

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TEXAS RANGERS**

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LEAD INVESTIGATOR: ANTHONY BRADFORD SUPERVISOR: JASON BOBO TITLE: QUESTIONABLE DEATH, TARRANT COUNTY, JOHN WILSON, 04-20-2018 TYPE: CRIMINAL SERVICE: DISTRICT: SUBTYPE: OTHER - QUESTIONABLE DEATH CATEGORY: SPECIAL APPROVAL: PROGRAM: SPECIALIZED SERVICES CASE#:	INVEST#: 2018I-TRB-50024139 OPENED: 04/25/2018 FILE STATUS: CLOSED DIVISION: TEXAS RANGERS REGION: B AREA: SPURS URN: CMIV50024139 REVIEW DATE: LEGACY REF: SUBPROGRAM: QUESTIONABLE DEATH		

INVESTIGATION SYNOPSIS

On 04-20-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, began assisting Azle Police Department with a Questionable Death investigation related to the death of John Robert Wilson.

SUPPLEMENTAL SYNOPSES

S1 04/25/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford

05/09/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON

On 04-20-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, began assisting Azle Police Department with a Questionable Death investigation related to the death of John Robert Wilson.

S2 05/08/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford

05/11/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON

On 04-20-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, began assisting Azle Police Department with a Questionable Death investigation related to the death of John Robert Wilson.

S3 05/08/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford

05/11/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON

On 04-23-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, reviewed video evidence related to this investigation.

S4 05/08/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford

05/11/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON

I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, continued this investigation by reviewing evidentiary items provided by Azle Police Department.

S5 05/08/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford

05/11/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON

On 05-04-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, obtained written statements from Steven and Tammy Carpenter as part of this investigation.

S6 06/26/2018 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford**07/09/2018 Approved by: ALAN DAVIDSON**

On 06-22-2018, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, continued this investigation by reviewing the autopsy report related to this case. All reports and attachments to this case will be submitted to the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office for review.

S7 09/03/2019 Report Writer: Anthony Bradford**09/05/2019 Approved by: Jason Bobo**

On 09-03-2019, I, Texas Ranger Anthony Bradford, reviewed this file for update purposes. This case was brought before a Tarrant County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury found Steven Carpenter acted in self-defense and declined to indict him on any charges. File closed.

SUPPLEMENTAL DETAILS

S1 1.1 On 04-20-2018, I began assisting Azle Police Department with an investigation related to the Questionable Death of John Robert Wilson, white male, date of birth 12-30-1964.

1.2 Additional details of this investigation will be submitted in subsequent supplements to this file.

S2 2.1 On 04-20-2018 at approximately 8:00 PM, I was contacted by Azle Police Lieutenant Kevin Rogers in reference to a Questionable Death investigation. Lieutenant Rogers advised me an off duty Lake Worth Police Department Captain, who resided in Azle, had been assaulted in his front yard by a neighbor. During the ensuing physical altercation, the neighbor became unresponsive and was transported to Texas Health Hospital in Azle, where he was pronounced deceased. Lieutenant Rogers advised me the Lake Worth Captain, later identified as Steven Burl Carpenter, white male, date of birth [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] was also injured during the incident and was at the same hospital in Azle.

2.2 I responded to Texas Health Hospital in Azle and arrived at approximately 9:00 PM. I met with Lieutenant Rogers, who provided me with a more detailed briefing of the situation: The decedent was identified as John Robert Wilson, white male, date of birth 12-30-1964. Wilson was residing with his mother, Mary Beverburg, white female, date of birth [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] and his step-father, Richard Beverburg, white male, date of birth [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] at a residence located at 324 Driftwood Court. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wilson had a mental health and substance abuse history and had been acting erratically earlier today. The Beverburgs had provided all of Wilson's medications to EMS, which were now in the custody of APD. APD Investigators were at Carpenter's residence documenting the scene and conducting a canvass to determine if any of the surrounding houses in the neighborhood were equipped with surveillance systems which may have captured the incident.

2.3 A neighbor, later identified as Susan Kendrick, white female, date of birth

■■■■-■■-■■■ witnessed the incident after it had already began and stated to APD that Carpenter had Wilson down in the yard trying to restrain him and kept telling him to calm down. Eventually, while awaiting the arrival of APD, Wilson stopped breathing and Carpenter and others present provided aid/CPR to Wilson until the arrival of police and EMS. No other witnesses to the beginning of the altercation were identified to me at this time.

2.4 I went into Carpenter's room in the ER and met briefly with him and his ■■■■ identified as Tammy Carpenter, white female, date of birth ■■■■■■. Carpenter advised me he had contacted the Texas Municipal Police Association and requested an attorney to represent him. Carpenter stated the attorney was on his way to the hospital at that moment. I advised Carpenter I would refrain from questioning him related to the incident and obtained his identifying information and inquired about injuries he sustained to ensure they were documented. Carpenter pointed out lacerations and swelling on his forehead/left eye area, scratches on his back and neck, and a bite to his left thumb which had broken the skin and was bandaged. Lieutenant Rogers advised me all of Carpenter's injuries had been photographed before my arrival. During this time, Attorney Lance Wyatt arrived in the room. I conferred with Mr. Wyatt briefly to ensure he had contact information for me to coordinate the taking of a statement by Carpenter at a later time.

2.5 I met with the Beverburgs and Susan Kendrick, along with her husband, identified as Jay Kendrick, white male, date of birth ■■■■■■, in the surgery waiting area at the hospital. The Beverburgs were waiting on the TCME Investigator to finish taking photographs and documenting Wilson's condition before being allowed in to see him before he was taken to TCME for autopsy. I obtained their information and was informed again by Kendrick that she had given a statement to an APD Investigator before coming to the hospital. The Beverburgs and the Kendricks resided in houses right next to each other, with the Kendrick's residence situated between the Beverburg's and the Carpenter's. Richard Beverburg expressed concern for Carpenter and stated he was sorry for the fact Wilson had a mental illness and had drug Carpenter into the situation. Susan Kendrick reiterated she witnessed Carpenter restraining Wilson and that Carpenter was trying to calm Wilson down, even while Wilson was trying to bite Carpenter. I conferred with Lieutenant Rogers, and considering the late hour, Ms. Beverburg's age and emotional state, and the fact she was about to go in to view her deceased son's body, I felt it would be more appropriate to conduct formal interviews of these persons at a later time rather than immediately. Lieutenant Rogers agreed and stated he would assign this task to an APD Investigator.

S3 3.1 On 04-23-2018, I met with Lieutenant Rogers and obtained current APD reports and photographs related to this incident. Lieutenant Rogers advised

me APD Investigators were meeting with the Beverburgs and Kendricks later on this date to obtain formal statements related to the incident. Lieutenant Rogers further advised me a home surveillance camera at a neighbor's house across the street from Carpenter's residence had captured the incident. Lieutenant Rogers additionally stated he was in the process of having all of the APD in-car and body camera footage copied, along with the 911 call from the incident.

3.2 Later on 04-23-2018, I reviewed the video footage of the incident. A summary of the video is provided in the following details. Note, the times listed are from the timestamp on the video, which appear to be synched with the actual time of day. There is no audio available on the video.

3.3 Summary of video of incident:

5:45 PM - Wilson walked from the direction of his residence to Carpenter's residence and knocked on the door. Wilson was met at the door by Tammy Carpenter. They appeared to converse briefly. Wilson then left and walked back in the direction of his residence.

5:47 PM - A black Dodge pickup pulled into Carpenter's driveway and went behind the house, out of camera view.

6:08 PM - Wilson walked back to Carpenter's residence, carrying what appeared to be a beer in his hand. Wilson went to the front door, and either opened the door briefly himself, or someone opened the door that was not visible. Wilson did not go inside and instead went around the side of Carpenter's residence, down the driveway to the rear of the residence. Wilson was following a younger child, who appeared to be showing Wilson where to go.

6:12 PM - Wilson walked back down Carpenter's driveway and back towards the direction of his residence.

6:13 PM - Wilson walked back into camera view and went back down Carpenter's driveway to the back of the residence. Carpenter and Wilson were visible at the back corner of the residence at 6:16 PM, and Wilson eventually started walking back down the driveway towards the street with Carpenter slightly behind him.

6:17 PM - Carpenter stopped halfway down the driveway and observed as Wilson walked to the street. Wilson got to the street and turned and began apparently speaking to Carpenter in an animated fashion. Wilson walked back up Carpenter's driveway and got in Carpenter's face and set his beer down on the driveway. Wilson stepped back and appeared to "square up" in a manner consistent with a fighting stance. Wilson took the first swing at Carpenter at 6:17:29 on the video. Carpenter defended himself and the two exchanged punches and began to grapple while standing. They went to the ground on

Carpenter's lawn at 6:17:36, just as Tammy Carpenter came out of the residence. Tammy began to hold her hand up to her head in a manner consistent with being on the phone. Wilson ripped Carpenter's shirt off and Carpenter got Wilson's left arm in a hold at 6:17:56. At this point, Wilson was on his knees with Carpenter behind him.

6:19 PM - Wilson finally went to the ground, on his stomach, with Carpenter still struggling to keep control of him from behind, lying on Wilson's back. The resolution of the video was not clear enough to see the exact manner in which Carpenter was holding on to Wilson. Tammy was still apparently on the phone and Susan Kendrick drove up to her driveway and ran to the scene to observe. Carpenter continued to struggle to keep control of Wilson in this manner, with Wilson still moving and resisting periodically until 6:22:52.

6:22:52 PM - Carpenter rose up off of Wilson and began to act in a manner consistent with checking his physical condition. At 6:23:38, Carpenter rolled Wilson over onto his back and got over him in a position consistent with beginning to administer aid/CPR (Carpenter's full actions after rolling Wilson over were partially obscured by a tree in the field of view of the camera angle).

6:25 PM - First APD units arrived, officers took over resuscitation efforts.

For details, view the referenced video.

S4 4.1 On 04-30-2018, I met with APD Lieutenant Rogers and obtained a packet from him containing all reports, attachments, in-car and body camera video, 911 calls and recorded interviews related to APD Offense/Incident #18AP004298. The attachments included partial medical records for Wilson, provided by Mary Beverburg. Full medical records for Wilson and Carpenter related to this incident had not been received by APD on this date. The key points of the APD reports/evidentiary items will be summarized in the following details.

4.2 Susan Kendrick stated she observed Carpenter fighting with someone as she passed by their residence. She ran to the area and recognized it was Wilson. She stated Carpenter kept telling Wilson he was a police officer and to stop fighting. Wilson was screaming and cursing and threatening to kill Carpenter. Wilson continued to resist and strike at Carpenter, and eventually Carpenter put Wilson in a "hold." Kendrick described it as a hold where Carpenter's arms were behind Wilson's head, holding Wilson's arms up.

Wilson continued to yell and curse. Eventually, Wilson “went limp” and fell completely face first in the grass. Carpenter rolled Wilson over and then began doing chest compressions until the arrival of APD.

4.3 The Beverburgs reported in an interview that Wilson suffered from mental illness. The provided medical records show Wilson had been previously diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder, Antisocial Personality Disorder and polysubstance abuse (alcohol and methamphetamine). Mary Beverburg stated Wilson had been diagnosed with an enlarged heart, had been drinking heavily lately, and had been acting erratically in the past two weeks. Mary stated Wilson had only recently met Carpenter and had mentioned to her he felt like Carpenter could read his mind and he (Carpenter) thought Wilson was “ignorant.”

4.4 Richard Beverburg stated he had spoken to Wilson’s boss since the incident and the boss stated Wilson had told other members of the work crew he had not been taking his medication and Wilson had been “acting crazy.” Richard stated he found drug paraphernalia in Wilson’s room a few months prior and when he confronted Wilson about it, Wilson assaulted him in the kitchen of the residence.

4.5 Wilson’s boss, David Dilworth, white male, date of birth [REDACTED], stated he had known Wilson for about ten years and had employed him a number of times during that period doing construction work. Dilworth stated he had to let Wilson go several times during this period for showing up to work intoxicated. Dilworth stated on the day of the incident Wilson was acting very erratically at work, and described Wilson acting in a paranoid fashion, walking around kicking dirt, talking to himself and stating he could not catch his breath. Dilworth described Wilson as “creepy” and stated he had known him to fly off the handle when angry and become assaultive. Dilworth stated he directly asked Wilson if he had been taking his medication, to which Wilson stated he had not.

4.6 A CCH shows sixteen total arrests for Wilson, largely for alcohol, drug and assaultive offenses. Wilson was on parole until 2012 for multiple DWI convictions.

4.7 For details of the APD reports/supplements, see APD Offense report #18AP004298.

S5 5.1 On 05-04-2018, I met with Steven and Tammy Carpenter at the law offices of Randall Moore in Fort Worth (Mr. Moore replaced Lance Wyatt as Carpenter’s TMPA Attorney after the initial night of the incident).

5.2 I obtained written statements from both Tammy and Steven in reference to this incident. Each of the statements are summarized in the following

details.

5.3 Statement of Tammy Carpenter: Tammy stated she was home with her seven year old grandson and two of his school mates who were at the house playing. She stated at around 5:30 PM, a man (Wilson) knocked on the front door. Wilson was holding a 40 ounce beer and asked if her husband was home. Tammy informed him Steven was away but would be home in the next ten minutes or so. Wilson turned and walked away without further conversation.

5.4 Steven arrived back at the residence, changed clothes and went to work on the pool in the backyard. One of the kids came and stated there was someone there to see them. Wilson came to the backyard and walked towards the pool area. Steven greeted Wilson and Wilson appeared "agitated," and stated he was just there to "look" at Steven. Tammy could tell by the looks of Wilson and his voice that this was not a good situation. Tammy began trying to get the kids rounded up and into the house. Tammy recalled Steven stating, "I am a police officer and you are about to go to jail," then heard Steven instructing Wilson to leave his property.

5.5 Tammy got the kids inside the residence and locked the back door. She headed to the front of the residence to keep an eye on what was going on and to lock the front door. She observed through the windows as Steven walked with Wilson down the driveway. Tammy eventually looked out of the dining room window and observed Steven and Wilson "bent over each other, struggling." Tammy went outside and told the kids to lock the door behind her.

5.6 Steven and Wilson were going to the ground about the time Tammy got outside. Tammy called 911 and stayed on the phone with the dispatcher. Tammy's neighbor, Suzy (Susan Kendrick) drove by and came over to the residence. Steven had gained control of Wilson and was laying on top of Wilson, who was laying on his stomach underneath Steven. Wilson continued to try to fight and get Steven off of him. Kendrick and Tammy repeatedly tried to calm Wilson and kept telling him to stop fighting. Steven kept telling Wilson to stop resisting and to relax. Wilson kept pushing his forehead into the grass and bowing his back in an attempt to get Steven off of him. Steven had Wilson in a "full Nelson" position, with his arms under Wilson's armpits and wrapped around the back of his neck. Wilson suddenly seemed to stop fighting and appeared to relax and Tammy recognized that he was not moving and his face appeared blue and grey. Tammy realized he was not breathing and she began assisting Steven with attempting to render aid. Tammy was unable to perform breaths during the CPR because she could not get Wilson's airway open and she was unable to get his tongue out of the way. Tammy eventually backed off and allowed Steven to continue the compressions until the arrival of the ambulance. For details, see the referenced statement.

5.7 Statement of Steven Carpenter: Steven met Wilson on the Sunday prior

to the incident, when he was introduced to him by his neighbor, Jay Kendrick. During the introduction, Wilson stated, "I apologize," to Steven. Steven asked what he was apologizing for and Wilson stated, "For that incident that happened the other day." Steven told Wilson he must have mistaken him for someone else because he did not know what he was talking about. Wilson again apologized, and stated he was Schizophrenic.

5.8 On the date of the incident, Steven arrived at his house and changed clothes to go clean the pool in his backyard. As he was doing this, Wilson came into the backyard holding a beer. Steven greeted Wilson, who was acting strange and just looking at Steven. Steven asked if there was anything he could do for him, and Wilson stated "I have nothing to say to you, I just wanted to look at you." Steven asked Wilson if he was trying to "size him up," and Wilson said he wasn't. Steven asked Wilson to leave his property, which Wilson did.

5.9 A few minutes later, Wilson came back into the backyard. Steven walked towards Wilson, as Tammy took the kids inside of the house. Wilson accused Steven of "talking shit" about him, and said he was going to whip Steven's ass. Steven told Wilson he had not been talking about him and again told him to leave his yard. Steven stated these actions were aggressive to him and he felt Wilson was possibly going to attack him. Wilson started walking out of the backyard and Steven followed him out of fear he would attack or harm him or his family. Wilson hesitated at the front of the yard, as if he were deciding whether to leave or not. Steven advised Wilson he was a police officer and told Wilson he was going to jail if he did not leave his property. Wilson became more agitated and he put his beer down on the ground and stated he was going to whip Steven's ass.

5.10 Wilson approached Steven and took up a fighting stance. Wilson threw several punches at Steven, striking Steven in the head and face. Steven began defending himself and threw punches back at Wilson and attempted to take Wilson down to the ground. Wilson pulled Steven's shirt over his head and arms as Steven got out of a headlock Wilson had him in. Steven was able to subdue Wilson finally by getting him face down on the ground and lying on his back. Wilson kept attempting to get up and Steven placed his arms under his arm pits and his hands on top of Wilson's hands to keep him from pushing up. Wilson then bit Steven's left thumb. Steven then placed his hands on the back of Wilson's head and fought to get him into a 'Full Nelson' to keep control of him. Wilson kept bracing his forehead onto the ground and kept trying to get on his knees. Steven then straddled Wilson's waist and attempted to keep leverage on him.

5.11 Steven continued to struggle with Wilson to keep him down and Steven noted he did not strike, choke or do anything else to Wilson other than try to keep holding him down until the arrival of APD. Steven eventually felt Wilson relax and Tammy stated to Steven that he wasn't moving. After rolling Wilson over, Steven realized Wilson had turned blue and was not breathing. Tammy

initially began to attempt CPR, but Steven realized Tammy was not able to effectively perform the CPR due to her size. Steven stated he began CPR and felt one of Wilson's ribs crack in the process. Steven continued compressions until the arrival of APD.

5.12 Steven stated this was a totally unexpected confrontation with Wilson, and that Wilson's actions placed him in fear for his safety, as well as the safety of his family. Steven had attempted to reason with Wilson and he did not feel retreat was an option once he had been attacked in his own yard. For details, see the referenced statement.

S6 6.1 On 06-22-2018, I reviewed the autopsy report for decedent John Wilson. The manner of death was ruled "Accidental" with the cause of death listed as "I. Traumatic Asphyxia. II. Schizoaffective disorder, recent methamphetamine use, atherosclerotic coronary artery disease." Toxicology results indicate Wilson had a non-toxic level of methamphetamine in his system.

6.2 A copy of this report, along with all evidentiary attachments, will be submitted to the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office for review.

S7 7.1 On 09-03-2019, I reviewed this file for update purposes. I conferred with Tarrant County Assistant District Attorney Tim Gilpin who advised me the case had been submitted to a Tarrant County Grand Jury. Upon review, the Grand Jury found Steven Carpenter acted in self-defense during the incident and declined to indict him on any criminal charges.

7.2 No further investigative activity is anticipated in reference to this file and I am in possession of no property or evidence requiring final disposition.

7.3 File closed.

WITNESSES

S2 Carpenter, Tammy - White/Female - [REDACTED]
Beverburg, Richard - White/Male - [REDACTED]
Beverburg, Mary - White/Female - [REDACTED]
Kendrick, Susan - White/Female - [REDACTED]
Kendrick, Jay - [REDACTED]

S4 Dilworth, David - White/Male - [REDACTED]

INVOLVED

S1 Wilson, John Robert - White/Male - 12/30/1964
Hair: Black Eyes: Hazel
DL#: 10128784 DL State: TX

S2 Wilson, John Robert - White/Male - 12/30/1964
SSN: 465-31- DL#: DL State: TX
5999 10128784

Carpenter, Steven Burl - White/Male - [REDACTED]
DL State: [REDACTED]

INVOLVED LOCATIONS

S1 [REDACTED]

OFFENSES

S1 QUESTIONABLE DEATH N/A N/A N/A
Tarrant County, TX, US
04/20/2018 (Friday)

CHARGES

PERSONNEL

S1 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety
682 229
2357

S2 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

Lieutenant Kevin Rogers,
Azle Police Department
(817) 444-3221

S3 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

S4 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

S5 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

S6 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

S7 Anthony Bradford, Texas Rangers "B"
Texas Dept of Public Safety

EVIDENCE

ATTACHMENT NAME(S)

END OF REPORT