



## Department of Public Safety & Corrections Incident Report

Nature of Report: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Report by Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken by Supervisor		Incident: Time: 0247 hrs. Date: Dec. 5, 2015	
To: Major Kevin Reeves Rank/Title: Reg. 3/Command Inspector Troop/Section:		From: Captain Jay D. Oliphant, Jr. Rank/Title: Troop E Commander Troop/Section:	
Nature of Incident: Louisiana State Police Commission Member Calvin Braxton			
Location: Natchitoches, LA.			

### Synopsis of Incident

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 at approximately 1800 hours, Louisiana State Police Trooper Jayson Linebaugh, who is currently assigned to Troop E, began working his regular night shift scheduled from 1800-0600 hours. On this particular evening, Trooper Linebaugh was assigned to patrol Natchitoches Parish. During his tour of duty, at approximately 0247 hours on the morning of Dec. 5, 2015, he had the occasion of stopping a maroon, 2015 Ford truck on Louisiana Highway 494 near Plantation Point, which is located in Natchitoches Parish. The vehicle was stopped due to driver violations, which were indicated in the report as LRS 32:61 Speeding 68/55 MPH Zone and LRS 32:79 Improper Lane Usage. As the vehicle came to a complete stop, the driver, later identified as [REDACTED] exited the vehicle. Circumstances throughout Trooper Linebaugh's interactions with [REDACTED] led to her being placed under arrest for suspicion of Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. At [REDACTED] request, her vehicle was released to Ronnie D. Hamilton, who arrived at the location of the traffic stop, a short while later. Trooper Linebaugh transported [REDACTED] to the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center, where she was given an opportunity to submit a breath sample into the Intoxilyzer 9000. She submitted a breath sample with a blood alcohol concentration of .139g%. [REDACTED] was formally charged with Driving While Intoxicated 1<sup>st</sup> Offense, Speeding 68/55 MPH Zone, Improper Lane Usage and an Open Container violation. She was later booked on those charges and released to the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center.

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On Saturday morning, Dec. 5, 2015 upon learning of [REDACTED] arrest, I contacted her father, Mr. Calvin Braxton, as a courtesy and advised him of the arrest. The courtesy was extended because Mr. Braxton is a distant associate of mine, as well as a member of the Louisiana State Police Commission. Upon speaking with Mr. Braxton, I learned that he was already aware of his daughter's arrest. His concern was whether or not Trooper Linebaugh knew who he was. I advised him I was not aware if Trooper Linebaugh knew him. Mr. Braxton asked if Trooper Linebaugh had once worked with the Natchitoches Police Department. I advised him yes, prior to his employment with the Louisiana State Police. Mr. Braxton stated that Trooper Linebaugh should have known who he was, and he should have given his daughter, [REDACTED] professional courtesy, as well as utilized discretion in not arresting her. I advised Mr. Braxton that I was not sure if Trooper Linebaugh knew either him or his daughter prior to the arrest. Mr. Braxton stated that Trooper Linebaugh should have known that the vehicle was from the dealership (Natchitoches Ford), which he allegedly owns. Mr. Braxton began making accusations that Trooper Linebaugh had been patrolling LA 494 for quite some time. Adding he may have been targeting a select group of individuals, maybe even him or his family. I found nothing to indicate Trooper Linebaugh has been targeting any one individual or group of individuals. I advised Mr. Braxton that Trooper Linebaugh has the liberty of patrolling anywhere within his assigned area. Mr. Braxton concluded by requesting that I inquire if Trooper Linebaugh knew him.

On Wednesday, December 9, 2015, I spoke with Trooper Linebaugh, who stated he was unaware of who Calvin Braxton was, adding he would not know him if he walked up. He further stated he did not even consider the connection between [REDACTED] and Mr. Braxton until sometime later following the arrest, when he realized the dealer license plate, and the Ford King Ranch truck had the "Natchitoches Ford" decal on it. Trooper Linebaugh stated he has heard Calvin Braxton's name, and also mentioned that it really would not have mattered who he was. [REDACTED] was under the influence of alcohol and driving, therefore she was arrested, just as anyone else would have been. Trooper Linebaugh stated he would not have treated her any different, just because she was Calvin Braxton's daughter. During our conversation, Trooper Linebaugh began to become concerned if he was in trouble for this arrest. I assured Trooper Linebaugh that he was not in any kind of trouble at all. I advised him I support the good job he had been doing as a Louisiana State Trooper, encouraging him to keep up the good work.

Later that day, Mr. Braxton and I had a telephone conversation specific to whether or not Trooper Linebaugh knew who he was. I advised Mr. Braxton that Trooper Linebaugh stated he was unaware of who he was, adding he would not have known him if he walked up and engaged him

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in conversation. Mr. Braxton immediately began to say that Trooper Linebaugh was not telling the truth. He stated his dealership had sold a vehicle to Trooper Linebaugh. This was later determined to be false, according to Trooper Linebaugh. Mr. Braxton stated Trooper Linebaugh and his father-in-law had been to the dealership before. Mr. Braxton further stated that Trooper Linebaugh was a liar, and he has known Troopers to get fired for lying. He stated that it was fine if Trooper Linebaugh did not help him by showing discretion when he arrested his daughter. Mr. Braxton asserted he might not help Trooper Linebaugh if he gets in a bind on the job which requires him to appear before the Louisiana State Police Commission (which he is a member of). He stated he was going to call Colonel Edmonson (Louisiana State Police Superintendent) regarding his displeasure concerning his daughter's arrest. Mr. Braxton stated he was not through with this issue. Following our conversation, I contacted Colonel Edmonson via text message and advised him of Mr. Braxton's attitude toward Trooper Linebaugh. Colonel Edmonson advised he had already spoken with Mr. Braxton.

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, I received a telephone call from Mr. Braxton. He asked what I had planned to do with Trooper Linebaugh. He stated he had spoken with Colonel Edmonson, who told him, as the Troop Commander the employees' actions and assignments were at my discretion. According to Mr. Braxton, Colonel Edmonson advised him I could move Trooper Linebaugh wherever I wanted to. I advised Mr. Braxton that, if needed due to shift shortage, Trooper Linebaugh could be reassigned throughout the Troop E area. I further advised routes and assignments are considered "assigned daily." Mr. Braxton stated Trooper Linebaugh needed to be reassigned to New Orleans, La. When I inquired for further explanation of his statement, Mr. Braxton stated that Trooper Linebaugh needs to be reassigned to New Orleans, La. for about 60-90 days to "get his mind right". I advised Mr. Braxton that the only reason a trooper would be assigned to New Orleans, La. would be to supplement the New Orleans Police Department in an ongoing criminal enforcement detail, certainly not as punishment for arresting his daughter. Mr. Braxton continued the conversation by saying that Trooper Linebaugh was out of control. I asked Mr. Braxton how Trooper Linebaugh was out of control. I then advised Mr. Braxton that as the Troop Commander at Troop E, it was my responsibility to make sure Trooper Linebaugh was not out of control. Mr. Braxton stated Trooper Linebaugh had arrested the Sheriff's son - *speaking of the Aug. 15, 2015 arrest of [REDACTED] for Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. [REDACTED] is the son of Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones.* Mr. Braxton stated he had talked to Sheriff Victor Jones and he (Sheriff Jones) wanted Trooper Linebaugh reassigned from Natchitoches Parish as well. I replied that I had spoken to Sheriff Jones regarding the arrest of his

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son, and he was very understanding, in that Trooper Linebaugh was doing his job. I further advised Mr. Braxton that I had spoken with Trooper Linebaugh concerning his use of discretion, assuring him it was his choice when to utilize it. Mr. Braxton stated that the conversation I had with Trooper Linebaugh had not worked, because he had arrested his daughter, therefore he may not know what discretion actually is. Mr. Braxton stated he had spoken with some of the members of the Louisiana State Police Commission. He advised they are not to be "touched." I asked Mr. Braxton what he meant when he said, they are not to be "touched." Mr. Braxton stated neither they nor their families are suppose to receive tickets and things of that nature. I advised Mr. Braxton that I was unaware of any such immunity for Louisiana State Police Commission Members.

At the conclusion of our conversation, I contacted Sheriff Victor Jones and asked if he had any problems with Trooper Linebaugh. Sheriff Jones adamantly stated he had no concerns at all with Trooper Linebaugh, and asked why I had inquired. I advised Sheriff Jones that I had just gotten off the phone with Mr. Braxton, who stated he (Sheriff Jones) wanted Trooper Linebaugh reassigned from Natchitoches Parish. Sheriff Jones advised Mr. Braxton was not telling the truth, adding he had never told him any such thing. Sheriff Jones advised me if he had an issue with Trooper Linebaugh, he would have called me or Colonel Edmonson, and not taken up the matter with Mr. Braxton.

On Monday, December 14, 2015, I received another call from Mr. Braxton. He again asked what I was going to do with Trooper Linebaugh. He stated he had called Colonel Edmonson, who would not tell him whether or not he was going to move Trooper Linebaugh, referring him to me. Mr. Braxton stated he had called me and I would not tell him I was going to reassign Trooper Linebaugh. Mr. Braxton insisted that someone is going to have to tell him something because he was not going to stop until he gets what he wants. I responded by asking what was it that he did not understand. I advised Mr. Braxton to let me be very clear about the Trooper Linebaugh issue. I advised him I was not reassigning Trooper Linebaugh. He was going to continue to patrol in Natchitoches Parish. Mr. Braxton then stated he saw how much "stroke" he had, and if he did not have any more "stroke" than that, then he was unsure of what to do. I advised Mr. Braxton the issue had nothing to do with the amount of stroke he thought he had, the issue was with right and wrong. I advised him it would be wrong to even consider reassigning a Trooper who did the right thing in removing an intoxicated driver from the roadway, even if this intoxicated driver just so happened to be his daughter. I advised Mr. Braxton that when a Trooper does something wrong, it will be dealt with accordingly. But, when a Trooper does the right thing by doing his job, I will always support and stand by him or her. Our conversation ended with Mr. Braxton, once again

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indicating he was not finished with this issue. Since then, I have had minimal conversations with Mr. Braxton regarding other matters. He has not mentioned anything else concerning Trooper Linebaugh.

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