

**From:** [Warren, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Michael Barfield](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2024 11:11:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Michael –

I met with Det. Wildt this morning. I've inserted answers to your questions below.

Randy Warren  
*Public Information Officer*  
MANATEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
(941) 747-3011 Ext. 2278  
([randy.warren@manateesherriff.com](mailto:randy.warren@manateesherriff.com))



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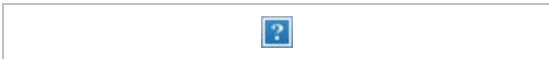
**From:** Michael Barfield <[records@flcga.org](mailto:records@flcga.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** Warren, Randy <[Randy.Warren@manateesherriff.com](mailto:Randy.Warren@manateesherriff.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for comment

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**Utilize the Phishing Button in Outlook to report suspected phishing emails.**

Thanks, Randy.

**Michael Barfield | Director of Public Access & Investigative Reporter**



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Member *Investigative Reporters & Editors*

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**From:** Warren, Randy <[Randy.Warren@manateesherriff.com](mailto:Randy.Warren@manateesherriff.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** Michael Barfield <[records@flcga.org](mailto:records@flcga.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for comment

Michael -

Got your email. I'll get back to you tomorrow.

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 11, 2024, at 12:52 PM, Michael Barfield <[records@flcga.org](mailto:records@flcga.org)> wrote:

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**Utilize the Phishing Button in Outlook to report suspected phishing emails.**

Hi Randy,

I'm working on a story which involves detective Melanie Wildt's involvement in a criminal investigation. The investigation is no longer active as the subject was arrested back in February 2024.

The arrested person is Darryl Bernard Brookins, Jr. Several charges were filed against Mr. Brookins. The most serious charge was for sexual battery on a minor. The agency case number is 2024-002868. He was arrested on February 21, 2024, and booked into the Manatee County Jail (Booking No. 2024001262).

On February 28, 2024, detective Wildt was served with a subpoena to appear in court and give testimony in connection with a mandatory pretrial detention hearing for Mr. Brookins that was scheduled for March 1, 2024. I've attached a copy of the email and subpoena that was electronically served on detective Wildt.

Also on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, Assistant State Attorney sent an email to detective Wildt about testifying at the pretrial detention hearing. They agreed to chat with each other by phone later that same day. I've attached a copy of the

email between ASA Lawrence and detective Wildt.

Later in the afternoon on Feb. 28, the State Attorney sent an email to detective Wildt stating that, based on the telephone call between ASA Lawrence and detective Wildt, she was being released from the subpoena to appear and testify at the hearing scheduled for the next morning. I've attached a copy of that email as well.

Mr. Brookins was subsequently granted a monetary bond after the judge determined that the State could not rely solely on the hearsay contained in the probable cause affidavit. After Mr. Brookins release, detective Wildt had communications with the victim in the underlying case about his alleged violation of the terms and conditions of his pretrial release, which included no contact with the victim and a curfew between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

I've also learned that detective Wildt had communications with other agencies about Mr. Brookins' alleged violation of the terms and conditions of his pretrial release.

Approximately two months after Mr. Brookins' release, he was arrested by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office for homicide. As you would expect, his pretrial release on the prior charges was revoked. Mr. Brookins remains in custody of Sarasota County on all these charges.

I've spoken with the victim in the original case detective Wildt investigated. I've also spoken with the family of the homicide victim in the subsequent Sarasota case.

Here are the questions I have, which are also shared by the victims:

1. Can detective Wildt tell me about the call between her and ASA Lawrence on February 28, 2024? **Det. Wildt had a call with ASA Lawrence to go over what she had investigated to that point. In that conversation, Lawrence explained that he didn't think the judge would find probable cause to detain him and that he was going to just give Brookins a bond.**
2. Did the prosecutor tell detective Wildt why she was being released from the subpoena? **Yes. She was informed that she was not needed to testify because the SAO was going to agree to a bond.**
3. Did anyone at the Manatee County Sheriff's Office notify the victim that a mandatory pretrial detention hearing had been scheduled for Mr. Brookins on March 1, 2024? **No. Generally the SAO would do so through Rape Crisis and the Victim Advocate.**
4. If so, how and when was that communicated to the victim? **(see**

above)

5. Did anyone at the Manatee County Sheriff's Office notify the victim that Mr. Brookins was released from jail? **Det. Wildt is not sure how the victim or family was notified. Those notifications are not done by the case detective.**
6. If so, how and when was that communicated to the victim? **Likely a parental notification through the VINE program.**
7. What, if any, efforts did detective Wildt make to determine whether Mr. Brookins was in violation of the terms and conditions of his pretrial release? **Det. Wildt was not made aware of his conditions. He already had a no contact order in place. Det. Wildt received a call from the victim who thought Brookins was trying to contact her by phone from what appeared to be blocked numbers.**
8. Did detective Wildt contact any other agency about the allegations that Mr. Brookins was in violation of the terms and conditions of his pretrial release? **Det. Wildt contacted Sarasota Police and the SRO in Sarasota County Schools and explained to them about the alleged violations and provided them with background on the case.**
9. If so, who did she contact and when? **Sgt. Riffe / Sarasota Police Dept after she heard that he had been released.**
10. Did detective Wildt have any communications with other agencies about the homicide and arrest of Mr. Brookins in May 2024? **No. Det. Wildt learned about the homicide case while watching news coverage.**
11. If so, can she please identify those agencies and when that contact occurred? **N/A**

I'm happy to discuss further at your convenience.

**Michael Barfield | Director of Public Access & Investigative Reporter**

<image001.png>

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