

On 03-22-2017, at approximately 2:56 AM, I, Texas Ranger Steven Jeter, received a telephone call from Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Chief Investigator Victor Smith who requested assistance with a shooting investigation which involved Normangee Police Department (NPD) Police Chief Charles Herford and his wife (Holly Herford). I responded to Normangee and assisted with the investigation. While I was on scene, Investigator Smith stated on 03-22-2017, at approximately 1:55 AM, LCSO was dispatched to a "shots fired & possible suicide call" at Chief Herford's 4th street residence in Normangee. As LCSO Deputy Stephen Pate and LCSO Sergeant Jimmy Gifford (two person unit) responded to the area of Chief Herford's residence, they observed Chief Herford's marked Normangee PD police vehicle speeding away from the area of his residence. The deputies caught up to the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The deputies activated their red & blue emergency lights. However, Chief Herford did not stop or yield to the emergency lights. A short vehicle pursuit ensued. Chief Herford "blacked out his lights" (turned off his headlights etc.), and was able to successfully evade the pursuing deputies. Contact was made with Chief Herford over the Leon County Sheriff's Office communication's primary police channel. Once communication was made, police officer's with the Madisonville Police Department (MPD) talked to Chief Herford over the police radio. After approximately three hours, Chief Herford agreed to surrender to law enforcement personnel.

On 03-22-2017, at approximately 7:00 AM, Chief Herford surrendered to me and several other LCSO deputies. I arrested Chief Herford on the road in front of his residence in Normangee without further incident.

On 03-22-2017, at approximately 7:08 AM, I conducted a custodial interview with Chief Herford. I advised Chief Herford of his Miranda Warnings. Chief Herford waived his Rights and interviewed. The interview was digitally audio recorded and retained by me. During the interview, Chief Herford confessed he was having an argument with his wife inside his residence when he picked up a handgun and discharged the handgun inside his residence. Chief Herford was unaware the direction the bullet was fired. Chief Herford confessed his wife and two small children were in the house when he discharged the firearm. The children were asleep in their room at the time of the incident. Chief Herford also confessed he saw a police car behind him with portions of their emergency lights activated. Chief Herford confessed he "blacked out" his exterior lights and sped away in his marked police vehicle. Chief Herford denied he was trying to shoot his wife or his children.

On 03-22-2017, I interviewed Deputy Pate and Sergeant Gifford. Both officer's statements were consistent with Chief Herford's interview in regards to the vehicle pursuit.

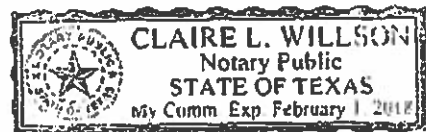
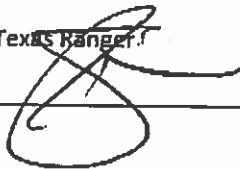
On 03-22-2017, under the authority of an evidentiary search warrant (for Chief Herford's residence), Investigators with the LCSO and Texas Ranger Joshua Ray located a bullet hole in the bed room / bathroom area of Chief Herford's residence. The bullet hole appeared travel from inside - outward. Investigators tracked the bullet from the exterior of Chief Herford's residence to an out building near Chief Herford's residence.

On 03-22-2017, I interviewed Chief Herford's wife (Holly Herford) who also stated she was present in the house talking to 9-1-1 when Chief Herford discharged a handgun (inside the house). Holly Herford also confirmed two of her children were asleep in the house when the shooting occurred.

Per Chief Herford's recorded felony confession to Deadly Conduct and Chief Herford's felony confession to Evading with a Motor vehicle, Chief Herford was arrested and transported to the Leon County Jail. Chief Herford was charged with one count of Felony (3rd degree) Deadly Conduct and charged with one count of Felony (3rd degree) Evading with a Motor Vehicle. Chief Herford was released to the Leon County Jail without incident.

Steven Jeter, Texas Ranger

Signature: _____



Claire L. Willson