



A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF KURT A. HOFFMAN

On October 15, 2024, our agency was made aware of a video depicting Cornell Harris, III (18) being followed by Romulo Nobrega (36), Stephen Carega (41), and Geoffrey Gardner (43) as Mr. Harris videotaped himself walking through the Sarasota neighborhood of Skye Ranch. The video depicts Mr. Nobrega, Mr. Carega, and Mr. Gardner following Mr. Harris for an extended period of time, while attempting to question him and becoming more confrontational. Several versions of this video have been edited and have since made their way to various platforms. One social media influencer even falsely posted that a firearm was used during this incident.

Under my direction, our agency immediately assigned detectives to this incident and initiated an investigation of this reported event. Those detectives have reviewed the videos and thoroughly canvassed the areas in Skye Ranch where this event took place to determine if any other witnesses or video evidence could be gathered in furtherance of this investigation. Ultimately, detectives interviewed and attempted to interview several individuals. During the interviews, several witnesses indicated that Mr. Harris made inappropriate comments towards female neighbors in the area. Those comments prompted Mr. Nobrega, Mr. Carega, and Mr. Gardner to follow Mr. Harris in what can only be described as an agitated manner. After following Mr. Harris on foot, Mr. Carega eventually left the area and went back to his home, got in his vehicle, and drove to where Mr. Harris was still walking. Mr. Carega then proceeded to exit his vehicle and took what appeared to be a wooden stick of some type out of the vehicle. Based on the various videos, interviews of witnesses and measurements taken by detectives, Mr. Carega was approximately thirty to thirty-six feet away from Mr. Harris who was still walking and videotaping the incident. In addition, Mr. Carega was physically restrained by another

Skye Ranch resident and thus unable to advance towards Mr. Harris. At no time was a firearm observed or witnessed during this encounter.

At some point during this incident, an off-duty Sarasota County Sheriff's Office sergeant living in the area was made aware of this event by his neighbor and appropriately responded to the scene per agency policy. The sergeant correctly determined that Mr. Harris was lawfully walking and informed him he could go about his business and instructed the others to stop following Mr. Harris. I applaud this sergeant for immediately assessing the situation and recognizing that Mr. Harris should be allowed to continue walking through the neighborhood as a guest of his mother, who is a resident of Skye Ranch.

As your Sheriff, I understand the public interest that this event brought to our community over the last several weeks. I also understand the heightened emotions of everyone involved. As a law enforcement agency, our job is to put aside emotion, outside influences, and social media commentators to conduct a thorough investigation to determine if a criminal violation of Florida law has occurred. It should be noted that in order to establish probable cause for an assault charge we must prove that there was, (1) an intentional unlawful threat by word or act to do violence (2) coupled with an apparent ability to do so, and (3) creates a well-founded fear in such other person that such violence is imminent. Detectives were not able to establish these three elements during the course of their investigation.

As of today, we have spoken to all witnesses and parties who were willing to provide a statement. Additionally, we have reviewed all available videos, canvassed the surrounding neighborhoods, and have determined that no probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed. The investigation into this matter is now closed. This incident should serve as a reminder that when citizens find themselves in a confrontational situation, if able, they should disengage and request law enforcement to respond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kurt A. Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "K".

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Kurt A. Hoffman

2071 Ringling Boulevard

Sarasota, FL 34237

941.861.5800



Records Section

Public Record Request

SO-611 (rev.06-24)

GS1-23

Public Record Requested: 24-94003

Date: 11/6/24

The following information has been withheld as exempt or confidential and exempt under the applicable state or federal law. (Check all that apply)

ID: 2317

- ☐ Bank Account, Debit, Charge, and/or Credit Card Numbers – §119.071(5)(b), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Active Criminal Investigation – §119.071(2)(c) and/or §119.011(3), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Active Internal Affairs Investigation – §119.071(2)(k), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Biometric Identification Information – §119.071(5)(g), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Child Abuse / Neglect – §794.024, Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Confession – §119.071(2)(e), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Confidential Informant / Confidential Source – §119.071(2)(f), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Criminal Justice / History Information – §943.053 and/or §985.04, Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Department of Children and Families Information – §39.202 and/or §39.205, Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle Information – §119.0712(2), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Victim of Sexual Battery, Aggravated Child Abuse, Aggravated Stalking, Harassment, Aggravated Battery, or Domestic Violence – §119.071(2)(j), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Misdemeanor Juvenile Delinquency Information – §985.04, Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Marsy's Law – Article 1, §16(b), Fla. Const.
- ☐ Medical Information – §112.08(7), §119.071(4)(b), §394.4615, §395.3025, §397.501(7), §401.30, and/or §455.229, Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Pawnbroker Transactions – §539.003, Fla. Stat.
- ☒ Public Officer and Employee Personal Information - §119.071(4), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Security Systems – §119.071(3), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Criminal Intelligence / Investigative, Information of Victims of Child Abuse, Human Trafficking of Person Under the Age of 18, and/or Sexual Offense – §119.071(2)(h), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Social Security Numbers – §119.071(5)(a), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Surveillance Techniques – §119.071(2)(d), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Undercover Personnel – §119.071(4)(c), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Vulnerable Adult – §415.107 and/or §415.111(2), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ 911 Caller Information – §365.171(12), Fla. Stat.
- ☐ Other –



Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sarasota County, Florida
Incident Report: 24-94003 Supp 2

ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: 03 OTHER ADULT

Type:

Type:

Number: 06

Number:

Number:

Name: GARDNER, GEFREY

Race: WHITE

Sex: MALE DOB: 08-08-1981 Age: 43 ☐ Estimated Age

Height: 6' 01" Weight: 220

Hair: BLACK Eyes: BROWN

Offense/Incident Indicator: 1ST OFFENSE

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: 10167 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241

Residence Type: COUNTY

Residence Status: FULL YEAR

Home/Cell Phone: (201) 320-2179

Email:

Employer/School: UNKNOWN

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation: UNKNOWN

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: 03 OTHER ADULT

Type:

Type:

Number: 07

Number:

Number:

Name: MCSTAY, KENNETH

Race: WHITE

Sex: MALE DOB: 09-27-1989 Age: 35 ☐ Estimated Age

Height: 5' 10" Weight: 130

Hair: BROWN Eyes: BLUE

Offense/Incident Indicator: 1ST OFFENSE

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: 10204 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241

Residence Type: COUNTY

Residence Status: FULL YEAR

Home/Cell Phone: (941) 875-0200

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

City of Birth: PORTSMITH



Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sarasota County, Florida
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ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **08**
Number:
Number:

Name: **ALPER,SARAH**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **06-15-1981** Age: **43** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 01"** Weight: **120**

Hair: **BROWN** Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **10120 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(917) 680-0742**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **09**
Number:
Number:

Name: **TORRES,WHITNEY DIANA**

Race: **BLACK**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **11-23-1988** Age: **35** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 03"** Weight: **110**

Hair: **BLACK** Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **7775 NIGHTFALL TE, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone:

Email:

Employer/School: **NONE**

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation: **UNEMPLOYED**

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

City of Birth: **SARASOTA**



Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sarasota County, Florida
Incident Report: 24-94003 Supp 2

ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**

Number: **10**

Number:

Number:

Name: **HUGAN,ERIC EUGENE**

Race: **BLACK**

Sex: **MALE** DOB: **07-14-1975** Age: **49** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **6' 01"** Weight: **220**

Hair: **BLACK** Eyes: **UNKNOWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **2111 COCONUT AV, SARASOTA, FL 34234-0000**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone:

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**

Number: **11**

Number:

Number:

Name: **HARVEY,TREVOR D**

Race: **BLACK**

Sex: **MALE** DOB: **09-27-1967** Age: **57** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **6' 00"** Weight:

Hair: Eyes:

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **2752 21ST ST, SARASOTA, FL 34234**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone:

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:



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Sarasota County, Florida
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ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **12**
Number:
Number:

Name: **TATE, TIFFANY**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **12-23-1975** Age: **48** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 05"** Weight:

Hair: **BLONDE** Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **12310 PRAIRIE VALLEY LN, RIVERVIEW, FL 33579**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(813) 417-9560**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **13**
Number:
Number:

Name: **SECOR-JONES, SARAH**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **02-26-1983** Age: **41** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 04"** Weight:

Hair: **BROWN** Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **7755 NIGHTFALL TE, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(518) 791-2218**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:



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Sarasota County, Florida
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ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **14**
Number:
Number:

Name: **JOHNSTON,SCOTT**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **MALE** DOB: **09-16-1967** Age: **57** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 08"** Weight: **190**

Hair: **BROWN** Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **8343 SKYE RANCH BL, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **NA/UNKNOWN**

Home/Cell Phone: **(941) 518-8146**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **15**
Number:
Number:

Name: **HILL,ERIC DUWAYNE**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **MALE** DOB: **[REDACTED]** Age: **46** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **6' 01"** Weight: **220**

Hair: **BROWN** Eyes: **BLUE**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **[REDACTED]**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(941) 366-8163 / [REDACTED]**

Email:

Employer/School: **VENICE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Employer Address: **1350 RIDGEWOOD AV, VENICE, FL 34292**

Business Phone: **(941) 366-8163**

Occupation: **CAPTAIN**

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:



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ORIGINAL



PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **16**
Number:
Number:

Name: **GOMBERG,YVONNE**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **05-18-1966** Age: **58** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 01"** Weight:

Hair: **BROWN**

Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **9117 LUNA LN, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(631) 764-5271**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **17**
Number:
Number:

Name: **YATES,LEANNDRA**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **03-29-1989** Age: **35** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: **5' 04"** Weight:

Hair: **BROWN**

Eyes: **BROWN**

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **10195 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status: **FULL YEAR**

Home/Cell Phone: **(614) 354-6306**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:



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INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE

Clearance: **G: COMPLETED**

Photos Taken? **YES**

Dusted For Latent Prints? **NO**

Supv: **Daniel Levanti / 2824**

Exception:

By: **BAKER,JORDAN / 3004**

SYNOPSIS:

On 10/15/24, Sgt. Levanti advised me of an incident which occurred on 10/10/24 in the Skye Ranch community which had resulted in a significant social media response. The public social media posts alleged a black male walking through a neighborhood was accosted and followed by multiple white males.

INVESTIGATION:

10/15/24 – 1415 Hours:

I watched a video which had been disseminated on social media. I observed a black male (later identified as Cornell Harris III) walking down a road, videoing himself. Around him, multiple white males (later identified as Romulo Nobrega, Stephen Carega, and Geoffrey Gardner) were clearly following and asking him questions related to what he was doing and where he lived. Later in the video, Stephen Carega could be seen parking a white sedan at the curb near Cornell. He exited and quickly moved around the rear of the vehicle to the front passenger door in a clearly agitated manner. While walking, he could be heard saying, "I've got something for you" and gesturing toward Cornell. He retrieved an object from the passenger seat of the vehicle. Stephen was immediately restrained by Romulo who was clearly attempting to calm him down saying, "Stephen no, Stephen..." Stephen kept the object concealed behind him during the entire incident. At no time did Stephen swing, point, or brandish the object. Cornell continued to walk away, pausing once to glance back toward Stephen before continuing to walk away, laughing.

10/15/24 – 1438 Hours:

Stephen Carega and his wife, Regina Carega, responded to the SCSO headquarters, unbidden, to report harassment related to this incident. I conducted a sworn, audio-recorded interview with both of them.

Regina stated she was not involved in following Cornell through the neighborhood. She had, however, seen Cornell walk past their residence located at 10180 Milky Way Circle several times prior to the confrontation. She later learned that Cornell had approached Eryn Nobrega, Romulo's wife, and made inappropriate comments to her. This caused Eryn to feel very uncomfortable and retreat into her residence.

Stephen stated he was made aware of the incident with Eryn by a neighborhood child. He immediately responded to the Nobrega's residence located at 10191 Milky Way Circle to check on the situation. There, he made contact with Romulo who advised Cornell had made inappropriate statements toward his wife, Eryn. Together Romulo, Stephen and another neighbor, Geoffrey Gardner, followed Cornell in an effort to ascertain if he lived in the community. While they followed him, Cornell made several inflammatory and inappropriate comments about their wives, causing Stephen to become increasingly irate. Stephen stated, on multiple occasions, he stopped following Cornell but did return to continue following. When I asked him what he retrieved from the passenger side of his vehicle, he initially stated he didn't get anything, he merely opened the door to leave his cellphone inside. Later, he altered his story and stated he had retrieved a stick which he intended to use to knock Cornell's phone out of his hand to stop his recording of them. He stated he never intended to strike Cornell with the stick and only intended to knock the phone out of his hand. The stick was described as a stick from a tree that his dogs commonly play with.

10/15/24 – 1644 Hours:

I responded to 10191 Milky Way Circle and conducted a sworn and audio-recorded interview with Eryn and Romulo Nobrega.

Eryn stated she was standing near the end of her driveway with her young child when Cornell approached from the south. She smiled and greeted him. He asked her a question which she initially heard as "do you have a meal?" She responded, "Yes I have a meal. Do you?" This was soon after Hurricane Milton moved through the area and power was out for the community. Cornell corrected her and asked, "Do you have a man?" She felt uncomfortable and advised she had a husband. Cornell continued to make comments that made



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Eryn uncomfortable such as, "I can be your man" until she fled back to her residence and locked the door. Eryn watched from inside until Cornell walked away. She then went to her neighbor's house and asked for help manually closing the garage door due to the lack of electricity.

When Romulo returned home shortly thereafter, Eryn advised him of the incident. Romulo searched the area on his bicycle and located Cornell down the street. He began following Cornell asking what he was doing in the area and why he was making his wife uncomfortable. Cornell refused to answer any questions and just made inflammatory and inappropriate comments about Eryn. Shortly thereafter, Geoffrey Gardner and Stephen Carega joined Romulo in following and questioning Cornell, who continued to make inflammatory remarks. At some point, Stephen went back home and returned with his vehicle. When Stephen parked, Romulo was immediately able to see that Stephen was very irate. Romulo feared Stephen would take some action and physically intercepted Stephen when he retrieved an object from his passenger seat. Romulo claimed he did not see what the object was as his sole focus was containing Stephen while Cornell walked away.

Meanwhile, Eryn responded to Sgt. Bairos' residence. She asked him to come deescalate the situation. Sgt. Bairos, who was off duty and at his residence, responded to the scene and briefly spoke to Cornell (see his supplemental report). He determined Cornell had a right to be in the community. Sgt. Bairos relayed that information to Romulo, Stephen, and Geoffrey and all parties dispersed.

Both Romulo and Eryn stated they had never seen Cornell in the neighborhood before this incident.

10/16/24 – 0949 Hours:

I responded to Geoffrey Gardner's residence of 10167 Milky Way Circle. I provided him with my phone number via his camera doorbell. He called me and advised he did not wish to speak to me without an attorney present.

10/16/24 – 1000 Hours:

Detectives Ng, Randazzo, O'Koren, Sergeant Levanti and I conducted a canvass of the area of Milky Way Circle, Skye Ranch Blvd, and Nightfall Terrace. See their supplements for the residences they checked. During this canvass, it was determined the incident took place across the street from 8300 Sky Ranch Road near the intersection of Sky Ranch and Milky Way Circle. The results of my portion of the canvass are as follows:

10204 Milky Way Circle: The resident advised she did not see anything but believed her husband, Kenneth McStay may have. She provided me with his phone number.

10200 Milky Way Circle: The residents were not home during the incident. Their security cameras did not record due to the power outage.

10192 Milky Way Circle: The residents were not home during the incident. No security cameras.

10184 Milky Way Circle: The residents were not home during the incident. Security cameras were not operational due to power outage.

10172 Milky Way Circle: The residents saw Romulo following Cornell but did not see or hear any argument or commotion.

10132 Milky Way Circle: The residents were home but did not see anything.

10136 Milky Way Circle: No answer, I left my business card.

10124 Milky Way Circle: No answer, I left my business card.

10120 Milky Way Circle: I conducted a sworn and audio-recorded interview with the resident, Sarah Alper. She advised she was walking in the area the day of this incident and saw Cornell. Cornell asked her if she "had a man". Sarah said yes and gestured toward her husband who was walking a short distance ahead with their children. Cornell walked away and Sarah continued. She stated she never felt threatened, but the question was off-putting.



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10116 Milky Way Circle: The residents observed Cornell walking but did not see anything suspicious.

10100 Milky Way Circle: The residents were home but did not see anything suspicious.

7763 Nightfall Terrace: The resident briefly spoke to Cornell outside of her residence the day of the incident but did not feel uncomfortable or see anything suspicious.

7771 Nightfall Terrace: No answer, I left my business card.

10/16/24 -1545 Hours:

I conducted an interview with Cornell's mother (Whitney Torres), uncle (Eric Hukan), and Trevor Harvey. Whitney advised Cornell lived in the neighborhood with her. After this incident, he returned home and told her, but no action was taken. Later, he showed her the video(s) he took during the incident. She realized the incident was more serious than she initially believed and posted a portion of one of the videos to social media. Whitney advised Stephen's family and hers had had run-ins before during those incidents, Stephen's children made racial epithets toward Whitney's other children, going so far as to call them "monkeys".

During the interview, we discussed the investigation thus far, potential investigative steps moving forward, and I stated that I would need to interview her adult son, Cornell, and review the full, unedited recording he took to move forward with the case. Whitney and Eric were very hesitant to allow me to speak to Cornell and advised they believed we would "do your jobs too well" and Cornell would leave feeling as though he had been interrogated. They believed the edited and shortened version of the video posted to social media would suffice to pursue charges. I reiterated the case required an interview with Cornell and a review of the original video(s) to move forward. They left the interview still appearing as though they would caution Cornell against speaking to me.

10/17/24 – 0838 Hours:

I conducted a sworn and audio recorded interview with Tiffany Tate. Tiffany advised she was staying with her mother at 8300 Sky Ranch Road during Hurricane Milton. She stated she was outside taking down shutters during the portion of the incident when Stephen arrived in his vehicle and retrieved the object from his passenger door. She observed that portion of the incident from approximately 20-30 feet away. She advised Cornell "did not appear to be threatening anyone and was laughing and talking and walking away from these men." Tiffany stated she was on the driver's side of the vehicle, across the street and was unable to see what Stephen retrieved from the vehicle. Cornell did not appear to be afraid and was laughing while he was walking away after Stephen retrieved the object from his car. However, she stated Cornell appeared to have "something wrong with him" and later believed the laughter to be "nervous laughter" after watching the video posted to social media.

After this incident, she stated Cornell returned to the area about 10-15 minutes later and spoke with her saying "this is crazy". She told him no one had time for nonsense due to the hurricane. Cornell offered to help with her shutters which she declined.

10/18/24 – 1536 Hours:

Detective Randazzo forwarded me an email from Sarah Secor-Jones. In the email, Sarah stated she had information to share with the lead detective investigating this case.

10/18/24 – 1537 Hours:

I received a voicemail from Cornell's attorney.

10/18/24 – 1635 Hours:

I called Cornell's attorney and left a voicemail.

10/18/24 - 1717 Hours:

I called Sarah Secor-Jones. She stated she lived on Nightfall Terrace and had heard of Stephen's children making epithets toward Whitney's children to include calling them "monkeys". She did not personally hear the children make those statements but heard about



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them and wished for me to know the history.

10/18/24 – 1903 Hours:

I received a voicemail from Cornell's attorney.

10/20/24 – 0900 Hours:

I received an email from Regina Carega containing Stephen and her new phone numbers. Included was a screenshot of a Facebook post made by Scott Johnston stating he had also had an interaction with Cornell the day of the incident wherein Cornell was aggressive and recording Scott with his phone also.

10/21/24 – 0808 Hours:

I called Cornell's attorney and left a voicemail.

10/21/24 – 0852 Hours:

I called Scott Johnston. He stated he was about to go into a meeting and would call me back at 1000 hours. He stated his neighbor, Eric Hill, was also present during his interaction with Cornell.

10/21/24 – 0917 Hours:

I called Eric Hill and left a voicemail.

10/21/24 – 0950 Hours:

I received a call from Eric Hill. He stated he briefly spoke to Cornell after this incident. Eric came back to the neighborhood after the hurricane to check on his residence. He was speaking with neighbors outside when Cornell approached and walked into the middle of the group. Cornell asked Eric if he worked for the community and if he knew when the power would be back on. Eric answered no to both questions and Cornell left, muttering something to the effect of "you're no good to me." He stated the entire interaction was odd, but he did not feel threatened and did not see Cornell recording the interaction.

10/21/24 – 1035 Hours:

I called Cornell's attorney and left another voicemail.

10/21/24 – 1045 Hours:

I spoke with Yvonne Gomberg. She advised she drove her vehicle down Milky Way Circle before this incident. She stated she observed Cornell walking down the center of the street, not yielding the roadway to motor vehicles. Yvonne was forced to pull her vehicle to the side of the road and completely stop until Cornell walked past. She stated Cornell was laughing at her as he walked by.

10/21/24 – 1226 Hours:

I conducted a sworn and audio-recorded interview with Scott Johnston. He confirmed Eric's statement. He advised nothing about their contact with Cornell was overtly threatening, just odd. He stated Cornell was holding his hands together down near his beltline and he just assumed Cornell was recording their conversation.

10/21/24 – 1251 Hours:

I spoke with Cornell's attorney. He stated he would send me seven (7) videos purported to be uncut and unedited versions depicting the incident. He asked that I speak with Leandra Yates as a possible witness to some of the events and stated he would speak to Cornell about arranging a meeting with detectives.

10/21/24 – 1533 Hours:



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I conducted a sworn and audio-recorded interview with Leannandra Yates, Eryn and Romulo's neighbor. She stated she and her husband exited their residence the day of this incident and saw Cornell walking past their house. Soon thereafter, Eryn approached them and advised Cornell had said to her "Do you have a man? I'll be your man" and similar. Eryn was clearly uncomfortable but did not appear to be scared or fearful. She made a statement to the effect of "I don't know how Rom will handle this." She then asked for help closing her garage door which they did.

A short time later, Leannandra and her husband walked outside again. Eryn spoke to them from her second-floor balcony and advised Romulo had confronted Cornell and she couldn't get him to come back. Leannandra located Romulo and Cornell speaking a short way down the street and approached. Leannandra stated they did not appear to be arguing or yelling, but Romulo was clearly aggravated. There was no indication of threats. She was able to convince Romulo to go back home. However, as soon as Romulo got home, he got onto his bicycle and left in Cornell's direction again.

Shortly after that, Leannandra and her husband went to another neighbor's house. When they left that house, she observed Romulo and Stephen approximately 50-100 feet from Cornell. There was a group of other neighbors nearby who appeared to be barring them from coming any closer to Cornell. None of the neighbors were physically restraining Romulo and Stephen. However, they were clearly standing in their way. Leannandra approached Cornell and asked him to walk elsewhere purely to alleviate the situation. Cornell left the area toward Skye Ranch Road.

At no time did Leannandra report hearing any threats. She did not see Cornell recording any of the proceedings and specifically remembered Cornell's phone playing music when she last spoke to him. Leannandra stated she and her family spent a good deal of time outside and had never seen Cornell walking in the neighborhood before. However, she heard other neighbors may have seen him. From beginning to end, Leannandra estimated Romulo and Stephen were following Cornell for an hour or more. She stated she believed there was a clear culture of racism in the neighborhood toward anyone that wasn't "white and Christian", but she did not know of Romulo or Stephen being involved in that culture prior to this incident.

10/22/24 – 0926 Hours:

I received a voicemail from Stephen's attorney.

10/22/24 – 1121 Hours:

I called Stephen's attorney and left a voicemail.

10/22/24 – 1230 Hours:

I spoke with Stephen's attorney regarding this case. He stated he was engaged by Stephen to assist with a possible civil case. He advised they had hired a private investigator as well as made a public records request for all law enforcement files related to this case. I informed him the files would likely not be released prior to the conclusion of this case. I also provided him with a very brief synopsis of my interview with his client, Stephen.

10/22/24 – 1501 Hours:

I spoke with Cornell's attorney. He stated he had not yet set up a time for me to interview Cornell. I asked him again about the unedited video of the incident and he stated he was having trouble sending it to me.

10/22/24 – 1600 Hours:

Sgt. Levanti and I responded to the location of the incident and measured Cornell's location at various points during the incident as seen in the posted video of the incident. We found that when Stephen parked his vehicle and exited, Cornell was approximately twelve (12) away. When Stephen retrieved the item from his vehicle and turned around, Cornell was approximately thirty (30) yards away. When Cornell noticed Romulo was holding Stephen back and turned around, he was approximately thirty six (36) yards away.

10/23/24 – 1429 Hours:



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Cornell's attorney called me and advised he was able to download the uncut and unedited videos taken by Cornell to a drive. We arranged for me to pick up the drive on 10/24/24.

10/24/24 – 0853 Hours:

I spoke with Kenneth McStay via phone. He stated, while he did not observe Cornell speaking with Eryn, he did observe Stephen, Romulo, and Geoffrey following Cornell. He attempted to dissuade them from following Cornell, but they continued to follow and aggressively ask him questions. Later, he again saw Cornell walking. He briefly spoke with Cornell, who stated he had spoken to law enforcement and was allowed to be in the neighborhood.

Kenneth stated he did not hear any threats or witness any threatening movements.

10/24/24 – 1200 Hours:

I met with Cornell's attorney and retrieved what the attorney advised was an unedited version of the video. He stated he would speak with Cornell about what time he was available to meet with me and would arrange the meeting for either 10/28/24 or 10/29/24.

10/24/24 – 1500 Hours:

I reviewed the seven (7) videos provided by Cornell's attorney and observed the following:

The videos were titled "IMG_2258" to "IMG_2264"

In the video titled "IMG_2258", at 02:30 minutes, Cornell was being followed. He stated, "You crossed the line like you're gonna hit me, I want you to do it for real."

In the video titled "IMG_2261", at 01:00, Stephen stated, "I'll knock that phone right out of your fucking hands."

The video titled "IMG_2262" contained the video of Stephen with his car and the object which was posted to social media. After reviewing that video, I was able to positively identify the object Stephen retrieved from the vehicle as a short baseball bat.

10/28/24 – 0929 Hours:

I texted Cornell's attorney asking if he had spoken with Cornell about a time to meet. I did not receive a response.

10/29/24 – 1625 Hours:

I received a text message from Cornell's attorney advising Cornell and his mother might be available to meet with me on 10/31/24.

10/31/24 – 1120 Hours:

I conducted a sworn and audio-recorded interview with Cornell Harris III. He advised, on the day of this incident, he was bored inside his home due to the lack of electricity or phone reception. He went for a walk through the neighborhood, listening to music. He greeted some residents who he saw outside including Eryn and asked if she needed help. He stated he asked because he saw her with the child and didn't see anyone else. Cornell stated she seemed worried about him, so he walked away. He advised at no time did he ask "Do you have a man? I can be your man" or similar to Eryn or any other person. Shortly thereafter, he was approached by Romulo who began interrogating him. Cornell continued to walk, with Romulo following him. Romulo called out to other residents in the area, and they joined in following and interrogating Cornell. While Cornell did not recall specific and overt racist statements, he remembered they told him he must have "jumped the fence with the cattle to be here." The Skye Ranch community was built on a former cattle pasture and was still surrounded by cattle pastures. Cornell stated at some point, Stephen stopped following but soon returned with his vehicle. He recounted the scene seen in the posted video, adding that he did not see the object retrieved as he was watching them through his phone's forward facing camera. He observed Romulo grab Stephen through the cell phone screen. He stated, "I thought I was gonna die" as he believed the object retrieved was a firearm. Later, he watched the zoomed in vehicle on Tik Tok and saw the object was a baton or similar. Cornell continued to walk away at a faster pace. At least two (2) of the men continued to follow him for ten (10) additional minutes until the arrival of Sgt. Bairos.



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Cornell stated he had never had any interaction with any of the men following him prior to this incident. He later learned that Stephen and his children had had earlier issues with Whitney and her other children. Cornell stated that during this entire interaction, he felt harassed, threatened, and did not feel safe returning home as he did not want to be followed there.

Cornell's attorney advised they had become aware of a preexisting group chat on Facebook with several members of the community to include Stephen, Romulo and Geffrey. Cornell believed this incident was preplanned and advised the group chat was encouraging gun violence against the protest walk which stemmed from this incident. Cornell's attorney sent me a screen recording of the group chat.

There was no evidence that there was any preplanning regarding this incident. As there was no cell phone service in the majority of Sarasota County following Hurricane Milton, it was extremely unlikely they would have been able to coordinate this incident.

CONCLUSION:

During this investigation, it was determined Cornell Harris III approached Eryn Nobrega and asked her personal questions, which made her uncomfortable. This resulted in Stephen Carega, Romulo Nobrega, and Geffrey Gardner following him for an extended period of time as he walked through the neighborhood. During this, they asked him many times where he lived and why he was in the neighborhood. Cornell refused to answer their questions except for stating "I'm part of the neighborhood" one time. He repeatedly laughed and chided Stephen, Romulo and Geffrey for following him and called them "creepers" while recording the interaction. For the duration of this interaction, Stephen, Geffrey and Romulo repeatedly told Cornell that the reason they were following and questioning him was to ascertain if he belonged in the neighborhood as they believed he was acting suspiciously and making Eryn uncomfortable. In the jury instructions posted by the Florida Bar for Stalking/Harassment, the "course of conduct" must serve no legitimate purpose. This incident occurred the morning after major Hurricane Milton struck Sarasota County, the power and security cameras for the neighborhood were out, no cell phone service existed, many neighbors had evacuated, and Cornell was reportedly approaching women and asking uncomfortable questions. Furthermore, neither Stephen, Eryn, nor Romulo reported having seen Cornell in the gated community before. Due to these factors, I believe it was reasonable to perceive Stephen, Romulo, and Geffrey's following and questioning of Cornell served a legitimate purpose.

Stephen became increasingly irate until he left and returned with his vehicle. He exited the vehicle and retrieved a baseball bat from the passenger seat. Romulo immediately restrained him at a distance of approximately thirty (30) feet from Cornell. At no time did any of the three (3) men following Cornell utter any racial epithets or impede his ability to walk away from them. At no time did Stephen brandish or swing the baseball bat. From the videos provided by Cornell's attorney, it was unclear if Cornell even saw the baseball bat. Due to the distance between the men, the fact that Romulo was restraining Stephen, and Cornell's apparent lack of either knowledge or fear of Stephen and the baseball bat, I do not believe probable cause exists to charge Stephen Carega with Assault.

An interview was conducted with Cornell. Despite his fear of harm and his complaint of harassment. I do not believe probable cause exists to charge Stephen, Romulo, or Geffrey with harassment or assault for the reasons above.

I request this case be cleared complete.



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REPORT INFORMATION

Supplement

Case Number: 24-94003

Date Reported: 10-16-2024 20:57

DNA Swab?

Clearance: N: NOT CLEARED (OPEN/ACTIVE)

Exception:

Pharma Related? NO

OFFENSE

UCR Statute

Attempt

#1: SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

UNKNOWN

EVENT DATA

DateTime Occurred From:

DateTime To:

Incident/Offense Location: 10191 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA

Grid: 229 Zone: 013 Forced Entry:

Dispatch Code: 13I Nature of Inc: SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

Location Type: HIGHWAY/ROADWAY

Weapon Type:

Nbr Premises:

Nbr Offenses: 0

Nbr Offenders: 0 Nbr Arrest Total:

Nbr Arrest Adult:

Nbr Arrest Juvenile:

PERSON

Type: 03 OTHER ADULT

Number: 01

☐ Victim card given

Type:

Number:

☐ Confidential

Type:

Number:

Name: HARRIS,CORNELL ETHAN III

Race: BLACK

Sex: MALE DOB: 03-03-2006 Age: 18 ☐ Estimated Age

Height: 5' 09" Weight: 160

Hair: BLACK Eyes: BROWN

Offense/Incident Indicator: 1ST OFFENSE

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: 903 N FALLS OF VENICE CI, VENICE, FL 34292

Residence Type: COUNTY

Residence Status: NON-RES

Home/Cell Phone: (941) 242-4481

Email:

Employer/School: DISABLED

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation: DISABLED

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

City of Birth: SARASOTA





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PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **02**
Number:
Number:

Name: **NOBREGA, ERYN**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **FEMALE** DOB: **05-02-1990** Age: **34** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: Weight: **140**

Hair: Eyes:

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **10191 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status:

Home/Cell Phone: **(574) 309-4681**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:

PERSON

- ☐ Victim card given
☐ Confidential

Type: **03 OTHER ADULT**
Type:
Type:

Number: **03**
Number:
Number:

Name: **NOBREGA, ROMULO**

Race: **WHITE**

Sex: **MALE** DOB: **12-02-1987** Age: **36** ☐ Estimated Age

Height: Weight:

Hair: Eyes:

Offense/Incident Indicator: **1ST OFFENSE**

Extent Injury:

Injury Type #1:

Injury Type #2:

Home Address: **10191 MILKY WAY CI, SARASOTA, FL 34241**

Residence Type: **COUNTY**

Residence Status:

Home/Cell Phone: **(574) 320-5091**

Email:

Employer/School:

Employer Address:

Business Phone:

Occupation:

Scars/Marks/Tattoos/Clothing:

Foul Play:

Missing Previously:

Recovery Info:

Victim/Offender Relationship:

DVR:

Alias:



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SUPPLEMENT

Supv: **Daniel Levanti / 2824**

Rcds: **Elizabeth Lutes / 0734**

Exception:

Clearance: **N: NOT CLEARED (OPEN/ACTIVE)**

On 10/10/2024, The morning after Hurricane Milton, I was off duty and at my personal residence when approached by an unknown female at the time. The female was later identified to me as Eryn Nobrega. She had arrived as a passenger in a white Tesla and had an infant baby with her. She advised she lived in the neighborhood and stated that a male had approached her while she was outside with her child. While Eryn was speaking, she started to cry like she was in a panic state. She advised being approached by an unknown subject at her residence while standing on her driveway. The subject later identified to me by detectives as, Cornell Harris, questioned her, "Do you have a man". "Why isn't your man here to help you." I do not recall the entire conversation, but Eryn advised her husband was not home at the time and that she was scared and walked back into her house because of the types of questions he asked her. I advised her that there was not much I could do at the time as I was off duty and dealing with personal matters post storm. She then stated that several neighbors were following the subject through the neighborhood. I felt that I needed to check the safety of all involved and went to the area the subject was last seen by Eryn.

I drove over to the area of Skye Ranch Blvd, where I observed several males following a single male subject from a distance on the sidewalk. I pulled up next to the subject, but never got out of my car. I asked Cornell if everything was, ok? He replied, "What do you think." I told the Cornell, "I know you stay in the neighborhood because I saw you earlier", Cornell stated, "Ya," After a short conversation Cornell walked off and several male subjects who followed him approached my vehicle.

I told the group of males who I assumed were neighbors of Eryn to stop following the subject as he is staying in the neighborhood. They asked if I got his name and I said, "No." I advised them that I did not observe a crime and that I had no reason to stop him. I advised them that I have seen Cornell in the neighborhood and that he stays or is living with someone in the Skye Ranch Community. The main person I spoke with identified himself as Eryn's husband, Romulo Nobrega, but he was not known to me at the time. I iterated to them that I did not observe any crime at the time and that they needed to call the Sheriff Office if they needed further assistance as I was off duty and here only to check the welfare of all involved.

Within the short time I was there, I felt the situation was resolved and all parties separated. I left and returned back to my residence. This concludes my involvement with this case.