



## PROSECUTOR'S SUMMARY

**Date:** May 27, 2014 (Updated September 30, 2014)  
**To:** Daniel Breyer, Special Prosecutor, Ohio Attorney General's Office  
**From:** Special Agent Dave Hornyak, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation *DMH*  
**CC:** Special Agent Supervisor Ben Suver, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

This report serves as a synopsis of the criminal investigation into the death of Brown County Jail inmate Zachary Goldson that occurred on October 5, 2013 at the Brown County Jail. The investigation was conducted by investigators of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) at the request Chief Deputy John Schadle, Brown County Sheriff's Office.

**Subject:** Investigation into the Death of Brown County Jail Inmate Zachary Goldson

**BCI Case #:** SI-08-13-25-1244

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### **Preface:**

*This report only summarizes the investigative activity and information gathered by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Audio and/or video recordings exist for some of the interviews conducted revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.*

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**Case Request:**

On October 5, 2013, at approximately 0315 hours, the BCI Radio Room received a request for investigation via telephone from the Brown County Sheriff's Office regarding the death of Brown County Jail inmate Zachary Goldson. At the direction of BCI Special Agent Supervisor Ben Suver, Special Agent Dave Hornyak opened an investigation.

**Investigative Team:**

BCI Special Agent Dave Hornyak was assigned as the lead investigator. Special Agents Roger Davis and Daryl Henderson assisted with the investigation.

**Overview of Incident:**

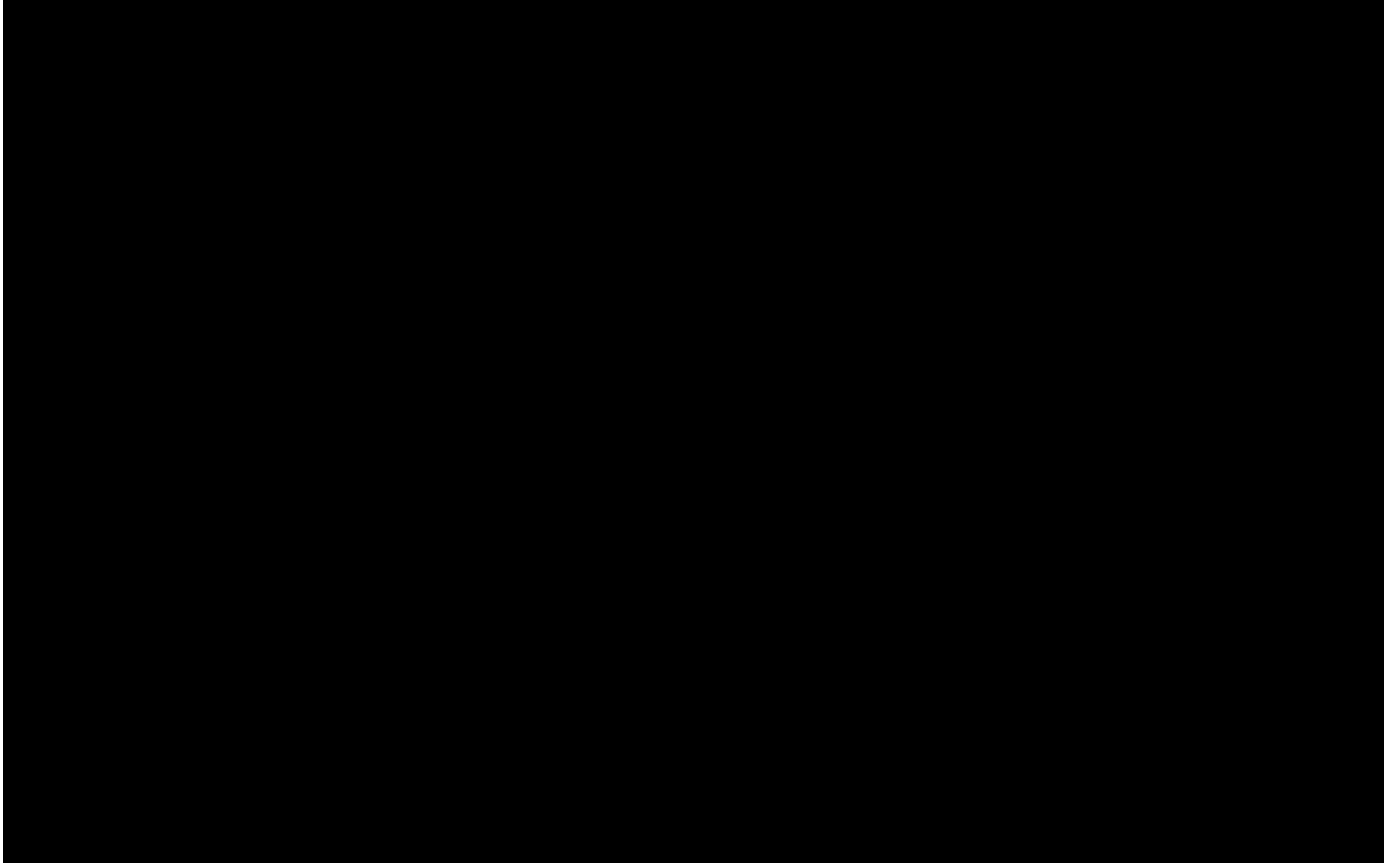
On September 26, 2013, Zachary Goldson was incarcerated at the Brown County Jail, 750 Mt. Orab Pike, Georgetown, OH, after being arrested on charges of Having Weapons Under Disability, Possession of a Dangerous Ordnance, and Shooting Across a Roadway.

Eight days later, on the evening of October 4, 2013, Brown County Sheriff's Office Deputy Travis Justice was assigned to transport inmate Goldson to the Southwest Regional Medical Center in Georgetown, OH, after Goldson complained of stomach pains. Following transport to the hospital, a medical examination revealed that Goldson swallowed various small implements. Approximately three hours after arriving, on October 5, 2013, at approximately 0220 hours, Goldson was released from the hospital in the custody of Deputy Justice.

At approximately 0221 hours, while exiting the facility, Goldson attacked and assaulted Deputy Justice in the hospital parking lot. A hospital staff member made a 911 call specifying that a deputy was "*fighting*" with an inmate. During the struggle, Deputy Justice yelled for help. With the assistance of four hospital staff members, Goldson was subdued just prior to the arrival of law enforcement support.

Approximately 3 ½ minutes after the 911 call was made, officers from the Georgetown Police Department and the Brown County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene and fully secured Goldson. Goldson was placed into a Brown County Sheriff's cruiser and returned to the jail while hospital staff treated Deputy Justice for multiple injuries sustained during the assault.

Within approximately 10 minutes of the initial 911 call, Goldson was secured back in his cell at the Brown County jail. Approximately 24 minutes later, deputies reported that they found Goldson hanging in his cell, deceased.



*Zachary Goldson, deceased 10/5/13*

**Summary of Investigative Process:**

Following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances:

- Obtained and reviewed inmate documentation provided by the Brown County Sheriff's Office.
- Obtained and reviewed personnel records provided by the Brown County Sheriff's Office.
- Audio/video recorded interviews of Brown County Sheriff's Office personnel:
  - Deputy Travis Justice - October 5, 2013
  - Corporal Larry Meyer – October 5, 2013; November 5, 2013

- Deputy Ryan Wedmore – October 5, 2013
  - Corporal Jason Huff – October 5, 2013
  - Deputy George Dunning – October 5, 2013; November 5, 2013
  - Corrections Officer Sarah McKinzie – October 5, 2013; November 5, 2013
  - Corrections Officer Zane Schadle – October 5, 2013; November 5, 2013; January 8, 2014
  - Detective Buddy Moore – November 5, 2013
  - *Attempted second interviews with Deputy Wedmore and Corporal Huff on November 5, 2013 – Both declined to be re-interviewed.*
- Audio/video recorded interviews of Georgetown Volunteer Life Squad responders:
  - Jeff Hatten – October 5, 2013
  - Sherry Ridner – October 5, 2013
  - Anita McKinzie – October 5, 2013
- Audio recorded interviews of Southwest Regional Medical Center staff:
  - Dr. Mark Thornton – October 10, 2013
  - Laura Pugh – October 10, 2013
  - Falisha McCann – October 10, 2013
  - Amy Parker – October 10, 2013
- Audio/video recorded interviews of Brown County Jail inmates:
  - Inmate Dustin Downing (trustee) – October 10, 2013
  - Inmate Neil Bowen – October 10, 2013
- Audio/video recorded interviews of close acquaintances of Zachary Goldson:
  - Ashley Chapman-Bard (sister) – October 10, 2013
  - Mandy Lariccia (girlfriend) – October 10, 2013
  - *Attempted interview with Christy Dennis (mother) on October 10, 2013 – Ms. Dennis was unable to keep the interview appointment and was unreachable to reschedule at that time*
- Audio recorded interview with Georgetown Police Department Officer Matt Staggs – October 15, 2013
- Audio recorded interviews of former Brown County Jail inmates:
  - Dennis Burdsal – December 6, 2013
  - Dustin Downing – December 11, 2013 (second interview - conducted post-release)
  - Derrick McElroy – January 9, 2014 (interview conducted at the STAR Criminal Justice Center, Franklin Furnace, OH)

- Audio recorded interview of Christy Dennis (mother) – March 17, 2014
- Issued preservation letters and search warrants for the following:
  - Corporal Meyer cell phone records
  - Detective Moore cell phone records
  - Zachary Goldson Facebook records
- Obtained and reviewed the following:
  - Corporal Meyer cell phone records
  - Detective Moore cell phone records
  - Zachary Goldson Facebook records
- Obtained and reviewed Zachary Goldson's medical records from the following entities:
  - Clermont Mercy Hospital, Batavia, OH
  - Southwest Regional Medical Center, Georgetown, OH
  - Georgetown Volunteer Life Squad run sheet records pertaining to the response to the death of Zachary Goldson – October 5, 2013.
- Obtained and reviewed Brown County Communications Center Recordings covering the evening of October 4, 2013, through after Goldson's death on October 5, 2013.
- Obtained and reviewed police cruiser video from the vehicles of the two Georgetown Police Department officers who responded to the assault at the hospital.
- Obtained information on other charges Goldson was facing from the following jurisdictions:
  - Springfield Twp. Police Department
  - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
  - Amberley Village Police Department
  - Reading Police Department
- Enlisted the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit to review and assess the following:
  - Jail security surveillance system – Physical hardware and cameras
  - Jail security surveillance system – Video footage and digital system records
  - County issued cell phones assigned to Corporal Larry Meyer and Detective Buddy Moore
- Enlisted the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit to review cell phone records and to create a documented timeline of events.
- Enlisted OCIC's Forensic Audio/Video Analyst to review and enhance jail video showing Goldson being escorted to the holding cell area.

- Reviewed the BCI Crime Scene Unit report.
- Reviewed the final autopsy report from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office.
- Reviewed the Brown County Coroner's Report.
- Reviewed the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit report.
- Met with the Brown County Coroner to discuss her findings.
- Met with the Montgomery County Coroner to discuss the autopsy findings.

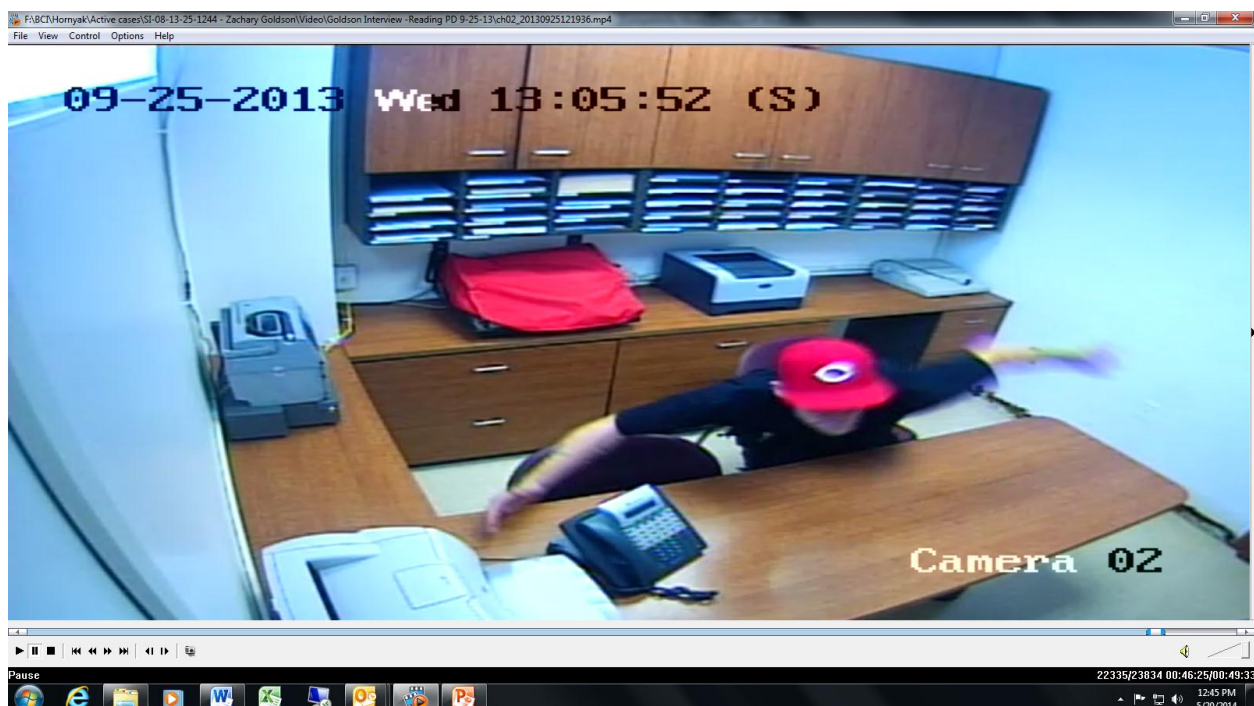
### Timeline of Key Events:

#### September 25, 2013

Zachary Goldson is arrested by the Reading Police Department on an arrest warrant originating from the Brown Co. Sheriff's Office.

12:19 – Reading Police Department detectives interview Goldson as a suspect in local burglaries.

13:05 – Goldson becomes belligerent, slams a phone against the wall, yells obscenities at officers, and needs to be secured and led away.



Prosecutor's Summary – Inmate Death

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*Goldson at Reading Police Department interview room - 9/25/13*



**September 26, 2013**

Goldson is booked into the Brown County Jail on an existing warrant for the following charges:

- **Weapons under Disability**
- **Possession of a Dangerous Ordnance**
- **Shooting across a roadway**

**October 4, 2013**

13:14 – Goldson is transported by a Brown County Sheriff's deputy to Clermont Mercy Hospital in Batavia, Ohio, on complaints of abdominal pain after purposely swallowing various small implements.

13:55 – Goldson is scheduled for a follow up x-ray, discharged from the hospital, and returned to the Brown County Jail.

23:00 – After Goldson again complains of abdominal pain, Deputy Travis Justice transports Goldson to the Southwest Regional Medical Center in Georgetown, OH.

**October 5, 2013**

02:20 – After a physician's examination and x-rays, Goldson is released and escorted from the hospital by Deputy Justice.

02:21 – After exiting the facility, Goldson assaults Deputy Justice in the hospital parking lot.

02:22 – A hospital staff member makes a 911 call to report a deputy fighting with an inmate.

02:25 – Georgetown Police Department personnel Sergeant Bobby Gifford and Officer Matt Staggs arrive at the hospital and secure the inmate; Brown Co. SO personnel Corporal Larry Meyer and Deputy Ryan Wedmore arrive on-scene directly after.

02:29 – After Goldson is placed into Wedmore's cruiser, Deputy Wedmore advises the Communications Center that he is departing the hospital (with Goldson) en route to the jail.

02:32:28 – Wedmore's cruiser pulls into the jail sally port with Goldson.

02:32:36 – Corporal Jason Huff removes Goldson from the cruiser.

02:32:42 – Huff, Wedmore, Deputy Zane Schadle, and Deputy George Dunning proceed to walk Goldson backwards into the jail.

02:32:53 – Goldson is returned to the holding cell area, escorted by the four officers.

02:32:54 – Z. Schadle and Dunning enter the cell with Goldson while Huff and Wedmore remain outside observing.

02:34:30 – Z. Schadle and Dunning exit Goldson's cell.

02:34:36 – Goldson's cell door is closed; Z. Schadle, Dunning and Huff proceed down the hallway toward the interior of the jail while Wedmore briefly remains at the other end of the hallway talking to Huff from across the hall before departing the area through the sally port.

02:36:01 – Z. Schadle and Dunning enter the room that transitions from the jail to the sally port (booking room) and clean the handcuffs that were reportedly taken off of Goldson.

02:37:02 – After Dunning departed the room moments earlier, Z. Schadle continues to clean the handcuffs and then exits the room.

02:37:17 – Wedmore, Z. Schadle and Dunning walk down the holding cell hallway, stop in front of Goldson's cell and appear to have a brief discussion while looking inside the cell.

02:37:40 – Wedmore, Z. Schadle and Dunning walk to the other end of the hallway and continue to hold a brief conversation in the hall directly in front of the trustee cell with one trustee looking on and listening.

02:38:16 – Everyone disperses from the hallway.

02:54:16 – Corrections Officer Sarah McKinzie proceeds down the holding cell hallway to the commissary near to, but just short of Goldson's cell.

02:54:41 – McKinzie returns back up the hallway from the commissary.

02:58:18 – Z. Schadle and Dunning head down the holding cell hallway toward the commissary; Z. Schadle looks through the door glass into Goldson's cell and proceed to open the door and make entry.

***NOTE:*** In subsequent interviews, Z. Schadle and Dunning stated that this is when they discovered Goldson hanging. Each also stated they then immediately cut

*Goldson down, secured him with handcuffs, and performed compressions in an attempt to revive him.*

02:58 – Jail staff calls the Communications Center to request a life squad.

03:11 – The EMS crew arrives at the jail and pronounces Goldson dead shortly thereafter.

03:17 – Jail staff calls the Brown County Coroner to report the inmate death.

03:55 – Brown County Coroner Judith Varnau arrives at the jail.

04:45 – BCI Crime Scene Unit arrives at the jail.

**NOTE:** *Times shown above were taken from multiple non-synchronized sources including communications center audio, cruiser video, and jail surveillance video. The times shown to the second were taken from jail surveillance video.*

### **Interviews with Southwest Regional Medical Center Staff:**

Four members of the Southwest Regional Medical Center staff stated that on the morning of October 5, 2013, they came to the aid of Deputy Travis Justice after they heard the deputy yelling for help and found him trying to gain control of an inmate on the ground in the parking lot. Specific staff member statements included the following:

- The inmate had both arms wrapped around the deputy's neck.
- The staff members assisted the deputy by pulling the inmate's arms away from the deputy's neck and holding the inmate's limbs on the ground.
- Once the inmate's limbs were secured, the inmate stated that he gave up, repeated several times that he was sorry, and stated that he had a sick child at home.
- The inmate stated that his child was dying of SIDS.
- When other law enforcement personnel arrived and took control of the situation the hospital staff tended to the deputy who had suffered injuries around his eye and other minor injuries on both arms.

Each of the four staff members separately stated that they did not observe any unnecessary force used against the inmate.

### **Interviews with Brown County Sheriff's Office Staff:**

***Deputy Travis Justice*** stated that while departing the hospital, Goldson struck Deputy Justice from behind and a struggle ensued as Goldson attempted to gain control of Deputy Justice's

holstered firearm. Hospital staff aided Deputy Justice in subduing Goldson until law enforcement assistance arrived from the Georgetown Police Department and the Brown County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Justice sustained external injuries to his face surrounding his left eye, and also had cuts and scrapes on both arms.



*Deputy Travis Justice following the assault by Goldson*

**Corporal Larry Meyer** stated that he was dispatched to the hospital for a fight involving a deputy and an inmate. Corporal Meyer said that once the inmate was secured and transported to the jail, he remained at the hospital while Deputy Justice was treated for injuries. Corporal Meyer stated that while still at the hospital, he later heard a radio call go out to the life squad requesting an emergency response to the jail. Corporal Meyer said he called in to the sheriff's office to inquire about the life squad request, and that was how he first learned that Goldson had hung himself.

**Deputy Ryan Wedmore** stated that he was dispatched to a "fight at the hospital" involving a deputy and an inmate. Upon his arrival, other officers on scene had already secured Goldson and these officers placed the inmate into Deputy Wedmore's vehicle for transport back to the jail. Deputy Wedmore stated that during transport to the jail, Goldson repeatedly stated aloud, "I fucked up." Deputy Wedmore stated that he had some "choice words" for Goldson regarding the

inmate's attack on the other deputy, but further stated that he never threatened the inmate nor engaged him in conversation.

Deputy Wedmore said that upon arrival at the jail and with the assistance of other deputies, he escorted Goldson back to his cell. Deputy Wedmore stated he did not observe any injuries on the inmate. Deputy Wedmore stated that once in his cell, the inmate said to the deputies present that he was not going to give them any problems. Deputy Wedmore said he then returned to the hospital to check on Deputy Justice. Wedmore said he was at the hospital when he learned of Goldson's suicide.

**Deputy Zane Schadle** stated that on the evening of October 4, 2013, he arranged for inmate Zachary Goldson to be transported to the hospital after Goldson complained of stomach pains subsequent to swallowing small objects. Deputy Schadle also stated the following:

- Due to a previous occasion when Goldson was transported to the hospital on the morning of October 4, 2013, Goldson was placed on "*medical watch*" and moved to a cell separate from the general population.
- Goldson was returned to the same cell following his return from the second trip to the hospital on the morning of October 5, 2013.
- He was not aware Goldson had attacked another deputy at the hospital until Goldson was returned to the jail from the hospital.
- He and Deputy George Dunning put Goldson back into the cell and released the inmate from his restraints.
- While exiting the cell, he removed the blanket but did not see a sheet at that time.
- Before closing the cell door, he last told Goldson that if he got up "*...he would be tazed.*"
- He personally locked the cell with Goldson inside.
- He speculated that the sheet "*...may have been under the mat or inside the mat.*"
- He personally discovered Goldson hanging in the cell shortly after.
- He then opened the door, ran in, and lifted up on Goldson's body while Deputy Dunning cut Goldson down.
- Once Goldson was on the ground, Schadle handcuffed him for safety reasons, rolled him over, checked for a pulse, and began to do chest compressions after no pulse was found.
- He also instructed other deputies to call the life squad.

**Deputy George "Bill" Dunning** stated that he assisted other jail staff in returning Goldson to his cell following the assault at the hospital. Deputy Dunning also stated the following:

- Goldson was never struck, injured, or threatened by any of the jail staff.

- He did not see any signs of physical injury on Goldson.
- He did not observe a sheet in the cell after Goldson had been returned to the jail.
- Goldson was not on suicide watch, which would have necessitated further precautions.
- Shortly after Goldson was locked back in his cell, Deputy Schadle looked through the cell window and discovered him hanging.
- As Deputy Schadle lifted up on Goldson's body, Deputy Dunning cut Goldson down.
- Once Goldson was on the ground they handcuffed him for safety reasons.
- They proceeded to check his vitals and initiated compressions while other staff members called the life squad.

**Corporal Jason Huff** stated that on October 5, 2013, he heard a radio call regarding a deputy in a "*fight at the hospital*" which he later learned was an escape attempt by Goldson. Corporal Huff said he remained on site at the jail and assisted with placing Goldson back into his cell. Corporal Huff stated that knowing of the assault on Deputy Justice, staff members were "*not real polite*" toward Goldson but specified that no one struck, threatened, or harmed the inmate.

After putting Goldson in his cell, Corporal Huff said he went to the hospital to check on Deputy Justice. Corporal Huff further stated that while at the hospital, he was advised by the jail communications center that the life squad had been called to respond to the jail for Goldson. Corporal Huff said he then departed the hospital to escort the life squad to the jail, and while en route asked the communications center if the inmate tried to hang himself. The communications center replied in the affirmative.

**NOTE:** After a review of the Communications Center audio, Huff's specific comment was found to be: "*Please tell me he tried to hang himself.*"

**Corrections Officer Sarah McKinzie** stated the following:

- She was on duty when Goldson was returned to his cell following the assault at the hospital.
- She was in the holding cell area after Goldson was returned to his cell, went directly by his cell, and did not see or hear anything unusual.
- She was nearby and assisted with the emergency response when Deputy Schadle discovered Goldson hanging in his cell.
- She called the communications center to report the hanging while other deputies attended to Goldson.
- She had not heard of any threats made toward inmate Goldson.

**Corrections Officer Felicia Landacre** stated the following:

- She was on duty in the jail's control room the morning of October 5, 2013.
- Following the assault at the hospital, through use of the jail security cameras, she observed Goldson being brought back into the jail and into the holding cell area by several deputies.
- She did not observe anyone going into the cell after Goldson was secured back inside and the door was closed.
- She immediately called for the life squad upon being advised that Goldson had hung himself.

**Detective Buddy Moore** stated that on the morning of October 5, 2013, he was asleep at home when Corporal Meyer called to notify him of the inmate assault on Deputy Justice. Detective Moore said he was later advised that Goldson hung himself via a phone call from the Communications Center.

**Chief Deputy John Schadle** stated that at the time of Goldson's death, Goldson was wearing a paper uniform used for inmates on medical watch. Chief Deputy Schadle said these were the same uniforms used for inmates on suicide watch, but specified that Goldson was never on suicide watch – only medical watch.

**NOTE:** *Several interview summaries above recount information obtained during two separate interviews, the second of which occurred on November 5, 2013.*

#### **Interviews with Inmates Incarcerated at the Brown Co. Jail at the time of Goldson's Death:**

**Former Inmate Dennis Burdsal** stated that he was incarcerated at the Brown County Jail from approximately September 20, 2013, through October 15, 2013, and went on to allege that regular abuses occur at the Brown County Jail. In regard to the death of inmate Zachary Goldson, Burdsal claimed to have overheard Brown County Jail Deputies Zane Schadle and George Dunning saying that they "...beat the hell..." out of Goldson, and that "...he got what he deserved." Burdsal admitted that he did not personally know Goldson, did not personally witness any beatings of Goldson, and did not have any direct knowledge of Goldson's death.

**NOTE:** *Burdsall stated that he wished to remain anonymous and his name should be redacted from public record requests if legally permissible.*

**Inmate Neal Bowen** stated that he recalled hearing Goldson state prior to October 5, 2013, that Goldson intentionally planned to swallow a pen in an attempt to be transported to the hospital.

**Inmate Derrick McElroy** stated that he was in trustee cell #13 when Goldson was returned to the jail after the assault at the hospital and **he overheard a struggle and what he perceived to be jail personnel assaulting Goldson in holding cell #15 for "...at least three minutes."** McElroy stated that even though he believed that deputies had assaulted Goldson, he had no reason to believe that Goldson's manner of death was anything other than a suicide until months later when he heard the Brown County Coroner had ruled the death a homicide.

**Inmate/Former Inmate Dustin Downing** stated that he was present in the holding cell area when Goldson was returned to his cell just prior to Goldson's death. Downing also stated the following:

- He was in trustee cell #13 with the door open prior to Goldson being returned from the hospital.
- No one went into Goldson's cell just prior to Goldson's return from the hospital.
- He remained in his own holding cell with the door open when Goldson was brought back from the hospital.
- He visually observed Goldson being brought in from the sally port and placed into the holding cell.
- There was no restraint of any kind around Goldson's neck.
- He did not see any unusual force used against Goldson.
- He did not hear any screaming or any threatening comments.
- At one point **he heard Goldson say, "Please don't taze me."**
- He remained in his holding cell from the time Goldson was returned to the jail until the discovery of Goldson's death.
- After Goldson was returned to his cell and the door was closed no one went into the cell until Goldson was discovered hanging. **Why would he be watching and monitoring COs**
- He discounted allegations that deputies assaulted prior to his death.
- Following the death, he never heard any jail personnel claiming to have beaten Goldson or claiming that anything happened to Goldson other than that he committed suicide.
- He personally believes Goldson hung himself.

Downing further stated that in the days following Goldson's death, he went into Goldson's old cell (Cell #15) to see if he personally could reach the sprinkler assembly. Downing said he stepped on the sink and found that he could easily reach the sprinkler assembly. Downing said he was the same height as Goldson at 6'1" tall. Downing said he was certain he could have wrapped a sheet around the sprinkler assembly as Goldson had.

**...makes you wonder just how important it is to avoid the abuse, that this inmate who clearly hasn't been released yet, to be able to figure that his testimony supporting the abusive COs was his SAFETY TICKET... clearly this scared individual was falsely testifying in order to secure his own safety AT THE LIKELY BEHEST OF THE ABUSERS... LIKELY NEVER WENT AND TESTED THE SPRINKLER WITH THESE RESULTS**



### Other Interviews:

**Georgetown Police Department Officer Matt Staggs** stated that he arrived on the scene at the hospital and assisted with securing Goldson and placing him into a Brown County Sheriff's Office cruiser. Officer Staggs stated that when he arrived on scene, the inmate had one hand and both legs free from the shackles. Officer Staggs said that he heard unprofessional comments made by a Brown County Deputy while on scene. Staggs declined to provide more detail on the comments or the person who made them and instead referred investigators to his cruiser video for firsthand review. Officer Staggs further stated that he observed no unnecessary force being used against the inmate.

**Georgetown Volunteer Life Squad personnel** who were dispatched to the Brown County Jail for the hanging were each interviewed. They confirmed Goldson was deceased upon arrival. They questioned the jail staff as to why the inmate was handcuffed and were informed by Deputy Zane Schadle this was done for jail staff safety.

**Cassie Zurlinden** stated that Goldson was the father of their son and that she terminated her relationship with Goldson shortly after the child's birth due to Goldson's continuing criminal activities which led to him being incarcerated on multiple occasions. Ms. Zurlinden stated that among numerous other criminal convictions, Goldson had been criminally charged with non-support dependents and that she would not trust her son to the care of Goldson without another trustworthy adult present. Ms. Zurlinden added that she recently heard Goldson had become addicted to heroin.

**Christy Dennis (mother)** stated that Goldson had been involved in thefts including stolen property, computer, camera, and a cell phone from her and that these items were never recovered.

Ms. Dennis said that Goldson had been in jail or prison multiple times and that his longest incarceration lasted approximately two years. Ms. Dennis stated that she made no attempt to visit Goldson during that two-year incarceration. Ms. Dennis said she was not aware of any additional criminal charges Goldson may have been facing from other jurisdictions while he was incarcerated in the Brown County Jail in October 2013. Ms. Dennis said she never knew Goldson to be suicidal and stated that she believed he was no longer using drugs at the time of his death.

**Ashley Chapman-Bard (sister) and Mandy Lariccia (girlfriend)** were interviewed together and both collectively stated or agreed with the following:

the sister is a stripper (and we don't mean paint)... and his current girlfriend is also in trouble, presumably seeking ratting privileges..

this testimony is divorce payback and she is the one who ratted on Zachary in a juvenile theft case... as for heroin, his jail performance showed no withdrawal but the possible need for money to pay her child support could explain other troubles with theft, not robbery or violent crime IF the other 'investigations' were not just FISHING FOR A VULNERABLE SCAPEGOAT FOR POLICE RELIEF...

Christy Dennis works in a fastfood place and is not likely able to travel for 'visiting' when he was in trouble.

- Goldson had previously stolen jewelry from Ms. Chapman-Bard and had a drug abuse problem at that time.
- Just prior to his death, Goldson said he hated it at the Brown County Jail more than any other jails where he had previously been incarcerated.
- Goldson could not stand being alone and “...it drove him absolutely insane.”
- Goldson knew he was facing considerable jail time equating to “...a lot more time...” than he had ever previously done.
- Prior to his latest incarceration, Goldson claimed he was planning to cause harm to himself.
- Goldson had previously stated “many times” that he wanted the police to shoot him.
- In regard to the assault on the deputy and trying to take the deputy's firearm, they agreed that Goldson wanted the officer to shoot him “...so he didn't have to kill himself.”
- He specified to Ms. Lariccia the clothing he wanted to be buried in, and the day before he was arrested, told Ms. Lariccia he “...had his mind made up.”
- In regard to the hanging, they believed Goldson took his own life.

Ms. Chapman-Bard was critical of her and Goldson's mother, Christy Dennis, and alleged that Ms. Dennis had very little contact with Goldson or knowledge of his life. Ms. Chapman-Bard said that she personally no longer associated with Ms. Dennis and stated that although Goldson attempted to have a relationship with their mother, Ms. Dennis did not reciprocate.

### **Communications Center Recordings:**

The Brown County Communications Center recordings from the evening of October 4, 2013, through the morning of October 5, 2013, were reviewed. Key excerpts included the following:

- The initial 911 call from the hospital came in at 0222 hours.
- The caller specifically reported to the dispatcher that a deputy was fighting with an inmate.
- The dispatch that went out to Brown Co. Sheriff's Office personnel and the Georgetown Police Department directed officers to “start toward” the hospital and provided the reason as “...a report of a deputy fighting with an inmate...”
- At 0225 hours, officers arrive on scene.
- At 0229 hours, Deputy Wedmore departs the hospital transporting the inmate back to the jail.

- At 0258 hours, jail staff calls for a life squad to respond to the hanging.

Additional information from the Communications Center recordings is contained throughout this summary and full recordings are included in the case file.

### **Cruiser Video:**

The cruisers of the Georgetown Police Department officers who responded to the assault on the deputy at the hospital were equipped with audio and video. The video shows hospital staff holding down Goldson, officers arriving on scene and securing Goldson, and Goldson being walked to and placed into a Brown County Sheriff's cruiser. Comments made on the video included the following:

- Goldson can be heard saying *"I'm sorry"* and *"I didn't mean to."*
- When Brown County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ryan Wedmore arrives on scene he first checks on Deputy Justice. After approaching Goldson, Wedmore can be heard making the following comments:
  - *"What the fuck is wrong with you, you stupid motherfucker?"*
  - *"Hope you like prison, bitch."*
  - *"I'd like to break your fucking neck right now."*
- Another undetermined officer states in the inmate's presence that Goldson will be facing charges for escape and felonious assault.
- As Goldson is being placed into Deputy Wedmore's cruiser, an unidentified party can be heard saying in Goldson's presence: *"That motherfucker's getting a welcoming party when we get to the jail."* ..where is Meyer during this 'party' threat... if he was there, then he had a vital desire to know whether the party did conclude satisfactorily..

**NOTE:** *An attempt was made by BCI to identify who specifically made the above comment. Officers and witnesses claimed no recollection of the comment or who made it. Additionally, the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit supervisor advised that it was not technically possible to accurately make that identification from the recorded video/audio.*

### **Security Video Review:**

***The Southwest Regional Medical Center*** did not have surveillance cameras covering the area of the attack on the deputy.

***The Brown County Jail's*** security system video showed the following:

- Upon Goldson's return from the hospital following the assault, deputies immediately removed Goldson from the cruiser and quickly walked him without interruption from the sally port to his cell.
- Deputies Schadle and Dunning proceeded into the cell with Goldson while Deputy Wedmore and Corporal Huff waited calmly outside the cell.
- Schadle and Dunning were in the cell for approximately 96 seconds until they exited and locked the door behind them. **No one seems to report any sound from Goldson except inmates**
- The cell door remained shut and no one entered until approximately 23 minutes and 42 seconds later when Deputy Schadle looked in the cell and proceeded to quickly open the door.
- Staff members were then seen initiating an urgent, emergency response.

**Autopsy – Montgomery County Coroner:**

An autopsy was conducted by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. Subsequent to the autopsy, Montgomery County Coroner Kent Harshbarger and Deputy Coroner Susan Allen, Forensic Pathologist, both stated to the BCI investigator that the findings from the autopsy indicated that the ligature marks and the cause of death were consistent with a hanging. Dr. Harshbarger stated that the original draft of the autopsy report had included a line specifying the cause of death as "*Hanging by the neck*" until Brown County Coroner Judith Varnau voiced concerns about this ruling. Dr. Harshbarger said he suggested to Dr. Varnau at the time that both parties meet collectively with BCI investigators to discuss the available evidence. Dr. Harshbarger said Dr. Varnau was not inclined to do so. Dr. Harshbarger stated that due to this disagreement of opinion, he removed the cause of death line from the autopsy report in its entirety.

**This ignores the court cases that consumed large amounts of time, not Harshbarger's stuffy snotty feelings of rejection**

The autopsy report stated that, beyond the ligature marks surrounding the neck, Goldson's only other injuries were as follows:

*"A 1/4 inch abrasion is on the bridge of the nose. A 1 inch abrasion is on the left middle back. A 1/2" abrasion is on the left forearm. Multiple abrasions surround the ankles, ranging in size from 1/4 - 1/2 inch each."*

Dr. Allen stated to the BCI investigator that the ankle abrasions were consistent with scrapes as may have been caused from wearing ankle shackles.

**while kicking to try to defend your life.. otherwise shackles were not worn much, so why MULTIPLE.. SURROUND...**

**Harshbarger's statement doesn't state 'by sheet'... nor deal with the inconsistent band nor throat scaping not possibly done by a 'sheet'.....**

The preliminary autopsy report and final autopsy report are included as exhibits in the Special Investigations case file.

### **Brown County Coroner's Report:**

Following the completion of the autopsy, Brown County Coroner Judith Varnau concluded that the cause of death was strangulation and the manner of death was homicide.

The coroner's email specifying this ruling, the investigative report provided by the coroner to BCI and the special prosecutor, and the original certificate of death and supplementary medical certification are included as exhibits in the Special Investigations case file.

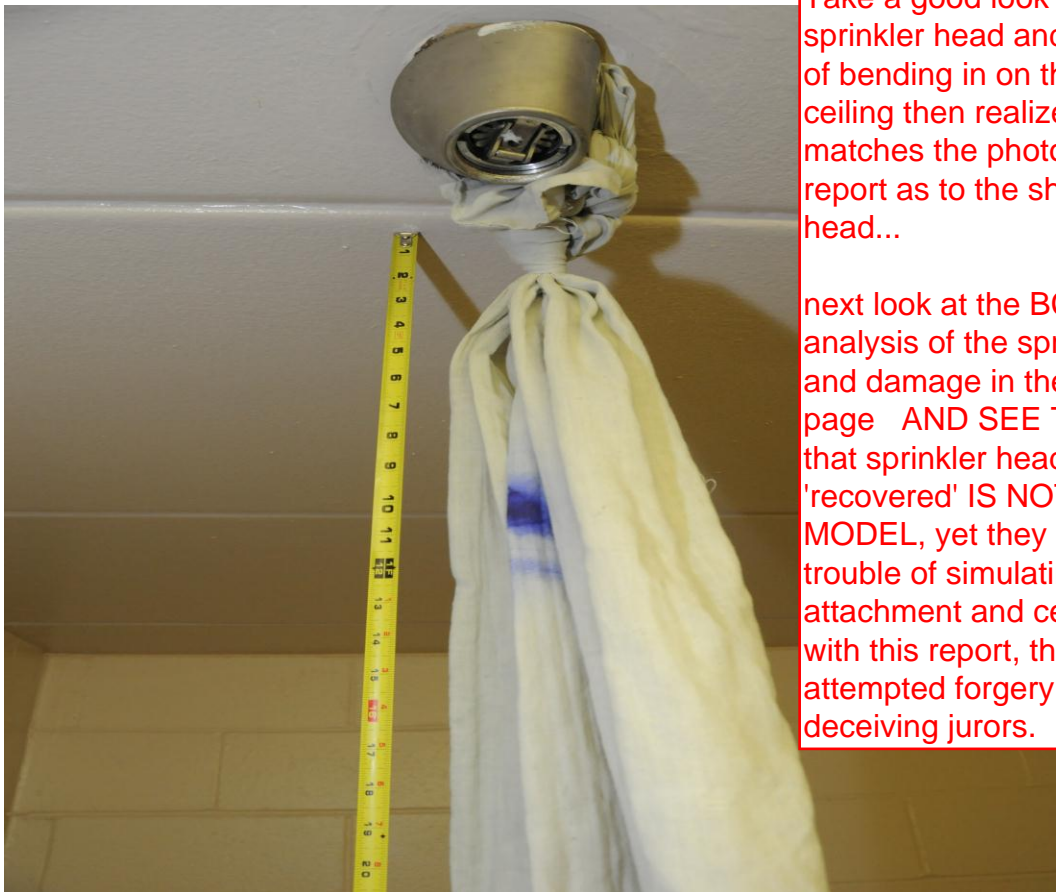
### **Other Physical Evidence:**

**Goldson Letters:** During his incarceration, Goldson drafted four letters that were never addressed or mailed and were found among his belongings at the jail. In three of the letters Goldson asks for or mentions needing money. One of the letters was seemingly written to someone who did not know Goldson as the letter states, "*By the way my name is Zack im [sic] from Cincinnati...*" Statements written in the other three letters that were presumably intended for persons Goldson did know included the following (all statements quoted directly as written):

- "*Im goin crazy as fuck bein in Brown County Jail it's the worse jail I have ever been in.*"
- "*I feel like you are already forgetting me! Im so fuckin sad in here because like I said I am all done already after being locked up less than 2 weeks.*"
- "*I cry myself to sleep every night because I know I lost you both.*"
- "*I can't even write this letter because I'm breakin down after each line I write.*"
- "*Im hurtin so bad right now & it fucks me up that I have not heard a word from you...*"
- "*..im lookin at 10 years...*"
- "*I need you to come visit me a.s.a.p I have done lost my girlfriend and feel like shit...*"
- "*im lookin at 14 years 3 of my cases carry a mandatory 3 year prison sentence so regardless im not getting out until 2022 no matter what.*"
- "*I love you so much baby and I know we are over but don't forget about me please...*"

***The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU)*** initially responded to the hanging at the jail and processed the scene. Measurements of Goldson's cell and its furnishings were taken both by hand and with a Sokkia Total Station. The full CSU report is separate from this summary and the Special Investigations Unit case file.

***The BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU)*** analyzed cell phone records and provided a report on calls made and received between two Brown County Sheriff's Office personnel. The cell phone analysis report is included in the Special Investigations Unit case file.



Take a good look at that shape of sprinkler head and check for any sign of bending in on the sides around the ceiling then realize that this image matches the photo in the coroner's report as to the shape of the sprinkler head...

next look at the BCI pontificated analysis of the sprinkler capacities and damage in the claims on the next page AND SEE THAT THEY LIE... that sprinkler head that they 'recovered' IS NOT EVEN THE SAME MODEL, yet they have gone to the trouble of simulating the sheet attachment and ceiling tiles... aka with this report, that 'effort' is an attempted forgery with the purpose of deceiving jurors.

***Sprinkler assembly and remainder of sheet after Goldson was cut down***

***Sprinkler Head Accessibility:*** The lead investigator personally tested the possibility that a person of Goldson's approximate height could reach the sprinkler assembly in Goldson's cell. As listed in Goldson's Concealed Criminal History and in the Brown County Jail booking information, he was 6'1" tall. After entering cell #15, the 6'1"



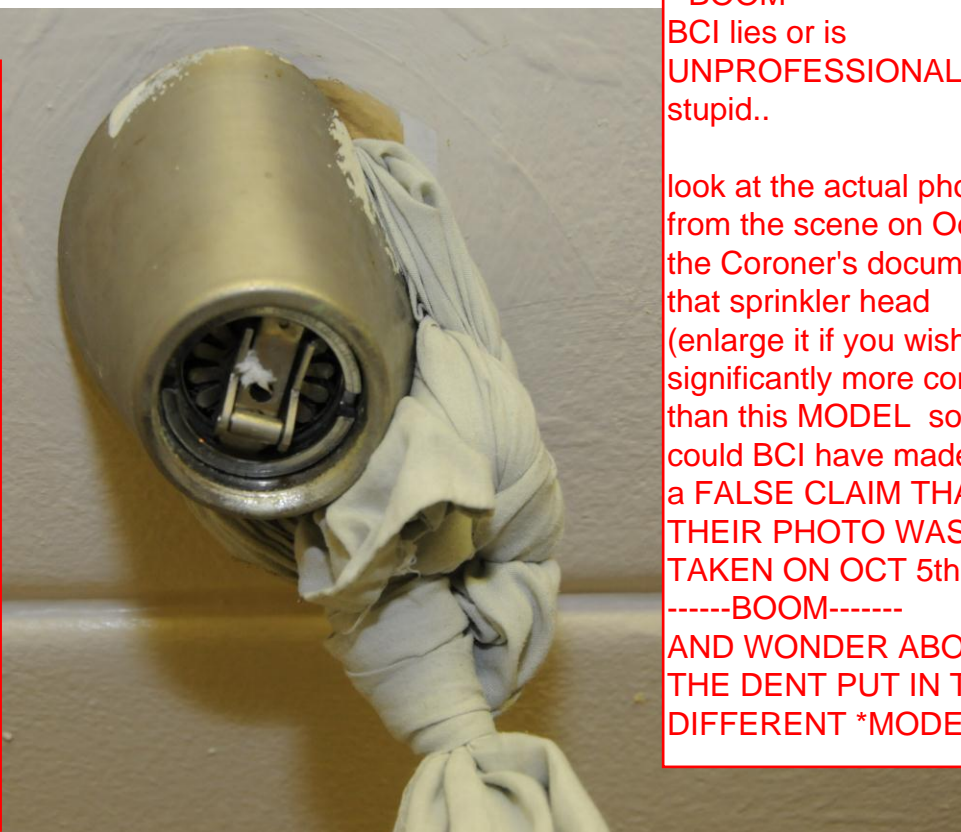
investigator stepped onto the cell sink, and was able to reach the entirety of the sprinkler assembly without effort. By bracing one hand on the cell ceiling, the investigator was easily able to retain stability and reach well past the sprinkler assembly with the opposite hand.

'reaching' does not accomplish 'tying a bunch of knots WITH BOTH HANDS' UNLESS THE INVESTIGATOR HAS THREE HANDS.. to test disqualified..

***Sprinkler Assembly and Escutcheon Plate:*** During the investigation, BCI learned that the sprinkler assemblies from cell #15 (Goldson's cell) and other cells were replaced by the Brown County Jail in November 2013. No prior notification of the replacements was provided to BCI. Chief Deputy John Schadle later stated to BCI that the sprinkler assemblies had been due for replacement on a normal maintenance schedule. Subsequently, BCI obtained the sprinkler assembly, including the escutcheon plate, that was removed from cell #15 from the contractor that performed the replacement. The contractor provided written verification that the specific sprinkler assembly provided did in fact come out of cell #15. The escutcheon plate was significantly bent on one side as can be seen in the photograph below taken on the morning of October 5, 2013.

... if you're finding it hard to imagine that a \*totally\* different model sprinkler head could be mind-bogglingly confusing a BCI investigator... well maybe there's another motive...

what do you suppose it cost to get that pompously manufactured claim of a "written verification" to save the Chief Deputy from DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE CHARGES -- a FELONY that would put Chief Deputy John Shadle behind the same bars as a bunch of vengeful prisoners...BOOM



--BOOM--  
BCI lies or is  
UNPROFESSIONALLY  
stupid..

look at the actual photos from the scene on Oct 5 in the Coroner's document.. that sprinkler head (enlarge it if you wish) is significantly more compact than this MODEL so how could BCI have made such a FALSE CLAIM THAT THEIR PHOTO WAS TAKEN ON OCT 5th...  
-----BOOM-----  
AND WONDER ABOUT THE DENT PUT IN THIS DIFFERENT \*MODEL\*...

*Close-up of sprinkler escutcheon plate with top portion of sheet still in place*

***Sheet Portion Hanging from Sprinkler Escutcheon Plate:*** Following Goldson's death, the portion of the sheet still hanging from the sprinkler escutcheon plate was removed

from above the plate by a BCI crime scene agent. No untying of the knotting was necessary for this removal.

***Sprinkler Assembly Weight Capacity:*** The sprinkler assembly and escutcheon plate that were previously removed from Goldson's cell were reviewed by representatives of Silco Fire and Security (Grove City, OH) a company that installs and maintains sprinkler systems for correctional institutions in Ohio. Shawn Ruff, Systems Manager, and Shawn Preston, Systems Coordinator, both stated they were very familiar with institutional sprinkler systems and were specifically familiar with the sprinkler assembly model taken from Goldson's cell.

The pressure INSIDE the pipe is IRRELEVANT TO THE IMPACT OF FORCE HANGING DOWN ON THE PIPE.. BCI are frauds to include such claims as if relevant for jury deciding on indictment based on anti-suicide

The Silco representatives verified that the sprinkler assembly from Goldson's cell and sprinkler assemblies in general were designed to withstand hundreds of pounds of water pressure and such assemblies have no mandated breakaway limit tied to weight. They further clarified that the "linkage" which holds the "fuse" at the bottom of the assembly was designed to burn away in a fire and would also release under weight pressure, but only if a weight was directly applied to the linkage mechanism.

the head is attached to the pipe via a more pliant connector that would give under a weight on the head.

The Silco representatives obtained and provided the technical specifications for the sprinkler assembly taken from Goldson's cell which stated, "...the design...is such that dynamic load of 80 lbs. or more **applied to the linkage mechanism** will release the sprinkler" (bold emphasis added). The subsequent paragraph stated: "A fusible solder operating element secures the linkage mechanism..."

The Silco representatives stated that a weight applied directly to the linkage would have released the sprinkler, but not a weight that was secured above the escutcheon plate or to anything else outside of the linkage mechanism itself. The Silco representatives also provided information regarding National Fire Prevention Association codes for weight loads on the pipes and hangers associated with sprinkler systems which stated, "Hangers shall be designed to support five times the weight of water-filled pipe plus 250 lb at each point of piping support." In this regard, the Silco representatives specifically stated that if a sheet had been wrapped around the escutcheon plate of the specific sprinkler assembly unit taken from Goldson's cell and the body weight of an adult male or another significant weight were applied, they would have every expectation that the sprinkler assembly, escutcheon plate, and associated piping, properly installed, would all have held in place.

---- DEMO COMING ---- at the INQUEST ----

***The BCI Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU)*** completed a review of the Brown County Jail's security system and also conducted a physical analysis of the cell phones assigned to Corporal Larry Meyer and Detective Buddy Moore. CCU found no signs of tampering with the jail video system. Due to technical limitations, no determination could be made regarding the integrity of data on the cell phones. The full CCU report is separate from this summary.

And does not include any cell phone records for the now-named DeathSquad, since those on-site apparently made an outside call to tell someone something and it ended up at Moore's phone in the middle of the night call from Meyer.... intentional OMISSION OF PROBABLE EVIDENCE BY THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE BCI INVESTIGATION AND IN SPITE OF THE ADMONITION OF THE BC CORONER.... wanting those deputy phone call records, now possibly in jeopardy of non-retrievability since BCI/Breyer stalled til the phone company usual deadline for removal of old records



*BCI's Forensic Audio/Video Analyst* reviewed and enhanced video of Goldson being led through the jail toward his cell. The enhancements more specifically showed the presence of Goldson's tattoos where previous to the enhancements, some were not easily visible.

the public comments on TV websites was apparently being WATCHED for any need to stifle criticism



*Enhanced photo showing the existence of Goldson's back tattoo*

#### **Additional Criminal Charges:**

Goldson was incarcerated in the Brown County Jail after being arrested in September 2013 and charged with the following:

- **Having Weapons under Disability, ORC 2923.13 (3rd degree felony).**
- **Possession of a Dangerous Ordnance, ORC 2923.17 (5th degree felony).**
- **Shooting across Roadway, ORC 2923.162 (3rd degree misdemeanor).**

at **\*\*juvenile\*\*** and likely unconstitutional but unchallengeable by working class kids so why is this allowed to be continued...

At the time of his incarceration, Goldson was under investigation by multiple other jurisdictions and facing multiple additional felony charges as follows:

- The **Springfield Township Police Department** issued an arrest warrant for Zachary Goldson for the charge of **Burglary, ORC 2911.12 (2nd degree felony)**.
- The **Hamilton County Sheriff's Office** issued an arrest warrant for Goldson for the charge of **Theft, ORC 2913.02 (3rd degree felony)**.
- The **Amberley Village Police Department** was pursuing an arrest warrant for Goldson until learning of his death. The pending criminal charges were identified as **Burglary, ORC 2911.12 (2nd degree felony)** and six counts of **Theft, ORC 2913.02**, in the following degrees/manners:
  - **Auto Theft (4th degree felony)**
  - **Felony Theft (Two counts – degrees may vary)**
  - **Misdemeanor Theft (Three counts – degrees may vary)**
- The **Reading Police Department** had planned to file the following criminal charges against Goldson before learning of his death:
  - **Receiving Stolen Property, ORC 2913.51 (Three counts - 5th degree felonies)**
  - **Possession of Controlled Substances, ORC 2925.11 (Two counts – 5<sup>th</sup> degree felonies)**
- The **Evendale Police Department** was actively investigating Goldson as a prime suspect in numerous local burglaries just prior to Goldson's incarceration in Brown County. Around that time, an informant working with Evendale Police Department had also named Goldson as the perpetrator in the theft of multiple firearms. Evendale detectives stated that at the time of this allegation, Goldson's Facebook page showed Goldson posing with automatic weapons.

Apparently the BCI and many others seem to think that they can take the law into their own hands and justify murder as well as their own role in driving the getaway car for the murderer of a thief.. nothing more vicious, unlike the vicious jailkeepers and deputies.....

And that makes them all COMPLICIT IN MURDER KNOWINGLY.. not manslaughter.... because they are not above the law...

Such MURDERERS are psychopaths and must be REMOVED FROM THEIR ACCESS TO WEAPONS AND PEOPLE.. Perhaps you'd need to think whether you'd want one of them to come to your aid when you are in trouble... I think you'd rather not...

And finally...

To those who honor the rationale that Zachary was a 'low life' or 'loser' and likely hooked on drugs at the expense of his own life... and not worth their time, we would point out that there are biblical admonitions that relate their attitude to be reformed in the proper 'doing unto the least of thy brethren'.... ala Samaritans...

*Zachary Goldson (photo from his personal Facebook page - retrieved October 2013)*

- Following Goldson's death, his girlfriend Mandy Lariccia admitted to Evendale detectives that she and Goldson stole two televisions from a sports bar in Reading, OH, and sold them shortly after. (NOTE: Previous to his incarceration in the Brown County Jail, after being arrested by the Reading Police Department on 9/25/13, Goldson adamantly denied involvement in this theft and reacted violently when pressed on Lariccia's involvement. The video of this interview is included in the Special Investigations case file).

Following the assault on Deputy Justice on the morning of October 5, 2013, Goldson additionally faced the following charges:

- **Felonious Assault, ORC 2903.11 (1st degree felony)**

Goldson had no weapon and the officer did, there's no chance of escape while that difference exists..

- **Escape, ORC 2921.34 (*Felony offense – the degree of which depends on multiple factors*)**

**Summary Reca**

**INCLUDING THE CARELESS INCOMPETENCE AND TEMPTING BEHAVIOR OF THE DEPUTY in not properly handcuffing and transporting protocol requirement omissions.... and turning his back on the un-cuffed inmate...**

- In the early morning of October 5, 2013, while leaving an in-custody medical appointment at a local hospital, Brown County Jail Inmate Zachary Goldson assaulted a deputy from behind and caused injury while attempting to gain control of the deputy's firearm and trying to escape custody.
- The 911 caller who reported the incident specifically stated to the dispatcher that a deputy was fighting with an inmate.
- The dispatch that went out to Brown Co. Sheriff's Office personnel and the Georgetown Police Department directed officers to "*start toward*" the hospital and provided the reason as "*...a report of a deputy fighting with an inmate...*" at the hospital.
- After the deputy yelled for help, Goldson's attack was thwarted by four bystanders who came to the deputy's aid.
- According to officer accounts and the available evidence, Brown County Sheriff's Office personnel did not specifically learn that Deputy Justice had been directly assaulted and injured until Deputy Meyer and Deputy Wedmore arrived on scene at the hospital almost four minutes after the initial 911 call.
- After officers secured Goldson, the inmate was returned to the jail and placed in his cell within approximately 10 minutes of the originating 911 call and within approximately six (6) minutes after Deputy Meyer and Deputy Wedmore's first arrived at the hospital.
- According to all available evidence including the accounts of all sheriff's office personnel on duty in the prisoner area, the correctional officer on duty in the control room, inmate trustees sharing a cell in the holding cell area where Goldson was also incarcerated, jail surveillance video and communications center audio, the following occurred and/or was observed at the jail on the morning in question:
  - No one entered Goldson's cell or the holding cell hallway immediately prior to Goldson being returned to his cell from the hospital.
  - Jail surveillance video recorded no activity and did not detect any movement in

the holding cell hallway for approximately one full hour prior to Goldson being returned to his cell.

- After Goldson was returned to the jail from the hospital, only two deputies entered the cell with Goldson.
- The two deputies were in the cell with Goldson for approximately **96 seconds**.
- No one entered Goldson's cell after the deputies exited and the door was locked.
- Goldson was alone in his cell for a total of approximately **23 minutes and 42 seconds** before Deputy Z. Schadle opened the cell door upon reportedly discovering Goldson hanging.

No one was detected by the motion detector -- that's all this can say... what's not investigated is whether the detector can be inactivated simply with a cover.. maybe used at other times to conceal incidents of intentional abuse

- Prior to the reported discovery of Goldson hanging, no one had approached or looked into Goldson's cell for approximately **21 minutes and 01 seconds**.
- Immediately upon deputies entering the cell, jail personnel called the life squad to report the hanging and to request emergency assistance.

Goldson's sister and girlfriend both stated that Goldson had been suicidal before his latest incarceration and had threatened to harm himself on multiple occasions.

Before the assault at the hospital, Goldson personally acknowledged in writing that he was facing a minimum of 9-14 years in prison on the Brown County charges alone.

- Directly following the assault, Goldson was specifically told by officers that he would be facing the additional charges of felonious assault and escape.
- Goldson was facing at least ten (10) additional felony charges and three (3) additional misdemeanor charges in four (4) other jurisdictions.

..ignoring the more recent letter to his mother on the more tolerable 5 year term...

which likely would have gone away once he was sentenced in Brown County.. as not worth pursuing

- An autopsy showed that beyond the ligature marks on his neck, Goldson had only minor external injuries and abrasions even though just prior to his death, he assaulted a deputy and was engaged in a significant struggle against four other persons.

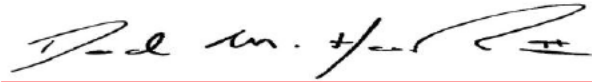
Prior to the completion of the investigation, Montgomery County Coroner Kent Harshbarger and Deputy Coroner Susan Allen stated to BCI that the ligature marks on Goldson were consistent with the sheet found around Goldson's neck and that the cause of death was consistent with a

totally CONCEALING the existence of a major hemorrhaged BAND OUTLINE on his throat that implied a strap in use FROM BEHIND, not the sheet hoisted at the SIDE KNOT... BCI IS A FRAUD..... BOOM

hanging by the neck.

End of summary.

Respectfully submitted,



Special Agent Dave Hornyak  
Special Investigations Unit  
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

*3BS*

Coincidentally, I'm sure, this 'agent' was selected to HANDLE the EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY from among the available investigators precisely because he has a personal animosity against the BC Coroner's husband. and SHOULD HAVE RECUSED HIMSELF assuming (generously falsely quite likely) that the assignment was not done KNOWINGLY by those in the Attorney General's Office annoyed at the BC Coroner's husband in his court challenges with the Sheriff of BC....