

Orlando Police Department

CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

REPORTING DATE 11/15/2023 20:55	REPORTING OFFICER 32928 - CROWE, HANNAH
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NARRATIVE

On November 3, 2023, I, Detective Crowe #32928 of the Special Victims Unit (SVU) was assigned this case for follow-up investigation. The following is an excerpt of the initial report:

“On November 2, 2023, at approximately 1601 hours, I, Officer B. Kirk #33515, responded to 1723 Bruton Blvd (Dr. James R. Smith Neighborhood Center) in reference to an incident that occurred at 1960 Bruton Blvd (Saint Marks Private School). Multiple parents told dispatch their kids received physical discipline by the Pastor, Terence R. Gray. Upon arrival, I observed a large crowd of parents forming with their kids, wanting to speak with police.

Assisting Officers and I met with a total of twelve parents who all stated their kids were disciplined by Gray. All of the involved kids were in the [redacted] grade class at the aforementioned school. It should be noted a total of twelve kids were on scene who were all disciplined. Out of the twelve kids, two kids sustained minor injuries.

I met with [redacted] and her son, [redacted], inside a private room at the neighborhood center. [redacted] consented to me speaking with [redacted] alone. When asked, [redacted] stated he was in his [redacted] grade class at approximately 1500 hours, along with his teachers. [redacted] said his teachers are [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] said his class were asked to clean up. [redacted] said Gray’s administrative assistant went to get Gray. Gray walked in the class and asked what kids were involved in not listening. [redacted] said Gray selected all the kids which were not listening and lined them up. [redacted] said he instructed the kids to put their hands on the couch and had them bend over one by one. [redacted] said Gray used his belt and hit him three times along his upper right thigh. [redacted] said he hit him very hard, and it made him cry. After speaking with [redacted] I brought [redacted] in. [redacted] consented for her son to pull down his pants so we could inspect where he was hit. I noticed a red mark along his upper right thigh. I captured the mark with my body camera. [redacted] did not want to complete a statement and did not consent to Gray disciplining her son. [redacted] desires prosecution.

I then met with [redacted] and her son, [redacted]. [redacted] consented to me speaking with her son in private. [redacted] stated he was in class, and they were asked to clean up by the teacher. [redacted] said Gray walked in and wanted to know who wasn’t listening. [redacted] said Gray instructed the kids to line-up and put their hands on the couch. [redacted] said Gray hit him three times with his belt as he was bent over. [redacted] said he was hit along his upper right thigh, and it hurt. [redacted] said he has been going to the school for years and this has never happened before. After speaking with [redacted] [redacted] joined us in the room. [redacted] consented to [redacted] pulling his pants down so I can inspect his right upper thigh. I observed a red mark to his upper right thigh. [redacted] also took a photo of [redacted] bruise. [redacted] said she

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looked at the student handbook, and they do not have any policies about students being hit. [REDACTED] said she did not give Gray permission to discipline her child and desires prosecution. I took digital axon photos of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] completed a sworn written statement.

All other parents completed sworn written statements and were in shock their kids were physically disciplined by Gray. Some parents provided a handbook and pointed out nothing was mentioned about corporal punishment. Furthermore, they did not consent or sign anything which gave the school authority to use physical discipline.

Officer K. Johnson (13292) responded to 1960 Bruton Blvd and met with the involved staff: Gray (Pastor), [REDACTED] (Teacher), [REDACTED] (Teacher), and Kendra March (Pastor Admin Assistant).

[REDACTED] stated her [REDACTED] grade class was displaying behaviors that were not in alignment with school conduct codes and rules. [REDACTED] said the class was getting rowdy and March came in. March contacted Gray, who came inside the class. [REDACTED] witnessed Gray spank one kid and then she walked out of the class to deal with another matter. [REDACTED] completed a sworn written statement.

March said the [REDACTED] grade was consistently acting out today. After numerous conversations with their teachers, they were still misbehaving at dismissal. The children were informed the pastor would be coming in to talk to them. March said the kids immediately sat down and started telling other classmates to hush. March said Gray entered the class and asked, "who was acting up come here". March said one of the teachers directed the kids who were acting out to Gray. Gray said, "come here son" and the kid held the chair. March said she heard two pops. March said she turned around and noticed Gray hit a little boy. March said she walked over to Gray and told him to stop. March said she turned her back and started crying. March left the room and to notify the principle, Carol Peterkin-Messiah, of what's going on. March did not see all of the kids being disciplined. March has been employed at the school since 2022 and had three children who attended the school in the past. March was aware of corporal punishment from the years of 2016-2021. Since employed, March does not recall a revised copy that came across her desk for the Pastor to sign. March completed a sworn written statement.

[REDACTED] said March walked in the classroom and the students were running around. The students were yelling, paper was on the floor and students were talking about each other. [REDACTED] overheard March tell the kids they needed to listen or else she was going to get the Pastor. [REDACTED] said March requested Gray and he entered the room. Strachan said Gray asked who had been acting up. Strachan witnessed Gray take off his belt and gave the students three licks on their bottom. [REDACTED] said it was about fifteen students who got three licks each. [REDACTED] did not see Gray hit the kids anywhere but their bottoms. [REDACTED] was told that the school used corporal punishment before. [REDACTED] completed a sworn written

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statement.

Gray stated March approached him and said the [redacted] grade class had once again gone wild. Gray said he addressed the class and told them he would give them a spanking if their behavior continues. Gray said this is a practice which has been used by himself, principals, and counselors in the past. Gray said he walked in the second time and expressed his disappointment in their behavior. He told them to be quiet and sit down. Gray requested those to stand who were using profanity, rudeness, fighting and writing bad stuff on the tables. Gray said he lined the kids up and proceeded to give each child three licks on their bottom. Gray expressed he was only spanking them to prevent them from ending up on the streets. He said they will beat you not out of love but out of correction. Gray said at no time were any licks administered to any other parts of the body. Gray said the last student handbook was done about six years ago. Since that time, Gray believed the corporal punishment policy had not changed. Gray completed a sworn written statement.

It should be noted the principal presented Officer Johnson with a 2023-2024 handbook of the school's guidelines. Above the search and seizure policy stated: "In an effort to correct un-Godly behaviors, the Alpha Learning Academy does proactive corporal punishment. If the principal deems it necessary to utilize this form of behavior modification, the administration acknowledges your signature on the student pledge of cooperation as your consent". Parents on scene advised the handbooks they were presented did not have that corporate punishment policy and they did not sign/consent to it. I looked at one of the handbooks provided by the parents, and the corporal punishment policy was missing out of the handbook."

On November 3, 2023, at 1405 hours Case Coordinator Katherine Masters, Department of Children and Families James Bernier, and I met with [redacted]. In a sworn verbal statement [redacted] stated the following:

[redacted] told her that the students were asked to pick up trash in the room. March entered the room, left, and then returned with Gray. Gray asked who had been acting up and the teacher began pointing out the students. Gray told those students to line up, he took his belt off, then whooped them three times each. I asked how long [redacted] has been attending the Alpha Learning Academy. [redacted] stated this is [redacted] first year. I asked how [redacted] is doing at his new school. She stated it has been an adjustment to private school, but he is getting better every day. She said he has had some issues at school. [redacted] likes to talk a lot and sometimes gets mad when he feels like he is not getting help with work in class. I asked [redacted] if she knows what Pastor Gray's role is within the school, she said she does not believe he does anything directly with the school and was just the Pastor of the associated church.

[redacted] attended orientation and was giving a handbook; she did not have to sign it though. I asked if [redacted] has ever mentioned anyone getting "whooped" before in school, she said no. [redacted] was shocked

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and stated she does not even whoop her son so why would she allow someone else to. This concluded our interview.

At 1434 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things and he agreed.

Masters asked [REDACTED] how school is going, he said not good. [REDACTED] said Pastor Gray came into the room and asked them to line up and gave them three "whoopings." Gray had the students line up, put their hands on the couch and whooped all of them. [REDACTED] stated only two of the students in the class did not get whooped. [REDACTED] stated March, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all in the room when it happened. [REDACTED] stated his class talks a lot and was getting in trouble. He added some of the students had lunch detention that day.

[REDACTED] stated March told the students to line up by the sidewalk and said if they do not clean up, she was going to get Pastor Gray. Masters asked how the room got messy. [REDACTED] stated students were eating in the room when they were not supposed to. [REDACTED] went on to describe the incident stating Gray took off his brown belt and folded it. He was holding the metal piece of the belt when he whooped [REDACTED] on his right thigh. [REDACTED] said he fell to the ground and started crying. He was wearing his school uniform with long pants. [REDACTED] recalled [REDACTED] being hit first; [REDACTED] was hit after his [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated the other students were crying and [REDACTED] was watching and laughing. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

At 1502 hours Masters, Bernier, and I met with [REDACTED] in a separate room. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal statement:

[REDACTED] has been attending the Alpha Learning Academy since he was two-years old. On this specific day, [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] the pastor whooped them, and said he could because it is in the handbook. [REDACTED] stated she looked through the handbook and it does not mention corporal punishment. I asked [REDACTED] what role Pastor Gray plays within the school, she stated he is present at some award ceremonies and is the Pastor of the church. [REDACTED] stated she believes [REDACTED] teacher, [REDACTED] has a personal issue with her son. She stated she goes through the students backpacks and takes their snacks. She is not sure what she does with them, but she knows she does not give them back. This concluded our interview.

At 1531 hours, Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie.

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Masters asked [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things, he agreed.

Masters asked if he knew why he was speaking with her. [REDACTED] stated because the pastor came inside their class and whooped most of the students. [REDACTED] said his class was being loud and continued talking. Prior to the pastor coming in, his class was leaving to go to the gym for dismissal. The pastor made them go back inside the classroom. The pastor asked the class who had been bad and told those students to stand up. [REDACTED] began calling out names of the students she wanted to stand up.

Gray stated if they did not stand up it was going to be worse. He also told them he did not have the right belt. After the students stood up, he had them line up and come bend over the couch, one by one. That is when he took his belt he had folded and hit each student three times on the butt and leg. [REDACTED] described the belt as black and brown and Gray was holding the metal part when he was whooping everyone. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was the first one to get hit and he walked off crying afterwards. [REDACTED] stated he had a bruise on his right thigh from where he was hit. [REDACTED] mentioned Gray entered their classroom sometime the month prior and threatened to whoop the students, but never did. This concluded our interview.

On November 3, 2023, at 1934 hours I attempted to contact Carol Messiah, Principal of the Alpha Learning Academy, at #407-447-2897, and left a voicemail. I then emailed Messiah at principal@saintmarkorlando.org. At 2026 hours, I contacted Messiah at #215-200-4892, Messiah verified her identity by providing her birthdate. I explained to Messiah I was investigating the incident involving Pastor Gray. I asked if she would be willing to speak with me about the incident and she agreed.

Messiah was made aware after the incident occurred when parents began to call her and started showing up at the school. None of the teachers or other staff informed her. She told the parents she was unaware of the situation and apologized to them about what happened. I asked Messiah what Pastor Gray's title would be within the school. She stated he is the CEO of the Church, which is over the school. However, she stated he does not have a day-to-day role at the school or with the students. She added, due to this, most parents and students do not have a relationship with Pastor Gray. Messiah went on to explain she was brought in as the new principal on May 14, 2023, and the last day of school was May 21, 2023. During that time, she made her assessment of the school. After her assessment, she decided to make some changes to the current student handbook. She changed policies regarding tardiness, excessive absences, and when to have parent conferences. She stated somehow the policy regarding corporal punishment was removed from the handbook but she did not remove it. She stated the handbook has been around for approximately 25-26 years.

Messiah stated during orientation with the parents on July 18-20, 2023, they were given the old version of the handbook and she went over it with them. She stated the version she went over with the parents had

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the policy regarding corporal punishment in it. I asked Messiah if she went over that policy with the parents during orientation. She said she did not, she did not feel as though it was her place to do so. Messiah stated in September 2023 the new handbook was given to all the students which had the corporal punishment policy removed. I asked if she had ever given Pastor Gray permission to use corporal punishment with any of the students. She stated she did not approve anyone to use corporal punishment and added she would not hit a child. She stated she was in shock when the parents told her what happened. She told the parents she was very sorry, and this was not planned. Messiah explained both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been relieved of duty. I asked if Pastor Gray was also relieved, she stated he has every right to be on campus, the only one who could remove him is the bishop. I explained moving forward I would recommend she meet with her teachers and staff explaining she does not approve of corporal punishment within her school. She stated her staff should already know she does not approve of that. Messiah stated she could tell Gray was emotional about the incident when they were waiting to speak with police. She stated he is going through a serious illness and hopes we can think about him and everything he has done for the church and community during this investigation. This concluded my interview with Messiah.

On November 4, 2023, at 1110 hours, I contacted [REDACTED] at # [REDACTED] to schedule a forensic interview with her son [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had previously met with officers on scene the day of the incident and filled out a sworn written statement. During our phone call, she stated the following in a sworn verbal statement:

She was told March entered the classroom and told the students they had five minutes to clean up. The students cleaned up and they were told to line up and they headed out of the classroom for dismissal. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] then told the students to come back into the classroom and March went to get Gray. When Gray entered the classroom, he took off his belt, lined everyone up, and made them bend over and whooped them. After he finished, he told the students if he had to come back, he would bring a harder belt and hit them twice the number of times. [REDACTED] stated she did not give anyone permission to "whoop" her child and would like to press charges. During our phone conversation [REDACTED] stated she would be working all next week, but her sister could bring [REDACTED] confirmed her sister [REDACTED] would be bringing [REDACTED] on November 7, 2023, at 1500 hours.

At 1121 hours I contacted [REDACTED] at # [REDACTED] to schedule a forensic interview with her son, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] previously met with officers and filled out a sworn written statement on the day of the incident. She stated her son, [REDACTED], informed her Pastor Gray whooped him with a belt three times. She stated she did not give Pastor Gray or anyone at the Alpha Learning Academy permission to whoop her child. She also did not receive anything in writing stating they were allowed to

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whoop her child. [redacted] would like to press charges. During my phone conversation with [redacted] stated she is working all week but [redacted] stepmom, [redacted] ([redacted]), would be able to bring him in for an interview. We confirmed a forensic interview for Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 1300 hours. [redacted] provided [redacted] phone number as #4 [redacted].

At 1136 hours, I contacted [redacted] at [redacted] to schedule a forensic interview with her son, [redacted]. [redacted] had previously met with officers on scene and completed a written sworn statement. In her statement she stated she was informed by another parent, [redacted], around 1555 hours that all but three students in her son's class were spanked with a belt by Pastor Gray. She immediately hung up the phone and called [redacted] to ask if she was aware of the incident. [redacted] told her she would need to speak with [redacted] and she was in the middle of signing students out of school. [redacted] was able to speak with [redacted] around 1645 hours. [redacted] told her Gray entered his classroom and spanked all but three students with a belt. [redacted] told [redacted] he had not done anything wrong and was crying and embarrassed after the incident. [redacted] stated she did not give anyone permission to whoop her child and she would like to press charges. During our phone conversation [redacted] stated [redacted] expressed he is not comfortable going back to Alpha Learning Academy. [redacted] has been attending the school since kindergarten. Due to the incident, [redacted] plans to withdraw him from the school. [redacted] stated she has never had any issues at the school and this is the first year she has seen a decline.

I asked [redacted] what role Gray plays within the school. She stated he does not have a relationship with the students, and she has never met him before. She stated she saw him a couple years ago at a Christmas event the school did at the church. She said only the students who attend the church know him. I asked [redacted] if she has a student handbook from this year. She stated she was given one a few weeks before school started which was just some papers stapled together. They now have a new spiral notebook handbook. As far as the corporal punishment policy, [redacted] stated Principal Henderson took that policy out of the handbook years ago when her son started kindergarten there. I asked [redacted] if [redacted] has received any referrals this year, she stated he has not.

[redacted] confirmed she could bring [redacted] for a forensic interview on November 7, 2023, at 1000 hours.

On November 4, 2023, at 1542 hours I attempted to contact Gray at #478-320-1120. Gray's phone was off, and mailbox was full.

On November 4, 2023, at 1548 hours I contacted [redacted] at [redacted]. I was able to confirm [redacted] identity with her providing her birth date. I explained I was the detective investigating the incident with Pastor Gray and asked if she would speak with me for a few minutes, she said she would. I asked [redacted] if she could explain to me what happened on the day of the incident. She stated March

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came by her classroom and the students were running around and talking about one another. March told them they had five minutes to clean up or she was going to get Pastor Gray. [REDACTED] stated her co-teacher, [REDACTED] returned back to the classroom and the students had cleaned up and were sitting in their seats. They had the students line up to go to the gym for dismissal. March then came by and asked the teachers to bring the students back to the classroom so Gray could speak to them. The students returned to the classroom and sat in their seats.

When Gray entered the classroom with March, he asked who had been disrespectful. [REDACTED] stated the majority of the students stood up. Gray took off his belt and told the students to come get their spankings. The students lined up and began to cry. The students bent over the couch one by one while Gray hit them three times on their bottoms with his belt. Afterwards, she lined the students up and took them to the gym for dismissal. [REDACTED] stated she had 21 students in her class that day and she believed 18 were hit with the belt.

I asked [REDACTED] if any of the children who were hit with the belt received any referrals prior to the incident. [REDACTED] initially stated all of them, then stated ten of the eighteen had referrals and had multiple calls home to parents. I asked [REDACTED] if Gray discussed with her prior to the incident his plan to administer corporal punishment on the students, she stated he did not. [REDACTED] stated she believed corporal punishment was a discipline procedure within their student handbook; however, she had never witnessed it prior to this incident. [REDACTED] stated she is relieved of duty for not notifying the Department of Families and Children of the incident.

I asked what Gray's role is within the school, she stated he is an administrator and CEO. He comes in and speaks with the students and comes up with different types of programs. She stated he does not have a day-to-day role within the school. I asked if Gray ever informed her of his plan to administer corporal punishment of the students for discipline prior to the incident. She stated he did not, however, he did tell the students about five weeks prior if they continued fighting, he would whoop them, but he never did. [REDACTED] stated she has not spoken with Gray since the incident. I asked [REDACTED] what her understanding is of the school policy as it relates to corporal punishment. She stated she believed it was a part of the discipline procedure however she had never witnessed it. I asked when the last time was she reviewed the student handbook and the corporal punishment policy, she stated a couple weeks ago. I asked if she reviewed the new handbook, she stated she did. (It should be noted the new handbook does not have corporal punishment mentioned). I asked if she contacted any parents about the incident, she stated she did not.

On November 4, 2023, at 1608 hours I contacted Kendra March at #407-986-0387. March confirmed her

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identity by providing her birthdate. I explained to March I was the detective investigating the incident which occurred with Gray and asked if she would be willing to speak with me, she stated she was. I asked March what her title is and she stated Pastor Gray's executive assistant. March stated her and Gray's offices are located inside the school building. March stated Gray's role within the school would be "Chancellor", although he does not have day to day dealings with the school very often.

March stated on the day of the incident the teachers were having a hard time with the students. As she was walking by the classroom, she witnessed the students screaming and she was told a student wrote "help me bitch" on a desk. The teachers requested she get Gray and bring him to the classroom. When she returned to the classroom with Gray, she had her back turned towards him. She heard him ask "who is it", the teacher called out student's names. March then heard the sound of Gray spanking the children with his belt. She turned around, saw what was happening, she went to Gray, grabbed his arm, and told him to stop. He told her not to do that. March then attempted to get in contact with Mr. Greg McDonald, the Chief Administrator. He did not answer her call, so she texted him. I asked March if Gray discussed that he would be using corporal punishment as a form of discipline when they were walking to the classroom or at any time prior to the incident, she stated no, she believed he was coming in to talk to the children.

March stated she had three children graduate from the Alpha Learning Academy, the last one finished two years ago. She had never heard of corporal punishment being used. March left the classroom crying and went to tell Messiah (principal) what was happening. She stated Messiah stated "oh my god" when she told her. I asked March why she was crying, she stated it hurt her to see the children being hit. I asked March if Gray would have personal knowledge of students who have received referrals. She stated it is discussed during staff meetings on Tuesday's, which he attends. They have only spoke about two children during the staff meeting and neither one of those children were in the [redacted] grade class.

On November 6, 2023, at 0915 hours I attempted to contact [redacted], mother of [redacted] [redacted], at # [redacted], a voicemail was left. [redacted] had previously met with law enforcement and completed a sworn written statement on the day of the incident. She stated she was informed Gray entered her daughter's classroom, made the students bend over, and whipped them with a belt. Her daughter informed her [redacted] pointed out the students who were not listening. [redacted] stated she did not give anyone permission to hit her child and she wants to press charges. She added a few weeks prior she asked to observe the class and she was told no.

On November 6, 2023, at 0922 hours I contacted [redacted], mother of [redacted] at # [redacted]. [redacted] had previously met with officers and completed a sworn written statement. During our phone conversation [redacted] stated her son is still attending Alpha Learning Academy but she is getting

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ready to withdraw him due to the incident. She stated her son has been attending the school since [REDACTED]. She had heard about corporal punishment being a form of discipline back in the day, but not since her son has been at the school. I asked if she was at the parent orientation over the summer, she stated she was not. She added they had never done that before and only gave parents a three-day notice about the orientation. [REDACTED] stated she received the handbook in September 2023 and nowhere in the handbook does it mention the use of corporal punishment. She stated [REDACTED] has not received any suspensions or referrals to her knowledge. [REDACTED] stated she would need to speak with [REDACTED] father and let me know when she would be able to have him come in for a forensic interview. [REDACTED] stated her son informed her when he went to school on Friday his teacher, [REDACTED] told the class they should be happy the pastor whooped them.

On November 6, 2023, at 0938 hours I contacted [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had previously met with officers and completed a sworn written statement. In her statement, her daughter stated the pastor whooped her with a belt. [REDACTED] stated she never gave Gray permission to hit her child and she wishes to press charges. While on the phone [REDACTED], stated she was in the middle of switching her daughter's school and asked if she could call me back, I stated I would text her from my number so she could save it.

On November 6, 2023, at 0943 hours I attempted to contact [REDACTED] father of [REDACTED] at # [REDACTED], a voicemail was left, and a text message was sent. [REDACTED] had previously met with officers and completed a sworn written statement. He stated he was informed by his son's mother, [REDACTED], the pastor spanked his son. [REDACTED] stated the pastor is not a member of the school staff and he did not give anyone permission to spank his son.

On November 6, 2023, at 0947 hours I attempted to contact [REDACTED] mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], her voicemail was not set up, a text message was sent. [REDACTED] had previously met with officers the day of the incident and completed a sworn written statement stating the following: At approximately 1416 hours on the day of the incident, the school's secretary contacted her stating she needed to come to the school because her daughter and another student were passing drawings in the classroom. [REDACTED] stated she and [REDACTED] stepfather (NOI) went to the school. The school informed her that [REDACTED] was not in trouble, they just wanted to inform her what was going on. [REDACTED] stepfather asked if they needed to take [REDACTED] home, Messiah (principal) told them no.

At 1546 hours [REDACTED] after school counselor contacted her stating [REDACTED] was crying hysterically because Gray whipped her with a belt three times. [REDACTED] stated she never consented to anyone disciplining her child in that manner and she wishes to press charges.

I swear or affirm the above statements are correct and true.

Officer Name/ID # (Print)

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority,

This _____ day of _____, _____

Notary Public

Law Enforcement Officer

Emp # _____

Orlando Police Department

Orlando Police Department

CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

On November 6, 2023, at 0950 hours I contacted [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had previously met with officers on scene the day of the incident and completed a sworn written statement. In her statement she stated she was contacted by staff of the Smith Center that her daughter was crying due to being hit three times with a belt by Pastor Gray. [REDACTED] stated she did not receive or sign anything giving Gray permission to hit any of her children attending Alpha Learning Academy. [REDACTED] wished to press charges. During our phone conversation [REDACTED] stated this was her daughters [REDACTED] year at the school and she makes straight A's and B's. I asked if her daughter has received any referrals or suspensions, she stated she has not and her daughter has no behavior issues. [REDACTED] stated her daughter told her a student wrote something on the desk. [REDACTED] then asked who did it and either the students did not know or did not want to tell on the other student. [REDACTED] then went and retrieved March, who in turn went and retrieved Gray. [REDACTED] had the children go back into the classroom and Gray entered the classroom and set his belongings down. He told the students to line up and then hit them three times each with a belt on her back and buttocks. [REDACTED] stated her daughter had no marks or bruises on her back or butt, however, she did have marks on her knees, possibly carpet burn from falling to the ground after she was hit. I asked if her daughter was tender any where she was hit with the belt. She said she was crying hysterically when they called from the Smith Center. She said her daughter had on extra clothes underneath which may be why she did not have any marks. Her daughter did say he hit her hard.

I asked [REDACTED] if she was aware of corporal punishment being administered within the school at any point. [REDACTED] said she was not aware; she received her handbook when she signed her daughter up for school. She stated her handbook states corporal punishment would be administered with parental consent. It also stated it would be administered by a principal or dean, [REDACTED] stated Gray is neither and she did not sign to consent to the corporal punishment. [REDACTED] stated she withdrew her daughter from Alpha Learning Academy on Friday, November 3, 2023.

On November 6, 2023, at 1005 hours I contacted [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] previously met with officers and completed a sworn written statement on the day of the incident. She stated the following in her statement: On the day of the incident, she picked up her son, [REDACTED] along with [REDACTED], from school. Their teacher, [REDACTED] explained to her there was an incident in the classroom. When [REDACTED] entered the vehicle, she was crying hysterically. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] explained [REDACTED] lined all but two of the students up. Gray had the students bend over and pulled his hand all the way back and hit the students with his belt. The children reenacted the incident in the vehicle for [REDACTED]. She stated

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

corporal punishment was in not in her handbook and she did not give anyone permission to whip her son.

During our phone interview [redacted] stated her son has been attending the school since [redacted]

[redacted]. She stated the school was amazing. I asked [redacted] if she had ever heard anything about the use of corporal punishment at the school, she stated "no, never."

[redacted] stated she was [redacted]. She stated she met with Gray about a month prior and spoke how the school is "so cold" and not the same. I asked [redacted] what her understanding was of Gray's title within the school. She stated he has no title with the school, but he is the Pastor of the associated church. The only time he was involved with the students was when he would invite them to the church for events there. She stated some of the parents would go to Gray about issues they were having since the new principal took over. She stated the parents had voiced concerns about [redacted] not having control of the classroom, but they did not remove her because they did not have anyone to replace her.

[redacted] went on to say her son was the first one to be hit by Gray. I asked her if her son has received any referrals or suspensions from school this year, she said no.

[redacted]. I asked [redacted] if her son had any marks on him from the belt. She said no, but added [redacted] complained her back hurt, however, she did not see any injuries on her. [redacted] stated she was going to withdraw her son from school at 1200 hours.

On November 6, 2023, at 1215 hours [redacted] returned my call. She stated [redacted], could bring [redacted] for a forensic interview on Wednesday November 8, 2023, at 1330 hours.

On November 6, 2023, at 1320 hours I spoke with [redacted] via text message. She stated [redacted], could bring him for a forensic interview tomorrow (Tuesday November 7, 2023) at 1200 hours.

On November 6, 2023, at 1636 hours [redacted] returned my call with [redacted] (mother) on the phone. We scheduled a forensic interview with his son, [redacted] for Wednesday November 8, 2023, at 1130 hours. During our phone conversation [redacted] and [redacted] stated their son has been attending Alpha Learning Academy since [redacted] I asked if they were given a student handbook, [redacted] stated they have been given handbooks throughout the years and had just recently been given the new handbook, which was a section inside of their planner. I asked if either of them had to sign anything in regards to corporal punishment. [redacted] stated the only thing she

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

signed was for different activities for their son to be involved in, to allow him to use the internet, and them allowing their son to be in pictures for social media. I asked the parents if they were aware of a policy regarding corporal punishment in the past while they have been attending the school and they were not aware. I asked if their son had received any referrals or in home suspensions this year and they stated no. They added [REDACTED]. I asked if their son was having any issues with the class. [REDACTED] stated he has this year; he has been having issues with [REDACTED] being rude to the students in class (yelling at students and marking things wrong that are not wrong). When they asked their son about the incident, he stated Gray entered the room and [REDACTED] had them all stand in line. Gray hit all but three students with a belt. I asked them what role Gray plays within the school, they said he does not have a role within the school, he is the pastor of the church.

On November 6, 2023, at 1854 hours I contacted [REDACTED], the mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had met with an officer earlier that day and completed a sworn written statement stating the following: On the day of the incident, she received a phone call from her daughter's school stating her daughter had written on her school desk. She informed the school she would come in and speak about it during their conference Friday morning. When [REDACTED] arrived home from school around 1800 hours [REDACTED] asked her what type of punishment she should receive for writing on the desk. [REDACTED] stated her daughter would usually say to take her phone or electronics away, but she stated a "whooping". [REDACTED] asked her if that is what she really wanted and [REDACTED] told her she had already gotten a whooping. [REDACTED] told her a man hit her with a belt three times. [REDACTED] immediately attempted to contact [REDACTED] and the school with no success. [REDACTED] went on to explain the man wanted her to bend over, when she did not, he grabbed her arm and hit her on the butt and leg. He told the class if they did not stop crying, he would hit them two more times. [REDACTED] stated it was not until the next day when she met with Messiah did she know it was the pastor who hit her daughter. [REDACTED] wishes to press charges.

During our phone conversation [REDACTED] stated she attended the orientation over the summer. I asked if Messiah went over the student handbook with them at that time, she said she did not. I asked if she ever signed anything in the handbook. She said [REDACTED] told her she needed to sign something but could not locate her handbook. She informed her daughter that if they needed her to sign something they would send another copy home for her which they never did. [REDACTED] was unaware of corporal punishment be administered within the school. She was also unaware who Gray was until her friend's daughter told her. Messiah informed her the pastor is not affiliated with the school.

On November 7, 2023, at 0959 hours Masters, [REDACTED] Gully, and I met for an interview. In a sworn verbal statement [REDACTED] stated her son [REDACTED] has been attending Alpha Learning Academy since [REDACTED]. On the day of the incident a parent contacted [REDACTED] asking if she was aware

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

of Pastor Gray spanking the children. [redacted] stated she was not and called [redacted] father, who was picking him up at that day. When he did not answer, she contacted [redacted] teacher, [redacted], via phone. When she asked her about the spanking, [redacted] stated she would need to speak with [redacted] about the incident and she had nothing to do with it. [redacted] then reached out to a friend whose child attends the school who she knew would be at student pick up. She asked her if she could speak with [redacted] When [redacted] got on the phone, he stated Pastor Gray came in the classroom, pointed out four boys to stand up, which included himself. Pastor Gray told the class they were not going to continue disrespecting his church. [redacted] then had the remainder of the students to stand up. [redacted] told his mom he tried to go to the back of the line. When it was his turn, the pastor made him put his hands up and then bend over. He was struck with the pastor's belt three times. [redacted] told his mom that he was embarrassed, and it hurt when he was struck. [redacted] noted that [redacted] was laughing when this incident occurred.

I asked [redacted] if [redacted] has received any referrals this year, she stated he has never been written up or received any referrals. [redacted] stated she has received a student handbook every year, none of which discussed corporal punishment being administered. I asked [redacted] what role Pastor Gray plays within the school, she said he does not have a role. She has only seen him one time at a Christmas event a few years back. [redacted] stated she withdrew [redacted] from school on Monday and he will be starting at [redacted] tomorrow (November 8, 2023). This concluded our interview.

At 1038 hours Masters met with [redacted] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [redacted] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [redacted] to promise to only talk about true things while speaking with her today, he agreed. Masters asked [redacted] if he knew why he was here today. He said because Pastor Gray whooped him in front of the other kids in the class. Masters stated she wanted to ask [redacted] questions about that.

[redacted] stated Pastor Gray came into the class with his assistant and told them they were not going to keep disrespecting his church. Gray set his things down, took his brown belt off, and called out four students by name: [redacted], and his name. [redacted] stated [redacted] called out the rest of the students to stand up. [redacted] told a few students to sit down. Gray had the students line up and one by one, bend over the couch as he gave them three "licks" each on their bottoms. [redacted] stated [redacted] was the first student to get whooped. When he was done, he told the students they could tell their moms Pastor Gray whooped them. [redacted] stated while they were getting whooped [redacted] was smiling and laughing, [redacted] was sitting the purple chair, and March was standing there as it happened. [redacted] said none of the adults attempted to stop Gray.

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

After the incident the students went to the gym for dismissal. [REDACTED] told the students she thought Gray was "bluffing" about hitting the students with a belt. Masters asked [REDACTED] if he has ever been hit at school before, he said no. [REDACTED] stated he has been attending Alpha Learning Academy since Kindergarten and has only met Gray once or twice a few years back. Masters asked if any of the students were fighting, throwing things, using bad words, [REDACTED] said no. Masters asked [REDACTED] if Gray had come into the classroom that day prior to the incident, he said no. This concluded Masters interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1202 hours, Masters, Gully, [REDACTED], and I met in a separate room for an interview. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal statement: [REDACTED] was informed by his son that the pastor took off his belt and whooped him and multiple other students in the class. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that the pastor was supposed to come in and speak with them. [REDACTED] stated there is no way a child is going to volunteer to be whooped. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] teacher [REDACTED] has a way of getting under the student's skin, causing the students to have behavior issues all year. I asked [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] has received any referrals or suspensions this year, he said no, however, he has been referred to the principal's office a lot this year compared to other years. He said they are complaining about [REDACTED] not doing his work, not completing his work, talking back to the teacher, etc. He said they are making him out to seem like he has bad behavior, but they have never had this issue before.

I confirmed with [REDACTED] that his son has been attended Alpha Learning Academy since [REDACTED]. I asked if he ever had issues in the past at school. [REDACTED] stated not to this extent. They have gotten a couple calls before, but this has become consistent with [REDACTED] complaining about him almost every other day. Ira stated his wife went and spoke with Messiah about how [REDACTED] speaks to the students, [REDACTED] explained she would scream and yell at the students.

I asked if [REDACTED] had any marks on him when he arrived at the Smith Center. [REDACTED] said no, and he was not complaining of pain. I asked [REDACTED] what his knowledge of Gray's role within the school. [REDACTED] stated he does not have a role within the school. He said he has never seen Gray at school outside of school events that actually take place at the church. I asked if [REDACTED] has ever spoke about Gray, he said no. I asked if anyone from the school has reached out to them since the incident, he said no. I confirmed they withdrew [REDACTED] from school on Monday (November 6, 2023) he said yes. I asked if anyone spoke to them about the incident then, he said Messiah tried to apologize on Gray's behalf.

I asked if [REDACTED] attended school the day after the incident, he said he did. [REDACTED] told him [REDACTED] informed the class they are lucky Gray whooped them. [REDACTED] mentioned [REDACTED] mother confronted [REDACTED] after the incident asking why she allowed Gray to hit all the children. [REDACTED] response was "I let him?", she did

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

not say anything further. This concluded our interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1223 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [REDACTED] how he likes Alpha Learning Academy, he said once he got to [REDACTED] grade it got worse. [REDACTED] said he has two teachers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] is not that nice, she teaches math and science.

Masters asked [REDACTED] if he knew why he was speaking with her today. He said yes, it is about last Thursday. He stated he and his classmates were "chillin" and Gray's assistant, March, entered the classroom. March told the class that when she comes back, she wants to see everything cleaned up. [REDACTED] said the class was messy due to the kindergarteners in aftercare making a mess in the classroom. [REDACTED] stated his class started cleaning up and went to sit back down before dismissal. [REDACTED] returned to the classroom and believed the students were running around, unaware that March told the class to clean up. March returned to the class and said, "wow you are being good". [REDACTED] did not believe they were being good, so March went to get Gray. When Gray entered the room, he took off his black and brown belt and had the students line up. [REDACTED] said the teachers had the entire class get in the line expect for few students. Gray was standing by the couch and had each student bend over and gave each student three whoopings. Masters asked who got a whooping first, he said [REDACTED] then [REDACTED] followed by [REDACTED] then he was whooped. Some of the students had "whips" (marks from the belt) on them. [REDACTED] stated he was hit on the buttock, but he did not get a mark. Masters asked [REDACTED] what part of the belt Gray was holding, and he said the metal part and hit them with the soft part.

Masters asked what adults were present in the room when this happened, he said, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and March. Masters asked what [REDACTED] was doing while the students were getting whooped. He said she was on her phone and did not try and stop Gray. Masters asked what [REDACTED] was doing when the children were getting whooped. He said she was talking to a [REDACTED] grandmother who saw the students standing in line crying. Masters asked what March was doing when Gray was whooping them, he said she was just looking. Masters asked if she said anything to Gray, he said no. Masters asked if anyone tried to stop Gray, he said no. [REDACTED] added that March told his mom she tried to stop Gray but she did not. After the incident, during dismissal, [REDACTED] recalled [REDACTED] telling everyone what happened in the classroom while laughing and doing an "arm roll", as though she was happy, they got whooped.

When [REDACTED] returned to school on Friday [REDACTED] told the students they should be thanking Gray for whooping them. Masters asked If Gray came into the classroom before he whooped them on the day on the incident, he said he did not come into the classroom prior to the incident. [REDACTED] added he has only seen

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

the Gray two times before this. He said once when he was in a fight with the other students and the second time during the fall festival at the church. [REDACTED] stated he had gotten in trouble in the past for poking another student in the eye and the other student pushed him back. Messiah spoke with him about the incident, when he returned to the classroom Gray entered and told them if he has to come in again, he will whoop them. Masters asked if he has ever been whooped at school before or known of anyone who has, he said no. This concluded his interview with Masters.

On November 7, 2023, at 1257 hours Masters, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated she is [REDACTED] girlfriend and they have lived as a family for over three years. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal statement: [REDACTED] has been attending the Alpha Learning Academy since [REDACTED] and was receiving straight A's until this school year, when he started receiving C's. [REDACTED] stated his teacher, [REDACTED] would call home almost everyday for minor things, such as him not having his uniform on and them wanting him to be picked up. On the day of the incident, [REDACTED] did not receive any calls from school. [REDACTED] believes after school the children went to the Smith Center and the center began calling parents informing them of what happened. Once [REDACTED] was notified, he contacted [REDACTED] and they both met [REDACTED] i and law enforcement at the Smith Center. I asked if they saw any injuries on [REDACTED] when they arrived. She said she saw a little redness, but he did not have any bruising. [REDACTED] i told her the pastor made them line up, took his belt off, and hit him in the back and butt.

I asked if [REDACTED] has received any referrals or suspensions this school year, she was not aware of any. She stated the entire [REDACTED] grade class is hyper and acts out, but believes the teacher does not know how to handle them. I asked if she spoke with anyone from the school about what happened. She said she tried contacting [REDACTED] the next day, but she did not answer. She then called the front desk to schedule a meeting with [REDACTED] and she was told she would need to get approval from the principal. I asked what role Gray plays within the school and she believesd he is just the pastor of the church. She knew who he was because she has attended that church in the past. I asked if she was aware of the school using corporal punishment as a form of discipline, she said no. I asked if [REDACTED] is still attending Alpha Learning Academy, she stated they withdrew [REDACTED] and his siblings from school last Friday. They will be attending the Faith Academy. [REDACTED] added [REDACTED] told her March was standing in the room when it was happening crying while she watched what happened. This concluded our interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1313 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things, he agreed. Masters asked [REDACTED] if he knew why he was speaking with her, he said because of the incident with the pastor at school. [REDACTED] stated Ms. Kendra (March) came by the room and told the class she was

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

going to give them five minutes to clean up the room or she was going to get Gray. Some of the students got up to start sweeping and [REDACTED] told them to sit down. Gray and March returned to the classroom, Gray told the students he was sick and tired of the nonsense. He told the class to get in line and began to whoop them.

Masters asked [REDACTED] if Gray had come in at any time earlier that day to talk to the students, he said no. He added back in October, Gray came in and warned the students if he they continued misbehaving, he was going to whoop them. [REDACTED] stated no one was in trouble on that day. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] got whooped first. Gray had the students line up, put their hands on the couch, and bend over. He said Gray was holding the metal part of the belt and the top of the belt hit him. He said he was hit on the butt, the back, and the back of his left calf. He said he did not have any bruising and the pain was gone by the time he got to the Smith Center. Masters asked what teachers were in the room when this happened. He said [REDACTED] was sitting at her desk, [REDACTED] was sitting in the purple chair, and March was standing in the room and told Gray to stop multiple times. Eventually she could not watch anymore, she had her hand over her face crying, and left to go to the front office. No one else told Gray to stop. After the whoopings, Gray told the students he is going to make sure he brings his hard belt and told them they could tell their parents he whooped them.

[REDACTED] stated he and his classmates were crying in the line before they were whooped and continued crying after. [REDACTED] recalls Gray pausing after whooping about eight students saying he was "tired of this", then continued with the rest of the kids. [REDACTED] stated a few students did not get whooped. When Gray had everyone stand up, the teacher told some of the kids to sit down. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1447 hours I contacted [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated she met with police about the incident Friday November 3, 2023, [REDACTED] stated she could bring [REDACTED] in for a forensic interview on Thursday November 9, 2023, at 1100 hours.

On November 7, 2023, at 1500 hours, Masters, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED], aunt of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal statement. She stated on the day of the incident her sister, [REDACTED], called her stating [REDACTED] got whooped at school. She met up with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and observed [REDACTED] leg was swollen and hot, and [REDACTED] was limping. She was told the students were told they had five minutes to clean up the room or they would get the pastor. Gray entered the classroom and told them he was getting sick and tired of this. Then he took off his belt, had the students line up, and whooped each of them. [REDACTED] did not understand why she was not contacted if there was an issue with [REDACTED]. She stated [REDACTED] regularly contacts her about [REDACTED] but she said on that day she was not contacted. [REDACTED] stated to her knowledge Gray is not an employee of the school.

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

This concluded our interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1515 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. In the interview Masters asked a series of qualifying questions and determined [REDACTED] knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked for [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things while they spoke today and he promised.

Masters asked [REDACTED] if he knew why he was speaking with her. [REDACTED] said it was because Pastor Gray whooped them. He went on to explain he and his classmates were playing around in class. March walked into the room and said they had five minutes to clean up. He said they cleaned up and when she returned, she said "wow". [REDACTED] then returned to the classroom and told March the students were not behaving well. March went and got Gray to come into the classroom. When he entered the room, he took off his belt, and made the student line up by the couch. [REDACTED] said the students began crying while they were in line. Gray had each student bend over the couch and hit them with the belt. [REDACTED] said he was hit on his right thigh, and it felt bruised. Masters asked [REDACTED] what part of the belt hit him, he said the black part hit him and Gray was holding the silver part (buckle). Masters asked if [REDACTED] remembered who was hit first, he said [REDACTED] was.

[REDACTED] said after the students were hit Gray told them next time he has to come into their classroom they would receive double the whoopings with a harder belt. He also told them if they did not stop crying, he would whoop them again. Masters asked if Gray had come into their classroom at any point during the day prior to the incident, he said no. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] and March were present in the room while this was happening. [REDACTED] was sitting down on her phone watching her students getting whipped. [REDACTED] was on her phone and talking to someone and March was watching but seemed scared. [REDACTED] stated no one tried to stop Gray. [REDACTED] added that approximately two months prior Gray ended the classroom and told them if they continued to be disobedient, he would give them a whooping. Gray had not entered their room since that day. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

On November 7, 2023, at 1540 hours I attempted to contact [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], a voicemail was left, and text message was sent. [REDACTED] contacted me back a short time later. [REDACTED] stated she had not met with law enforcement regarding the incident but wanted to. We scheduled a forensic interview for the next day at 1030 hours (11/8/23).

On November 8, 2023, at 1036 hours Masters, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED] to conduct an interview. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal and written statement: [REDACTED] works two jobs and was unaware of the incident until her son, [REDACTED], told her before school the

I swear or affirm the above statements are correct and true.

Officer Name/ID # (Print)

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority,

This _____ day of _____, _____

Notary Public

Law Enforcement Officer

Emp # _____

Orlando Police Department

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

following day. [REDACTED] told her Pastor Gray entered their classroom and whooped almost all the students with a belt three or four times. I asked if she checked to see if he had any marks or bruises from the belt, she said she did not check. I asked if he was complaining of pain, she said he was not. He did tell her when he got whopped it did hurt. I asked [REDACTED] if she spoke with anyone at the school about the incident, she said she tried to contact [REDACTED] teacher, [REDACTED] that morning when she found out but never received a call back. I asked if she had ever spoke to [REDACTED] on the phone before, she stated she had reached out about a month and a half ago for a situation.

I asked [REDACTED] if she had received a student handbook, initially she stated no. She then stated her son has his planner in his backpack, I asked if it had the calendar, she said yes. I asked if she ever had to sign anything within the planner, she said no. I asked if she was ever made aware of corporal punishment being used within the school, she said no, and did not give anyone permission to whoop her child. I asked if she knew what Gray's role is within the school. She did not believe he had anything to do with the children and he was just over the church. She stated this is her son's [REDACTED] year at the school and she has never met Gray.

[REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] is currently still attending Alpha Learning Academy until she finds a new school that will take his scholarship to enroll him in. [REDACTED] stated she did not give anyone permission to administer corporal punishment on her son and she wishes to press charges. This concluded our interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1050 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between the truth and a lie. Masters ask [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things today and he agreed. Masters asked [REDACTED] if he knows why he is speaking with her today, he said no. He said he may be here to talk about what happened at school. [REDACTED] stated Pastor Gray came into the classroom and spanked almost every student in the class. Masters asked [REDACTED] what was happening during the day prior to Gray coming in the classroom. He stated March came in and said they needed to be quiet, and the floor needed to be cleaned. When she returned, she said the room was clean and they were being quiet, [REDACTED] stated they were not. March then went to get Gray.

When Gray entered the classroom, he took off his belt and told the students to come. When the students did not get up, he screamed at them to get in a line and he had everyone line up in front of the couch. Masters asked who got in the line, he said almost the entire class, except three students. Gray then proceeded to hit all of the students in line with a belt three times. Masters asked who was hit first, he said

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

After, the students were crying and returned back to their chairs. Masters asked where he was hit, he said his behind, he said it hurt but he did not have any marks or bruises. Masters asked what part of the belt hit him, he said the black part and Gray had the belt folded.

Masters asked where she was when this was happening. He said she was at her desk watching. She did not say anything to Gray and did not try to stop him. Masters asked where she was when this was happening. He said she was out of the classroom and did not believe she saw any students getting hit with the belt. Masters asked where March was when this was happening, he said she was not in the classroom. Masters asked if anyone tried to stop Gray, he said no. Masters asked if Gray came by the classroom or spoke with anyone from the class earlier in the day, he said no. stated the day of the incident a couple students were doing bad things and one student wrote on the desk. He said he was not doing anything to get in trouble, but Gray came in and hit almost the entire class. Masters asked how Gray knew not to hit the three students. He said did not tell the three students that were not hit to line up, she told the rest of the class to get in line.

Masters asked what the students were doing while they were in the line. He said as soon as they saw the first student get hit, they started backing up and crying. Masters asked what the students did after they were hit with the belt. He said they were crying and went back to their desks. stated he was crying a little bit as well. Masters asked if he knew of any other students getting hit with a belt at school, he said no. stated the next day there were only seven or eight students left in his class. Masters asked if there is anything else she has not asked that he thinks she should know. said sometimes tells the students to get a life. This concluded her interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1135 hours Master, Gully, and I met with , mother of , to conduct an interview. In a sworn verbal statement stated the following: On the day of the incident was running late picking up and from school. She said at pick up she saw and she did not say anything about the incident. When got into the car, he said the pastor whooped students in his class but initially stated he did not get whooped. A couple hours later a friend called her and confirmed the students in class were whooped by Gray, to include

She was told Gray entered the classroom and pointed out different students who were misbehaving. That is when Gray began whooping the students. I asked how long has been attending Alpha Learning Academy, she stated . I asked if she had received the student handbook, she said she did, but did not attend orientation over the summer. I asked in has been attending the school if she has ever heard of them using corporal punishment as a form of

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

discipline, she said never. [redacted] stated she went through the handbook did not see anything about corporal punishment. I asked if [redacted] has received any suspensions or referrals this year. She said the teacher called her one time about an incident, but that was it. [redacted] stated she plans to remove [redacted] from the school and place them into public school for the rest of the year.

I asked [redacted] what Gray's title is within the school. She stated to her knowledge he does not have a title. She has only seen him from time to time at ceremonies or Christmas plays. I asked if [redacted] has ever spoke about Gray coming into his class before. After this current incident, [redacted] told her about two weeks prior Gray came into the classroom and told the students if he had to come back, he was going to whoop them. I asked [redacted] if [redacted] had any marks or bruises from the incident or if he complained of pain, she said he did not.

[redacted] stated on the Friday after the incident the assistant in the office called her stating the teachers had been removed from the classroom. [redacted] believes the teachers needed to be removed from the classroom. I asked if [redacted] has had any issues with [redacted] prior to this incident. She said [redacted] would tell her [redacted] would take students snacks, call students liars, and says things that bother the students in class. [redacted] stated they have not had any issues in the years past at school. This concluded our interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1158 hours Masters met with [redacted] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [redacted] a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [redacted] to promise to only talk about true things today and he promised. Masters asked [redacted] if there was anything at school that was not going well. [redacted] stated the pastor came in and whooped almost the whole class. [redacted] stated he did not get whooped in the classroom. He was sent to the office to meet with Gray and he was whooped there. Masters asked what caused Gray to come into the classroom, [redacted] said the class was being loud. [redacted] recalled a few weeks prior to this incident Gray coming into the classroom and stating if he had to come back he was going to whoop them.

[redacted] stated he went to Gray's office by the sanctuary to receive his whooping because [redacted] said he was talking back. [redacted] explained someone was at the door and trying to get inside of the lobby, he told another student to open the door, [redacted] told him to be quiet and to get a life. After the students in the class were whooped, [redacted] told [redacted] that Gray wanted to see him in the office. [redacted] went to Gray's office and stated no other adults were there. When [redacted] arrived in the office Gray was sitting behind his desk and told him he was going to whoop him. [redacted] stated he was standing by the couch and Gray then whooped him with his belt on his legs and butt. [redacted] said he was wearing shorts to school that day and

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

had a bump on the back of his left calf from being whooped, but it went away. Masters asked how many times he was hit and he said five times. He remembered this because Gray was counting outloud. Masters asked [REDACTED] why he was whooped after and not when the other students were whooped. He said [REDACTED] told him she forgot to tell Gray about him. After Gray whooped [REDACTED] he went back to the gym and waited to be picked up from school.

Masters asked [REDACTED] if he remembered what student got whooped first, he said [REDACTED] She asked if he remembered who got whooped last, he said [REDACTED] Masters asked [REDACTED] what his classmates were doing when they were getting whooped, he said they were crying. Masters asked if anyone tried to stop Gray when he was whooping the students, he said no, [REDACTED] was just watching. Masters asked [REDACTED] if he has ever gotten a whooping at school before, he said no, that was the first time. [REDACTED] stated after the class was whooped, Gray told them he did not care if they told their parents or call the police. This concluded [REDACTED] forensic interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1239 hours Masters, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED] to conduct an interview. [REDACTED] had previously completed a sworn written statement with law enforcement. During our interview today, she stated the following in a sworn verbal statement: Her son, [REDACTED] has been attending Alpha Learning Academy since [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. I asked [REDACTED] if she was aware of corporal punishment being used as a form of discipline at the school. She stated she never saw it happen and never saw it in her handbook.

On the day of the incident, she picked up her son, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], from school. As she was waiting for the children to come to the car, [REDACTED] told her there was an altercation at school and the students will tell her about it. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got into the car and [REDACTED] began to cry. She informed her that Gray had the students line up, bend over, and beat them with a belt. [REDACTED] told her he was the first to get hit and he was hit four times. [REDACTED] decided to meet up with [REDACTED] mother and they went back to the school.

I asked [REDACTED] what Gray's role is within the school. She said he is over the church; he is never really with the students in the school. I asked if [REDACTED] has mentioned Gray coming into their class before. She stated a few weeks ago [REDACTED] said Gray threatened them that he was going to whoop them with a belt. [REDACTED] believed it was just a threat and he would not actually carry it out. I asked, besides [REDACTED] if she has spoken with anyone at the school since the incident. She stated when she went to the office, Messiah (principal) was crying and apologized stating she did not know anything about it. She said March told her she was there when it happened, she was in shock and just left the classroom. [REDACTED]

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

█████ stated both █████ and █████ have been withdrawn from school. This concluded our interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1310 hours Masters met with █████ to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked █████ a series of qualifying questions and determined he knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked █████ to promise to only talk about true things, he promised. Masters asked █████ if he went to school today, he said no, because he is going to a different school. Masters asked █████ why he was going to a different school, he said because Pastor Gray gave him a whooping with a belt. Masters asked █████ how many times he was whooped with the belt, he said four times on his buttocks. Masters asked █████ who got whooped first, he said he did. Masters asked █████ how Gray knew which students to whoop. He said █████ told Gray which student were bad.

Masters asked who else was in the room besides Gray and the students when this occurred. █████ said █████ and a female he did not know were in the room, none of them said anything or tried to stop Gray. Masters asked if Gray said anything prior to whooping the students and he stated Gray told them he did not have the right belt. Masters asked if █████ has ever been whooped at school before, he said no, this was his first time. This concluded Masters interview with █████

On November 8, 2023, at 1330 hours Masters met with █████ to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked █████ a series of qualifying questions and determined she knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked █████ to promise to only talk about true things, she promised. Masters asked if she went to school today, she said no, she has to go to a new school because the Pastor Gray came into the classroom and whooped the students. Masters asked why Gray came into her classroom. █████ said March went to get Gray because of the class's behavior. Masters asked if anyone was getting in trouble that day, she said █████ got in trouble because he would not stop talking.

█████ stated when Gray walked in and said, "whoever was bad come line up", but no one lined up. █████ stated Gray picked █████ made him go over to the couch, bend down, and whooped him with his belt from his waist. After █████ was whooped, █████ picked out the rest of the students to be whooped. Masters asked █████ if she remembered what students were whooped in class and █████ recited the majority of the students' names. She stated █████ did not get whooped in the classroom but was whooped later by Gray. Masters asked where in line she was for the whooping. █████ said she was towards the end of the line because she was scared. She stated the students were all crying waiting in line.

Masters asked █████ how many times she was whooped, she said three times on her back and buttock. █████ said she was hit with the portion of the belt that had holes in it, Gray was holding the metal part of the belt. Masters asked what adults were in the room when this happened and what were they doing.

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Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

██████████ said ██████████ was at her desk smirking when it was happening. March started crying when it happened and left the room. ██████████ was there at the beginning but left for dismissal. Masters asked if anyone tried to stop Gray from whooping them, she said no. Masters asked ██████████ if Gray came into her classroom that day prior to the incident. She stated not that day but a couple weeks prior he came in, pulled his belt up, and said he was going to whoop them if they do not behave. Masters asked if she knows of any other students at the school being whooped, she said no.

Masters asked how ██████████ is as a teacher, ██████████ said she does not know how to teach. She stated she always yells, sometimes at the wrong student, and calls the students liars. Masters asked how ██████████ is as a teacher. She said she is the favorite and knows how to teach. ██████████ said ██████████ and ██████████ argue with each other in front of the class. This concluded ██████████ interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1435 hours Masters, Bernier, and I met with ██████████ for an interview. During the interview ██████████ stated the following in a sworn verbal statement: On the day of the incident, she received a call from the Smith Center around 1540 hours stating ██████████ was crying stating she was whooped by the pastor. ██████████ stated she contacted the school and talked to Ingra Tookes, who works in the school's office. Tookes told her she did not have any knowledge and was hysterical on the phone. Tookes stated she was receiving multiple calls from parents and said she was going to go find March to see what was going on. ██████████ then contacted March herself. March told her she knew why she was calling and that they were trying to get an understanding of what was happening. She stated as soon as they find out anything she would contact her back. Shortly after ██████████ arrived at the school. She stated there were two other parents standing in the front with Messiah, March, and the office assistant, and she believed they were trying to contact Gray. Denise left and went to the Smith Center to pick up ██████████

When she arrived, she could tell ██████████ had been crying. She asked her what happened. ██████████ told her just before dismissal ██████████ went to go get Gray and March because of their behavior. ██████████ asked what their behavior was, she said they were talking loudly, yelling, screaming, and being disruptive at dismissal. When Gray entered the room, he had all the students stand up and make a line. That is when Gray took off his belt and whooped the students. Afterwards Gray told them if he gets another report, it will be worse next time. I asked ██████████ if ██████████ had any marks on her from the incident, she said no but ██████████ said it hurt. ██████████ told ██████████ she took the whooping because she was scared.

██████████ withdrew ██████████ from Alpha Learning Academy on Friday November 3, 2023. She stated ██████████ has been attended Alpha Learning Academy since ██████████ stated ██████████ has been having issues at school all year, unlike the previous years. She said for ██████████ had ██████████ as a teacher virtually due to Covid. She said all you could hear was ██████████ yelling at the students through the

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

monitor. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] went from being on the Honor Roll and Principal's List to being written up once a week and being suspended for five days for being disruptive in class. During that incident, [REDACTED] went over the student handbook and told Messiah [REDACTED] was not given a verbal warning, a write up or an in school suspension, but they went straight to suspension even though the handbook states they will take disciplinary steps. Messiah dropped [REDACTED] suspension from five days to two days. [REDACTED] stated she had another incident where [REDACTED] wrote on the wrong side of the paper for her math assignment. When [REDACTED] turned the paper in, [REDACTED] threw the paper in the garbage. [REDACTED] met with Messiah and [REDACTED] to try and discuss this the week before this incident happened. [REDACTED] stated she was planning to move [REDACTED] to a different school come December due to the issues she was having with the school.

I asked [REDACTED] if she knew what Gray's role was within the school. She said they would only see him at events at the church. [REDACTED] stated she went through her handbook she received from the school; she could not find anything about corporal punishment. She was contacted by Ashley James (NOI) who was previously an assistant at the school. She stated the previous principal, Shakelia Henderson, had taken the corporal punishment policy out of the handbook years ago. [REDACTED] stated she did not give the school consent to use corporal punishment on [REDACTED]. This concluded our interview.

On November 8, 2023, at 1528 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions to determine she knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked for [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things while speaking with her today, she agreed. Masters asked [REDACTED] if she knows why she is here today, she said of what happened at school. [REDACTED] explained her class was being bad by talking in class and not letting the teacher speak. March later entered her classroom and thought the class was behaving well, [REDACTED] told her they were not. March went to get Gray and brought him to the classroom. When Gray came into the classroom, he took off his belt, told [REDACTED] to put his hands on the couch and bend over, then whooped him with his belt three or four times. Gray then told everyone to stand up and get into a straight line. [REDACTED] said the class did not get up to get in line. Gray told them to get in line or it would be worse. [REDACTED] stated most of the students tried to go to the end of the line because they were scared. Gray then proceeded to have all the students bend over the couch and whooped all of them.

[REDACTED] said she was whooped three or four times on her butt and her side. She said she did not have any marks, but it hurt to sit down. Masters asked [REDACTED] what school uniform she was wearing that day, and she said it was a skirt. [REDACTED] said during the incident [REDACTED] was sitting at her desk on her phone watching, [REDACTED] was sitting at her desk watching, and March was crying. [REDACTED] stated no one tried to stop Gray. She stated after the incident Gray told the class if he had to come back it would be worse and that he did not bring the right belt this time. This concluded the interview with [REDACTED].

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

On November 9, 2023, at 0905 hours Masters, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED] for an interview. During the interview [REDACTED] reiterated what she wrote in her sworn written statement and explained to me during our phone interview.

On November 9, 2023, at 0936 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked a series of qualifying questions and determined she knew the difference between the truth and a lie. Masters asked [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things with her and she agreed. Masters asked [REDACTED] if she went to school today, she said no. [REDACTED] went on to explain March went and got Gray to come into their classroom. When he came in, he told the students who were being bad to line up. (It should be noted [REDACTED] did not know Gray's name and only referred to him as the pastor). He told the students to bend over the couch and whooped them. [REDACTED] stated she was wearing a skirt and did not want to bend over. Gray grabbed her arm to make her bend over, then whooped her on her leg with his belt three times. Gray told the students if they did not stop crying, he would hit them two more times.

[REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] and March were in the classroom when the incident was taking place. She stated [REDACTED] was sitting in the classroom watching, [REDACTED] left the room, March was at the door, but then left the room as well. [REDACTED] stated no one tried to stop Gray. After the incident [REDACTED] said she felt like her leg was bruised when she was leaving school, but she did not have any marks from the belt. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

On November 9, 2023, at 1025 hours I contacted [REDACTED], we confirmed a forensic interview for Wednesday November 15, 2023, at 1100 hours.

On November 9, 2023, at 1138 hours Master, Gully, and I met with [REDACTED] for an interview. [REDACTED] met with law enforcement previously and completed a sworn written statement. [REDACTED] reiterated the statement she had previously gave to officers. She was informed Gray entered her daughter's classroom and whooped the students with his belt. Gray told the students if he had to come back, he would hit them two more times. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was hit by the belt on her lower back three or four times. [REDACTED] stated she received the handbook and signed the portion allowing the students to be videoed. She did not sign a consent for corporal punishment. I asked if [REDACTED] has received any suspensions or referrals from school, she said she has only been called twice about her behavior, but nothing beyond that. [REDACTED] added she had never met or spoken with Messiah and has only spoke with Gray one time. This concluded our interview with [REDACTED]

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CASE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

On November 9, 2023, at 1201 hours Masters met with [REDACTED] to conduct a forensic interview. During the interview Masters asked [REDACTED] a series of qualifying questions and determined she knew the difference between the truth and a lie. Masters asked [REDACTED] to promise to only talk about true things and she agreed. Masters asked [REDACTED] if she knew why she was here today, she said the pastor at school whooped them with a belt. [REDACTED] stated March went to get Gray and brought him to the classroom. When he entered, he took his belt off, and whooped [REDACTED] first. Then he had all but a few students line up, bend over the couch, and whooped each of the students three times. [REDACTED] said she did not want to get whooped, so she went towards the back of the line. She stated the children were crying in the line. During the incident [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were watching it happened, and no one tried to stop Gray. Afterwards Gray told the students he did not have the right belt and if he had to come back, he would hit them two more times. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

On November 10, 2023, at 1118 hours I attempted to contact [REDACTED], [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], and a voicemail and text message were sent. At 2003 hours, [REDACTED] responded to my text message and we confirmed a forensic interview for November 14, 2023, at 1400 hours.

On November 11, 2023, at 1358 hours I attempted to contact [REDACTED], a voicemail was left.

On November 11, 2023, at 1527 hours I attempted to contact Shakelia Henderson (former principal of Alpha Learning Academy) at #321-438-9192, a voicemail was left.

On November 11, 2023, at 1544 hours I contacted Brenda Golden (former teacher at Alpha Learning Academy) at #407-325-2919. Golden stated she taught at the Alpha Learning Academy for eight years, and left after the 2022-2023 school year. Golden was this [REDACTED] grade's class [REDACTED] grade teacher. Golden stated she was never in a position while teaching these students that she could not control them. I asked Golden what her understanding was of the corporal punishment policy within the school. She stated the former principal, Shakelia Henderson, removed that policy five years ago when she became principal at the school. She stated Henderson and the teachers went through the entire handbook, page by page, and removing corporal punishment was the first change she made. I asked Golden what Gray's role is within the school, she stated Henderson would be able to answer that question, but her understanding was he was the pastor of the church and school falls under the church. Gray did not have a day-to-day role within the school. Golden added while she was teaching, Gray would not attend regular staff meeting and would not have any knowledge of the student's behaviors or what punishments they received for offenses.

I swear or affirm the above statements are correct and true.

Officer Name/ID # (Print)

Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority,

This _____ day of _____, _____

Notary Public

Law Enforcement Officer

Emp # _____

Orlando Police Department

Orlando Police Department

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CASE# 2023-00401986

1250 W South St
Orlando, FL 32805

NARRATIVE (continuation)

I asked Golden if she knew of corporal punishment being used within the school. She stated she heard Gray used it about ten to eleven years ago, but only one time. This concluded my interview with Golden.

November 12, 2023, at 1718 hours I contacted Shakelia Henderson at #321-438-9192. Henderson stated she had been the principal at Alpha Learning Academy for five years, with her last year being the 2022-2023 school year. She had worked in the public school system for ten years prior to that. I asked Henderson about the corporal punishment policy at Alpha Learning Academy. She stated she took the policy out of the handbook when she arrived at the school. She stated she did not want to deal with the risks and believed in behavioral management. She stated prior to her arrival, she had heard stories about corporal punishment being used. She stated she went through the handbook, page by page, and the teachers understood the corporal punishment policy was removed. I asked if Gray was involved in that meeting. She stated he was not involved in the school on that level, however, is the owner of the school on paper. She stated his involvement with the school was very limited and the majority of parents and students did not have dealings with him.

Henderson stated while she was principal, she did not have major discipline problems with the students. I asked Henderson if she had any issues with [REDACTED] as a teacher. She said during COVID parents were complaining about how she spoke to the students and her lack of ability to relate to them. Henderson eventually moved [REDACTED] to a lower grade after having meeting with the students and other teachers about their concerns. I asked if she had any issues with [REDACTED] as a teacher. Henderson stated at the end of last year she had given Johnson a non-renewal letter due to the academic side of things. She did not have any issues with her classroom management, but issues with professionalism and teamwork.

Henderson added she thought it was odd for the pastor to have been called for a discipline issue. She stated his office was in the family life center and his study was outside of the fellowship hall, where the [REDACTED]-grade classroom is. This concluded my interview with Henderson.

On November 14, 2023, at 1407 hours Masters, Bernier, and I met with [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] for an interview. [REDACTED] stated the following in a sworn verbal and written statement: [REDACTED] has had sole custody of [REDACTED] for over a year. She stated [REDACTED] has been attending the Alpha Learning Academy since [REDACTED]. She stated [REDACTED].

On the day of the incident Messiah contacted [REDACTED] to come into the school to speak about an issue with [REDACTED]. When she arrived at the school, Messiah informed her that [REDACTED] and another

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

student were passing a picture around the class. When they finished the meeting, it was approximately 1528 hours. [redacted] asked if she could go to the class and pick up [redacted] she said yes. When she got to the door it was locked, she could hear a male's voice inside yelling. [redacted] came out of the class and told her the pastor spanked the students. The door locked behind [redacted] and they were unable to get into the classroom. [redacted] was not sure what to do, she was unsure since the students were at a private school if they were allowed to use corporal punishment. She went to her vehicle and waited for [redacted] to be released from school. When she got into the vehicle her face was red and she told [redacted] the pastor whooped them. [redacted] went to [redacted] house after school for the majority of the night. The next morning [redacted] observed a bruise on her upper thigh. (The picture of the bruise was uploaded to Evidence.com).

I asked [redacted] if she attended orientation over the summer and she stated she had. I asked if Messiah went over the handbook with them during the orientation. She did not recall them actually going over the handbook, just her going over expectations. I asked if she was aware corporal punishment being used in the school, she said she was not aware and does not remember signing anything giving them permission to do so. She initially had a meeting scheduled for the day after the incident about a separate issue at school. She stated [redacted] had been given an in-school suspension for writing on the bathroom wall. [redacted] was notified by the school, but [redacted] told her multiples times she did not do it. Messiah informed her she knew it was her because the other students in the bathroom were taller and would have had to bend down to write on the spot on the wall. [redacted] stated she had a previous issue with [redacted] When [redacted] received a zero on a test [redacted] spoke with [redacted] about it and she asked to see the test. [redacted] informed her she had thrown [redacted] test away in the trash. [redacted] mentioned she was trying to have a meeting with the Gray about the issues. She was unsure of his role within the school, but was advised by Ingram Tookes, who works in the front office, to meet with him. She stated she would not have scheduled a meeting with him if Tookes had not told her to do so. She stated since the incident, she has withdrawn [redacted] from the school. While she was withdrawing [redacted] the staff assistant and Tookes apologized for what occurred. This concluded our interview.

On November 14, 2023, at 1450 hours Masters met with [redacted] in a separate room to conduct a forensic interview. Masters asked [redacted] a series of qualifying questions and determined she knew the difference between a truth and a lie. Masters asked [redacted] to promise to only talk about true things and she agreed. Masters asked [redacted] if she knew what she was talking to her today. [redacted] said yes, because of the situation that happened at school. She said Gray came in the classroom and put his stuff on a student's desk. Masters asked how Gray knew to come into the class. She was not sure, she said possibly his assistant, March. [redacted] did not remember where the belt came from but remembered seeing a belt in

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

Gray's hand. Gray had the class line up, except for three students, and began whooping each student three times. [REDACTED] said she was scared so she went to the end of the line. She said [REDACTED] got hit first and was hit four times. The students were crying after being hit and Gray told them to be quiet, but they continued crying and Gray told them to "shut-up". Masters asked how Gray knew which students to hit, she said Gray did not know but her [REDACTED] told him.

Masters asked [REDACTED] where she was hit, she said her buttocks, back, and leg. Masters asked if she had any marks or bruises on her body from the belt. She said she had a bruise on her left thigh from the belt wrapping around her leg when he hit her. Masters asked how long it hurt for and she said a long time. Masters asked what she was wearing during the incident. She said she was wearing her school uniform with long pants. Masters asked what adults were in the room when Gray whooped them with a belt. She said her two teachers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and Gray's assistant, March. Masters asked if any of them tried to stop Gray, she said no. Masters asked what [REDACTED] was doing when Gray was hitting them with the belt. She said she was smiling and nodding her head "yes" in approval. She asked [REDACTED] what [REDACTED] was doing, she said she was watching and looked like she was disappointed in what was happening. Masters asked if any of the adults left the room during the incident. She said her great grandmother came to the classroom door while Gray was whooping them. She said [REDACTED] went to the door to talk to her great grandmother and did not come back in due to the door being locked. Masters asked if her classroom door had windows in it, she said it had a window, but it is very tinted.

Masters asked if she has ever been hit at school before, she said no. She mentioned in possibly September 2023 that Gray came in the classroom after some students were fighting and warned them. He said if he heard anything like that happening again, he would come in and whoop them. [REDACTED] said something is going on with her teacher, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has had issues with other students in the classroom, to include pushing her and slapping a pencil out of her hand, which occurred in front of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did not anything, but when [REDACTED] would push the student back, she would get in trouble. This concluded [REDACTED] interview.

On November 15, 2023, at approximately 1300 hours, CPI Bernier contacted [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told Bernier she was hit with a belt by Gray. Her story corroborated the other students' statements.

I reviewed the older version of the student handbook provided to law enforcement on scene. In the handbook it stated:

"Level 2 Infraction are referred to the Principal in writing by the teacher and may include, but are not limited, the following: Repeated horse-playing or roughhousing, repeated insubordination, open

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defiance, reoccurring acts of classroom disruptions, reoccurring acts of disorderly conduct, reoccurring acts of disrespect for others, inappropriate language, or materials, and etc.

To remedy Level 2 Infractions, teachers and/or administration may use progressive consequences as follows:

First Referral: Counseling with student, Parent contact, detention and/or Saturday school

Second Referral: Parent conference, Saturday school or home suspension

Third Referral: Home Suspension or corporal punishment in lieu of home suspension with a mandatory guidance conference upon returning to school from home suspension”.

After a review of the revised student handbook given to the parents in September of 2023, the portion discussing corporal punishment was removed.

A review of Florida State Statue 1003.32 in regard to corporal punishment within schools the statue states the following:

“(k) Use of corporal punishment according to school board policy and at least the following procedures, if teacher feels that corporal punishment is necessary:

1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used. The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses, the conditions under which the punishment shall be administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to administer the punishment.
2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal punishment only in the presence of another adult who is informed beforehand, and in the student’s presence, of the reason for the punishment.
3. A teacher or principal who has administered punishment shall, upon request, provide the student’s parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.”

As the above information states, Gray’s use of corporal punishment did not meet the standards of the current or previous Alpha Learning Academy student handbook. Nor did Gray’s use of corporal punishment follow the procedures stated within the Florida State Statue.

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NARRATIVE (continuation)

It should be noted, after speaking with all the victims, parents, family members, and some current and past school staff, there was not a consistent answer on Gray's role within the school. The only consistent answer was that he does not have a day-to-day role within the school or with the students. Therefore, not standing in loco parentis to the students.

It should also be noted, Gray hit sixteen children a minimum of three times each, with his belt on the day of the incident. These children were hit anywhere from their backs to their legs. Gray did not know what offense each child was being punished for, or if they had previously been punished for such offense. Therefore, being unable to determine if the punishment fit the offense of each child individually.

On Friday November 10, 2023, Messiah notified the parents via email that due to the ongoing investigation with law enforcement Gray had taken a voluntary brief sabbatical.

As stated above, Gray intentionally struck sixteen children without parental consent. Therefore, there is probable cause to charge Terence Gray with 16 counts of Battery F.S.S. 784.03. These charges will be filed with the State Attorney's Office.

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