



Jackie L. Johnson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BRUNSWICK JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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March 6, 2014

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Mike McDaniel
Special Agent in Charge
Georgia Bureau of Investigation

RE: 14-0040-23-14 Criminal Investigation of Warren Craig Peeples

Dear Agent McDaniel:

My office has reviewed the findings of the GBI investigation into allegations against Warren Craig Peeples. While there is sufficient evidence to proceed with criminal charges for acts involving multiple victims, the State would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations for those acts alleged to have occurred in Camden County.

Based upon the witness interviews that Special Agent Lindsey Smith conducted, multiple acts of sodomy, aggravated sodomy, child molestation, aggravated child molestation and sexual battery occurred with students of Pak's Karate beginning as early as 1988 and continuing up until 2001. The tolling provision in the statute of limitations that applies to crimes involving child victims has been modified several times by the General Assembly. However, the following is applicable to the majority of illegal conduct alleged in this case:

O.C.G.A. § 17-3-2.1 provides as follows:

(a) For crimes committed during the period beginning on July 1, 1992, and ending on June 30, 2012, if the victim of a violation of:

- (1) Cruelty to children, as defined in Code Section 16-5-70;
- (2) Rape, as defined in Code Section 16-6-1;

- (3) Sodomy or aggravated sodomy, as defined in Code Section 16-6-2;
- (4) Statutory rape, as defined in Code Section 16-6-3;
- (5) Child molestation or aggravated child molestation, as defined in Code Section 16-6-4;
- (6) Enticing a child for indecent purposes, as defined in Code Section 16-6-5; or
- (7) Incest, as defined in Code Section 16-6-22,

is under 16 years of age on the date of the violation, the applicable period within which a prosecution shall be commenced under Code Section 17-3-1 or other applicable statute shall not begin to run until the victim has reached the age of 16 or the violation is reported to a law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney, or other governmental agency, whichever occurs earlier. Such law enforcement agency or other governmental agency shall promptly report such allegation to the appropriate prosecuting attorney.

- “Student One” alleges incidents beginning in 1992 and continuing for two to three years. “Student One” was between the ages of 14-15 during the incidents. Peeples engaged in acts of masturbation, oral sodomy and viewed pornography with said victim at Peeples’ residence in Camden County, as well as at locations in Atlanta, Georgia, Colorado, California, and Florida. “Student One” reached 16 years of age in 1993.
- “Student Two” alleges incidents beginning in 1991 and continuing until 1996. “Student Two” was 10 years old when the incidents began, and the incidents continued two to three times per week until he was 15 years old. Peeples engaged in acts of masturbation, oral sodomy and viewed pornography with said victim. Incidents occurred in Camden County, as well as in Jacksonville, Orlando, Atlanta, Savannah, Colorado, California, South Carolina, and the United Kingdom, when said victim traveled with Peeples to various Karate tournaments. “Student Two” reached 16 years of age in 1995.

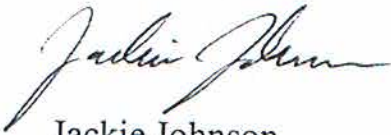
- “Student Three” alleges incidents beginning in 1988 and continuing until 1994. “Student Three” was approximately 10 years old when the incidents began, and the incidents continued two to three times per week until he was 15 years old. Peeples engaged in acts of masturbation, oral sodomy and viewed pornography with said victim. Said victim described incidents occurring with as many as six or seven boys of similar age in the room at the same time. Incidents occurred in at Peeples’ residence in Camden County, as well at Pak’s Karate Studio in Camden County. “Student Three” reached 16 years of age in 1994.
- “Student Four” alleges incidents beginning occurring when he was in middle school and high school. Peeples would have said victim engaged in acts of masturbation at Peeples’ residence in Camden County. “Student Four” reached 16 years of age in 1999.
- “Student Five” alleges incidents beginning when he was 6 or 7 years old and continuing until he was approximately 15 years old. Peeples engaged in acts of masturbation and viewed pornography with said victim. Incidents occurred at Peeples’ residence in Camden County, as well as in Florida and California when said victim traveled with Peeples to Karate tournaments. “Student Five” reached 16 years of age in 2000.
- “Student Six” alleges incidents beginning in 1993 and continuing until 1997. Incidents involved acts of masturbation and oral sodomy. Said victim described a particular incident occurring with Peeples and another student in Peeples’ bed at Peeples’ residence in Camden County. “Student Six” reached 16 years of age in 1997.

Most of the conduct alleged has a seven year statute of limitations for criminal prosecution. For those acts occurring after 1992 but before July 2012, the seven year statute of limitations would commence running for each victim at his 16th birthday. The youngest victim that has come forward reached 16 years of age in 2000. Therefore, the expiration of the Statute of Limitations would have run in 2007. The expiration of the Statute of Limitations is an absolute bar to prosecution. As such, my office is unable to proceed to Grand Jury on these allegations.

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Please advise this office if you receive any additional information pertaining to this investigation. Georgia case law is very liberal in allowing similar transactions into evidence in cases of sexual abuse. Also, the Legislature has recognized the fact that many child victims do not come forward to report the abuse until years after its occurrence and thus removed any statute of limitations for certain crimes involving sexual abuse of children occurring after July 1, 2012. Consequently, any new evidence or witnesses coming forward could potentially affect our ability to proceed with criminal charges in this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jackie Johnson".

Jackie Johnson
District Attorney
Brunswick Judicial Circuit