE		
Related Case/Incident Number									
SUSPECT(S) INFORMATION									
Suspect # 1		Name (Last, First, Middle) UNKNOWN,					Moniker		
Address UNKNOWN									
DOB	Age UNKNOW N	To Age	Sex U	Race U	Ethnicity U	Resident Status UNKNOWN	Height	Weight	Glasses
SSN		OLN			OLN State	Email			
Home #		Cell #			Work #		Offenses Involved		
Eye Color					Hair Color				
Hair Style						Hair Length			
Facial Hair			Dominant Hand			Build		Complexion	
Speech/Voice									
Teeth									
Clothing									
Type of Weapon Used NONE									
Scars, Marks, and Tattoos									



INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department INFORMATION GENERAL REPORT	ORI # AZ0111300
NARRATIVE		
DR#231120011 CALL NOTES: ***21 TRAFFIC***RP DOES WANT TO REMAIN ANONOMYS*** RP STATES THERE IS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INVOLVING ANIMALS MOVING IN AND OUT OF THIS LOCATION AND SELLING ANIMALS TO BE USED AS FEEDER ANIMALS. RP DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS A BUSINESS LICENSE. RP SEEKING INFROMATION AS THE LEGALITIES OF WHAT HE IS DOING. ASSIGNMENT: On Monday 11/20/2023 at approximately 1457 hours I was dispatched to a call for service in the location of 1000 W Apache Trl Lot 102 in Apache Junction Arizona. FACTS: Monday 11/20/2023 at approximately 1457 hours I responded to a call for service in the location of 1000 W Apache Trl Lot 102 in Apache Junction Arizona. I contacted the RP via 21 (telephone call). CONTACT WITH RP: The RP was verbally identified as [REDACTED] I asked [REDACTED] about what was happening at the above the location. [REDACTED] had informed me that an unknown male, who is renting the property, was "running" some sort of animal scam out of the unlicensed business which does not have a name on the building. I asked [REDACTED] how she knew about what was happening inside of the business and how she was able to acquire this type of information. [REDACTED] stated she had contacts with "ex-employees" that had information about what was going on inside of the business with this unknown male. As I continued to speak with [REDACTED] about this incident, I asked her if she knew the unknown male's name. The only name she was able to provide to me was his street name, "The Reptile Guy". At this point in the investigation, I asked [REDACTED] who the property had belonged to and if she had any contact information to the owner. [REDACTED] gave me the name of, Andy but no other additional information. During the call, I informed [REDACTED] if she could come meet with me back at the Apache Junction Police department so we could speak further about the ex-employees and possibly more information about the owner of the property. [REDACTED] stated she could meet with me tomorrow, 11/21/2023 after she left work. CASE STATUS: Inactive Pending until further contact is made and the investigation can be re-opened. AXON CAMERA: My department issued body worn camera was activated during this investigation.		
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	BRADFORD, DAVID 411	
APPROVING	DAMON, ANTHONY 227	

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Case Status UNFOUNDED		
Related Case/Incident Number		

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
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NARRATIVE

DR#231120011

NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT

FACTS:

On Wednesday 11/22/2023 at approximately 1330 hours, [REDACTED] came into the Apache Junction Police department to speak with me further about the incident that may be occurring in the location of 1000 W Apache Trl Space 102 in Apache Junction Arizona.

FURTHER CONTACT WITH [REDACTED]

I spoke with [REDACTED] further about the “crimes against animals” that [REDACTED] is claiming that is occurring at the above address.

[REDACTED] continued to state that she has additional information about who is hurting the animals that are coming in and out of Space 102. I asked [REDACTED] if she can provide me with the additional information about this incident and who is involved.

[REDACTED] began to inform me that she does not want to be a part of the investigation and neither do any of her “sources”. I explained to [REDACTED] that without proper information and valuable people to speak with regarding this case, I cannot continue to pursue with additional action. [REDACTED] began to tell me that she has “screenshot” messages from previous employees that worked with the subjects at this non-licensed, no name business. I asked to see the messages and how she was able to obtain this information. [REDACTED] only informed me the information was “anonymous” through an animal welfare website.

I began to ask [REDACTED] why no one else has come forward with this information if they wanted to report the people who are involved in hurting these animals. [REDACTED] stated, “well everyone is afraid to say something until someone comes forward”. I did inform [REDACTED] that without gathering the information needed to develop PC (Probable Cause) then we do not have a case to pursue. She argued that if we cannot continue further with the information that she provided, then maybe an “animal welfare” check can be conducted.

[REDACTED] was advised that I can do an “animal welfare” check at that location but I would need to know who owns the building and who the renter is. But without that information, I can’t do much without speaking to all parties involved. [REDACTED] did provide me with the building owner and how he can be reached.

The building is half owned by a male, Ashok Kumar unknown D.O.B. Per [REDACTED] statement, Ashok works at one of the liquor stores that is on the same property as space 102. But at this time, she did not give me the times and days when Ashok works during the week. [REDACTED] did however inform me that Ashok has been “renting” the space on a non-documented rental agreement. I asked [REDACTED] how she knew about this information, during this time [REDACTED] could not tell me how she was able to obtain that information.

During this investigation, I was unable to gather more information to assist with this investigation.

CASE STATUS:

UNFOUNDED

AXON CAMERA:

My department issued body worn camera was activated during this interview.

NOTE:

Since Wednesday 11/22/2023, [REDACTED] has been texting my work phone asking what has been done with this investigation. No further contact has been made.

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	BRADFORD, DAVID 411	11/26/2023
APPROVING	DAMON, ANTHONY 227	11/26/2023

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Case Status		
Related Case/Incident Number		
NARRATIVE		
SPOKE WITH RP, TERRY WHO ADVISED ME THE CALL WAS BEING RECORDED. TERRY ADVISED THERE ARE ANIMALS INSIDE THE SUITE AT 102. TERRY HAS NOT SEEN THE ANIMALS BUT HAVE HEARD THEY ARE THERE. TERRY EXPLAINED THERE ARE SNAKES, RATS AND OTHER ANIMALS AND WOULD LIKE A WELFARE CHECK. I EXPLAINED TO TERRY I HAD WENT BY SUITE 102 AND DID NOT OBSERVE ANY SOUNDS COMING FROM INSIDE AND THE BUILDING WAS LOCKED. TERRY ALSO PROVIDED ME WITH THE NAME OF HALEY EDINGTON WHO USE TO WORK FOR COLTON. TERRY SAID HALEY DID NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED AND WOULD NOT PROVIDE HER TELEPHONE NUMBER. I WAS ALSO PROVIDED THE PROPERTY MANAGER, ANDY [REDACTED]. TERRY SAID THIS WAS AN UNAUTHORIZED BUSINESS AND THEY DID NOT HAVE NORMAL WORKING HOURS. I CONTACTED ANDY AND HE ADVISED ME HE HAS ONLY OWNED THE PROPERTY FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND HAS SEEN MAYBE A PIG INSIDE SUITE 102. ANDY EXPLAINED COLTON REESE WHO RENTS THE SPACE IS LEAVING THE PROPERTY JAN. 2024. I ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT COLTON [REDACTED] COLTON DID NOT ANSWER THE PHONE AND A VOICE MAIL WAS LEFT FOR HIM TO CALL ME BACK. TERRY EXPLAINED THEY ARE JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE ANIMALS AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF. OFC. BRADFORD TOOK A DR#231120011 AND WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE PROPERTY OWNER. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO TERRY THAT WE NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO HAS SEEN ANIMALS ENTERING AND EXITING THE SUITE. TERRY WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY NEW INFORMATION BUT FEARED THE OTHER ANIMALS HAD BEEN "PROCESSED" WHICH IS A WORD SHE SAID COLTON USED. TERRY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THIS MEANT.		
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	MARTIN, CRAIG 394	11/27/2023
APPROVING	MARTIN, CRAIG 394	11/27/2023

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Case Status UNFOUNDED		
Related Case/Incident Number		
NARRATIVE		
DR#231120011 ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT: FACTS: At approximately 1730 hours, I contacted a female who I observed going inside of 1000 W Apache Trl lot 102 in Apache Junction Arizona. The female was identified as Morgan Muehlhausen D.O.B. [REDACTED] 1995 through her valid [REDACTED] driver license. I informed Morgan the reason for my contact and why I wanted to speak with her about the owner of the space and what is involved. Morgan informed me that her boyfriend, Colton Jones D.O.B. [REDACTED] 1990, has been renting the space for approximately 2-3 years from "Andy", a property owner at the above location. I asked Morgan how Colton and "Andy" decided on the lease agreement to obtain the space, since there were no signs on the building and the information that I was given, the space number was not licensed. Morgan stated she did not know of any "agreement" that should have been documented. I asked Morgan if she was one of the employees of Colton's, Morgan then stated she and Colton both take care of the space and the contents inside. During the interview with Morgan, I asked if the space was considered a "business" regarding the animals that are being kept inside. Morgan informed me that this was more of a "hobby". At this time, I asked Morgan for a verbal consent to do an Animal Welfare check. Morgan gave consent and we entered lot 102. INSIDE OF LOT 102: As Morgan and I entered the lot, I observed many different Gecko's and other associated Lizards that were kept in proper cages with food and water. During the walk through, I asked Morgan if she and Colton ever kept Cats, Dogs, or any other bigger style animals that were being sold off or used as "feeder animals". Morgan informed me there only has been Geckos and Lizards and sometimes, previously, Iguanas. Per Morgan's later statement, she informed me she and Colton "sometimes" sell the Geckos online to people who order them. Morgan also stated she and Colton spend more money on feeding the animals rather than making money selling them online, now confirming this is an actual "business". After confirming all animals were safe and well kept, Morgan and I left Lot 102 where she then locked and secured the building. FURTHER WITH MORGAN: Once I left the unlicensed "business", Morgan then contacted me while I was in my patrol vehicle. Morgan handed me her cell phone and said, "Colton wants to speak with you". CONTACT WITH COLTON: Colton asked me why I was there and entering "unlawfully" into his business. I informed Colton that I contacted Morgan outside of the building because I was conducting an investigation. Colton tried to tell me that, per his Attorney's instructions, that I needed a warrant to enter the building. I advised Colton that Morgan had given me consent to go inside of the business with her so that I can do an Animal Welfare check. I asked Colton if the animals inside of the building were for a "hobby" or if this was an actual "business". I did not get a response from Colton regarding the matter. Colton again stated, "you need a warrant to enter my space".		

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
Before handing the cell phone back to Morgan, I was able to obtain the "Attorney's" contact information. Bret Royal [REDACTED] I was also advised from Colton, that he knows "his rights and the laws". At this time, I broke contact with Colton and handed the cell phone back to Morgan. No further action needed at this time. AXON CAMERA: My department issued body worn camera was activated during this investigation.		
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	BRADFORD, DAVID 411	11/27/2023
APPROVING	DAMON, ANTHONY 227	11/27/2023

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Case Status		
Related Case/Incident Number		
NARRATIVE		
On 11/27/23 at approximately 1605 hours, I received a telephone call from, Bret Royal who left a voicemail and advised he was Colton attorney. The number provided was [REDACTED] On 11/28/23 at approximately 0942 I called Bret on his cell phone and did not receive an answer so I left a voicemail and then attempted contact at his office. I spoke with Bret at his office via telephone and he asked what this was in reference to. I explained to Bret the Apache Junction Police Department had been receiving phone calls about him having animals' at his business located, 1000 W. Apache Trail, Suite 102. Bret asked what was I looking for to which I stated, I just need to make sure if he has animal they are being taken care of. Bret advised he would contact Colton and get back with me. Bret asked if it was okay to call me back on the number from yesterday and I advised it was.		
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	MARTIN, CRAIG 394	11/28/2023
APPROVING	MARTIN, CRAIG 394	11/28/2023

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Case Status		
Related Case/Incident Number		
NARRATIVE		
AJPD Animal Cruelty follow-up Investigation Report Case Number: 231120011 Supplemental Narrative: Incident Details: On Friday, January 19, I was tasked with further investigating an animal cruelty allegation. The case involved multiple individuals, and I had to reach out to various contacts to gather information. To document the steps taken during the investigation, I have prepared this report supplement. The report shows the timeline of events and the follow-up information I found after reviewing the case reports and bodycam footage. Key Individuals: - Location: 1000 W Apache Trail #102, Apache Junction AZ 85120 - Ashok Kumar (DOB: [REDACTED]/1965) - Property Owner - Contact: [REDACTED] - Colten Joseph Jones (DOB: [REDACTED] 1990) - Renter - Morgan C. Muehlhausen (DOB: [REDACTED]/1995) - Renter's girlfriend Timeline of Events from when AJPD was contacted: 1. November 13, 2023 (1023 Hours): Incident #231101255 - Officer Tripp responded to the initial incident. Details of this response are documented in the initial police report. 2. November 20, 2023 (1449 Hours): Incident #231102125 - Officer Bradford responded to the second call related to the animal cruelty case. A comprehensive report, labeled as DR #231120011, was generated based on Officer Bradford's findings. All reports and supplements from Officer Bradford and Sgt Martin are attached and stored in the department. 3. November 27, 2023 (1127 Hours): Incident #231102848 - Sgt Martin responded to a call related to the animal cruelty incident. Further details of this response are included in the attached reports and supplements. 4. November 27, 2023 (1703 Hours): Incident #231102899 - Officer Bradford, Officer Garcia, Sgt Damon, and Commander Beaton were present at the scene. Officer Bradford contacted Morgan, as captured on the department's Axon body-worn camera. Subsequently, Sgt Damon arrived to provide assistance. Permission to enter Suite 102 was obtained from Morgan. While inside, the officers observed several cages containing geckos. No other animals, refrigerators, or freezers were found during the search. Commander Beaton's arrival and entry into the building were also recorded on Officer Bradford and Sgt Damon's Axon body-worn cameras. Contact with AJ City Code enforcement: - I Contacted Stacy Grant [REDACTED] - AJ City Code enforcement officer -Date: November 30, 2023: AJ City Code Enforcement Officer Grant was informed of the allegations and visited the address listed. Grant spoke with Ashok Kumar, the property owner, who claimed to be unaware of the tenants' actions. Ashok expressed his frustration and assured Grant that he would evict the tenants in Suite 102 as soon as possible.		

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
- A Follow-up contact with Grant: - On December 29, 2023: AJ City code Officer Grant confirmed that the tenants had vacated the premises. An active City Code case was investigated and documented with Grant's involvement (labeled as CASE # CE-23-1610) Additional Information: I conducted follow-up on January 19, 2024, and discovered new information regarding the timeline and handling of the animals involved. The delay of 73 days between the animals being sent to Apache Junction and the initial report to AJPD hindered the investigation. - The verification of animal transport between facilities is lacking. There is no video footage available from the Humane Society of Southern Arizona or nearby businesses in Apache Junction, including Dutch Brothers (only has a 14-day time frame of recordings before they are overwritten). The only available video footage is from Officer Bradford's body-worn camera, which shows only geckos within the building. - I contacted the attorney office and spoke with Bret Royal, representing Colton Jones, for information on the whereabouts of the animals when moved from Tucson to Apache Junction. However, Mr. Royal did not return any phone calls. - Upon review, the Tucson Police case is inactive(TPD 2311020076-1). - Apache Junction City Code enforcement is not pursuing charges against Colton Jones as an unlicensed business. - I contacted Pinal County Deputy Attorney Steve Bridger and after speaking with him he revealed that charges related to the use of "feeder animals" cannot be pursued without proof of cruel actions towards the animals. - After reaching out to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, I had the opportunity to speak with Michelle Kleckner, the supervisor in charge. Although she was not directly involved in arranging the transfer of the animals, Michelle provided valuable information she had gathered during her investigation of the incident. According to Michelle, Christian Gonzales, the Chief Programs Manager at the time, facilitated the transfer of over 300 animals from the care of the San Diego Humane Society to Tucson, and then to Colton Jones' care. The original plan was for the animals to be brought to the shelter and placed under Colton Jones' care in the Phoenix area. However, it was later discovered that Colton was located in Apache Junction. Christian was responsible for transferring the animals from Tucson to the Apache Junction location, where Colton received them. Unfortunately, due to threats directed towards Colton, only some of the animals were returned to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. This group included rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, hamsters, and mice, totaling 62 animals according to my conversation with Michelle. However, the whereabouts of the remaining animals are still unknown. The Apache Junction Police Department conducted follow-up investigation and documented our findings in this report supplement. Additional reports, supplements, and available video footage are attached, providing an overview of the steps taken to further investigate the alleged animal cruelty incident. It is important to note that the Apache Junction authorities were initially unaware of the alleged animal abuse due to the time delay. However, we promptly initiated a comprehensive investigation upon receiving the information, demonstrating our commitment to addressing this serious matter. Based on the lack of evidence presented to the Apache Junction Police Department and the limited information from all involved parties, the case is currently inactive. Case Status- Inactive		

INCIDENT NUMBER: 231120011	APACHE JUNCTION POLICE Department NARRATIVE SUPPLEMENT	ORI # AZ0111300
OFFICER INFORMATION		
REPORTING	SUENNEN, FRANK 366	2/14/2024
APPROVING	ROLLINS, WILLIAM 146	2/14/2024