

Gainesville Police Department

OCA: 0223013167

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Case Status: SWORN COMPLAINT

Case Mng Status: DETECTIVE SWORN...

Occurred: 08/01/2021

Offense: SEXUAL BATTERY

Investigator: JOHNSON, R. L. (1146)

Date / Time: 10/18/2023 18:56:09, Wednesday

Supervisor: PANDAK, J. M. (0695)

Supervisor Review Date / Time: 10/27/2023 17:51:09, Friday

Contact:

Reference: Supplement

Case Report: 02-23-013167

Type of Investigation: lewd/lascivious battery

Victim: [REDACTED] (dob:01/27/2006)

Offender: Noel Cruz (Dob: 04/11/2001)

Involved others:

[REDACTED] (DOB: [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]

This investigation begin while investigating GPD case reports 02-23-011223 & 02-23-011377.

On 07/13/2023 at 10:45 I was contacted via phone by [REDACTED] I had recently spoken to [REDACTED] briefly on 07/11/2023 regarding her wanting to make a report related to my recent arrest of a member (Gabriel Hemenez) that attended Ignite Life Center. Ignite Life center is a church located at 404 NW 14th Ave.

[REDACTED] stated she attended Ignite summer internship back in July 2021. At the time [REDACTED] resided in New York but her church at the time was a sister church to Ignite. [REDACTED]'s children were invited to travel to Gainesville to attend the church's summer internship program. [REDACTED] allowed her daughter [REDACTED] to attend in 2018, and 2021. [REDACTED] stated when she attended the Summer internship in 2021 she helped cook for the summer program. She stated at that time her daughter [REDACTED] would report to her sexual behaviors that were occurring between the youth at the camp. [REDACTED] stated sometime last year her daughter [REDACTED] reported she was sexually abused at the 2018 summer internship. [REDACTED] reported the incident to GPD (CR 02-23-004972). [REDACTED] stated since her daughter last attended the summer camp she has stayed in contact some of the youth that attend the summer program with her. She her daughter [REDACTED] has been in contact with [REDACTED] She stated [REDACTED] disclosed to [REDACTED] that two adult's males named Christian Vargas and Noel Cruz are actively pursuing younger females for sex. [REDACTED] disclosed to [REDACTED] she had been sexually active with both Noel and Christian at Ignite.

Audio from my phone interview with [REDACTED] reference the above statements can be reviewed from body worn camera footage for case report 23-011223. Further investigation revealed [REDACTED] is currently 17 years old and Noel 22 years old.

[REDACTED] provided me with text messages between her daughter [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] disclosing the incidents between [REDACTED] and Noel. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] sent [REDACTED] a voice message record that [REDACTED] sent to [REDACTED]. On the voice note [REDACTED] talks about an incident between her and Noel while at church Noel disclosed to [REDACTED] how often he thought about her and how he missed her. [REDACTED] tells [REDACTED] "I felt cocky" hearing Noel describe how he felt about her. She also stated "I've never had so much fun with a person not just sexually." She continues to state that afterwards Noel and [REDACTED] left church together. She and Noel made out in a parking lot where [REDACTED] performed oral sex on Noel. [REDACTED] stated she needed to tell someone. She stated Noel was 20 and because of his age she couldn't tell anyone else. (I

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submitted these statements into evidence.)

I reviewed case reports from GPD 22-004972. In this report [REDACTED]'s sexual encounters were mentioned and investigated regarding Christian.

On 07/20/2023 I was contacted by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated she'd like to come and speak with me regarding sexual abuse.

On 07/21/2023 at approximately 9:30am I met with [REDACTED] at Gainesville Police Department. Alongside [REDACTED] was her mother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated on yesterday she met with an attorney to discuss some incidents that took place with Christian and Noel while attending Ignite Life Center.

The interview with [REDACTED] was recorded on body worn camera under GPD case report 23-0011223.

According to [REDACTED] she and Christian begin having sexual intercourse in June 2021. [REDACTED] was 15 years old and Christian was 17 years old. Prior to the sexual intercourse between [REDACTED] and Christian he would text her flirty messages. She stated her and Christian begin casually having sex at the church in the furnace and various location inside the church during church service. She stated Christian would ghost her in between the times they had sex. The two continued having sexual intercourse until November 7, 2022. [REDACTED] was 16 years old and Christian was 18 years old. She stated her and Christian stopped having sex after her parents found out about the relationship. She stated in November [REDACTED] called her mother, after she confided in her daughter [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told her mother about the sexual incidents with Christian and Noel. According to [REDACTED] her parents arranged a meeting with Pastor Mark Vega, Lisa Vega, and other Pastors of the church. She stated present during the meeting were the pastors and her parents, Christian, Noel and Noel's dad, Jose Cruz. The meeting took place in November 2022 at Pastor Mark Vega's home. She told everyone at the meeting about her sexual encounters with Christian and Noel. She disclosed how long the relationships lasted. She stated Noel and Christian both admitted in the meeting to having sex with her. [REDACTED] stated the meeting felt like a time for them to be restored and to put everything behind them. Mark explained jail would not resolve the issue. Mark tried to scare Noel and Christian with Jail.

[REDACTED] stated she had been friends with Noel for a long time the both of them attended Ignite together. She stated she begin having sexual intercourse with Noel Cruz back in August 2021. At this time [REDACTED] was 15 years old and Noel was 20 years old. She described Noel was a very sexual person. Prior to the two of them having sexual intercourse Noel would text [REDACTED] about his previous sexual relationships with other people. He then begin suggesting to [REDACTED] that he wanted to have sex with her.

She stated on the first time the two of them had sex Noel drove her home after a youth event. Noel asked [REDACTED] to bring him some water. When she went back out to give Noel the water. Noel asked her to get into her car, he drove her around in the parking lot of the apartment complex. Noel started talking to her about his sexual interactions with other people in the past. He told [REDACTED] "but I know you aren't about it", suggesting she was afraid to have sex. She stated Noel was downplaying her and telling her she was not as experienced to having sex with him. She

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stated she told him she wasn't lying. The two of them begin kissing in the backseat of his car. He inserted his penis inside her but stopped shortly after. She stated he took her home. Later that night he text her telling her he didn't feel comfortable because the two of them were close friends. She stated after that night her and Noel continued a sexual relationship. Noel and [redacted] would have sexual intercourse at various places in the church, inside his car, and once at his home. She stated she performed oral sex on him more than vaginal penetration. She performed oral sex on him at the church. She stated during church service or after church services sometimes the two of them would leave church and have sex in his car in various parking lots. The location depended on church service. She stated she eventually stopped having sex with Noel in March- April 2022 ([redacted] was 15 years old, Noel was 20-21 years old. The relationship ended after Noel begin dating someone else. [redacted] stated she felt taken advantage of by Christian and Noel. She stated she was never forced to have sex with either Christian or Noel and the sexual contact between them were consensual. [redacted] has not had any sexual contact with either Noel or Christian since last year, 2022.

Notification to DCF hotline on 08/22/2023 at 10:45 report was taken by DCF representative Kendra #993. Kendra stated the report would be documented but no assigned for investigation. I then made contact with Devon Montague at CPT (Child protection team) and completed a referral for therapy for [redacted] I receive an email by CPT regarding therapy for [redacted] would presume.

On 10-18-2023 at 6:00pm, I spoke with [redacted]'s father [redacted] via phone. He stated [redacted] disclosed to him about the sexual incidents between [redacted], Nicholas and Christian. Upon learning of this information he contacted Mark Vega to speak with him about this information. He stated he spoke with Noel's dad (Jose Cruz), and Mark Vega on three way over the phone the three of them planned a meeting with Noel, and Christian. Mark and Joel stated over the phone that at the meeting: "We're gonna scare the shit out of these guys and let them know what will happen if the law gets involved."

The meeting occurred later that night at Mark Vega's home in attendance at the meeting to discuss the sexual incidents between [redacted], Noel and Christian Vargas. In attendance of the meeting was Jose Cruz, Mark, Lisa Vega, Pastor Nicholas Bruce, and Ester Omeeven, [redacted], Noel and Christian.

During the meeting, Noel and Christian admitted to having sex with [redacted] and they had taken advantage of her. The agreement was for the sexual activity to stop between them. Since the meeting the sexual contact between Noel, and Christian stopped with [redacted]. [redacted] stated at the time he forgave Noel and Christian for the incident. He expected change but after the meeting Noel and Christian acted as if nothing happened. V [redacted] was upset over the incident. He stated at the time of learning of the incident between V [redacted], Noel, and Christian he did not report the incident to law enforcement. He tried to keep it in house, because they were lead to believe there would be healing and restoration but unfortunately this did not happen. He felt he was naïve in not reporting the incident to law enforcement. After learning of the incident involving the investigation regarding Gabriel Hemenez he decided to leave the church. [redacted] believes that mental damage was caused against his daughter.

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CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Printed: 10/30/2023 13:51

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Based on the disclosures made by [redacted] she first begin having sexual intercourse with Noel Cruz in August 2021 when [redacted] was 15 years old. Noel during that time was 20 years old. The relationship continued up until [redacted] turned 16 years old. A sworn complaint was submitted against Noel for unlawful sexual activity with [redacted] prior to her legal age of consent. No charges will be submitted against Christian Vargas as it relates to this investigation. I was unsuccessful in speaking with him for an interview.

DSC

CLO: 10/19/2023

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Supervisor Signature