

From: [Mario Benavente](#)
To: [Doug Hewett](#); [Kemberle Braden](#); [Jeffrey Yates](#); [Karen McDonald](#)
Subject: Fwd: Fayetteville in the News - May 16
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 1:24:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Greetings,

The FayObserver article #3, includes highly concerning news.

1. From my reading, after two 911 calls were made re:DV, there's no evidence anyone was dispatched to the home. When officer Tavaréz-Rodríguez is quoted saying he was "just trying to cover myself" and that there was no disturbance, it seems he succeeded in quelling the dispatcher. Was protocol followed; are there Spanish fluent folks at dispatch; At what point did that dispatcher know of the officer's occupation is of concern; and was chain of command alerted?
2. Warrant details to Verizon suggest FPD already had a high degree of suspicion that self-harm/harm to spouse was at play before arriving to the scene. What sort of knowledge did chain of command have of this officer's personal issues prior to the 911 calls 4/26, and was any action taken in the 48hrs prior to the incident?
3. The dispatch recording of an officer saying: "I don't want to put it over the radio because this is one of our officers." This appears to be another example in the pattern of FPD operating in a totally different manner with cops than anyone else. I would like to get any insight into how this is being reviewed.

Because of the SBI, and internal affairs investigations going on, I don't expect immediate answers or an update to this situation. I also anticipate that current policy will prevent most of these questions from ever being answered.

So what I am ultimately asking for, in lieu of direct answers, is some confirmation that the city is going to (at some point shortly after those investigations are complete) acknowledge any failures to city council, and explain how they will be better managed in the future.

Perhaps this matter ought to be presented to the CPAB.

Without either of the aforementioned, I feel strongly that it's my duty to make our community aware of these concerns in order to move Fayetteville towards a better response to DV calls, equal application of the law and services, and public safety writ large.

Thank you,

- Mario B.

From: City of Fayetteville Mar. Comm <MarComm@FayettevilleNC.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:45 AM
Subject: Fayetteville in the News - May 16

Here is Fayetteville in the News to keep you informed of City-related news:

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Fayetteville councilwoman wants to ensure daughter's accidental gun death doesn't go in vain

[Gilbert Baez](#)

WRAL News

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Inside the home of Fayetteville city councilwoman Courtney Banks-McLaughlin, there are pictures of a young life taken too soon.

Coryonna Young was 15-years old when her mother said she was accidentally shot and killed in October.

Banks-McLaughlin sat down with WRAL Fayetteville Reporter Gilbert Baez and reflected on her daughter's life and tragic death. Since October, she told WRAL News at some point she wanted to talk about what happened so something like this doesn't happen to any other parent.

Sunday was the first Mother's Day for Banks-McLaughlin without her daughter. She said the 15-year-old was accidentally shot Oct. 21.

"I'm taking every second at a time." she said.

She's still devastated from the loss, knowing how preventable it was.

"Senseless ... kids being reckless ... playing with guns," said Banks-McLaughlin. Banks-McLaughlin said her daughter's death has left a hole in a very tight-knit family.

"It's very difficult for them because they're still processing it," Banks-McLaughlin said. "They miss their sister. As a mother, it's different. Home is quiet. I'm not used to the

quietness. I'm used to all of my children being in the home together."

Especially Coryonna. Her mother said she had a wonderful spirit and a personality that was bigger than life. She was in 10th grade and an Air Force JROTC Cadet at Seventy-First High School and wanted to become a pilot.

Governor Roy Cooper recently appointed Banks-McLaughlin to the State's Crime Commission. She said her daughter's death will bring passion to her service on that panel.

Because the young man involved is a juvenile, no information is being released about him. The case is being processed through the juvenile court system.

"For me, I look at it like God is using her, for a purpose, for a reason," Banks-McLaughlin said. "Her death is not going to go in vain."

The teenager accused in the shooting has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and possession of a handgun by a minor.

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Bus fares to be reinstated July 1 after 3-year break because of COVID-19

[Staff Report](#)

CityView

The city's transit system will reinstate bus fares beginning July 1, more than three years after fares were suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fares will apply to all fixed routes and paratransit services, according to the Fayetteville Area System of Transit.

"FAST was among many transit agencies in the nation to suspend fares in order to limit unnecessary interactions between riders and operators," FAST Director Tyffany Neal said in a city news release.

FAST took other steps to keep employees and passengers safe such as implementing rear door boarding and sanitizing vehicles and facilities daily.

FAST will begin selling transit passes on June 1 at the Transit Center, 505 Franklin St. downtown.

Passes will also be sold at Carlie C's supermarket locations, with options limited to

five-day, five-day discount, 30-day, 30-day discount, 30-day youth, and “Summer Fun” passes. Carlie C’s stores are located at Eutaw Village, Bordeaux shopping center, Reilly Road and Cedar Creek.

Riders are asked to have their fares prepared before boarding the bus and to pay with exact change because drivers cannot handle cash and make change.

City employees can continue to ride free by displaying an identification badge.

Face masks are not mandatory, but riders are encouraged to wear them.

Visit www.RideFAST.net for more information.

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'I'm just trying to cover myself': Officer in murder-suicide called 911 days before deaths

[Lexi Solomon](#)

The Fayetteville Observer

Two days before it was discovered that a Fayetteville police officer fatally shot his wife and himself, two 911 calls from their home were made — one from a woman who hangs up after giving the address, and the other from presumably the officer who suggests the couple was at odds after drinking at dinner.

Other newly released records also reveal that just before police supervisors found the bodies, they feared the officer was a danger to himself and his wife.

Officer Domingo Tavaréz-Rodríguez, 53, and his wife, Yenitza Arroyo-Tavarez, 44, were found dead in their Vandenberg Drive home about 6 p.m. on April 28, Chief Kemberle Braden said. The State Bureau of Investigation announced May 3 that preliminary autopsy results indicated Tavaréz-Rodríguez shot his wife multiple times before turning the gun on himself.

Arroyo-Tavarez’s daughter, Doris Rivera, said earlier this month that her stepfather was abusive to her mother in the months leading up to their deaths.

“He was very, very, very, obsessed with my mother,” Rivera said.

She said her stepfather tracked her mother’s car, looked through her phone and gradually isolated her from her friends.

Newly released records

In 911 recordings released by the Fayetteville Police Department on Thursday, a woman called 911 at 10:11 p.m. April 26, two days before the husband and wife would be found dead by police supervisors. In that call, a quickly gave the couple's Vandenburg Drive address before hanging up. Repeated attempts by a dispatcher to call the number back went unanswered.

Then, at 10:14 p.m., a man, presumed to be Tavaréz-Rodríguez, called 911 requesting an officer come to the home.

"This is not an emergency. This is a call for service," he said. "I was having dinner with my wife and she had too much to drink at the Mi Casita. And then we went to the gas station and now we are out in our house."

Throughout the call, the man spoke calmly, sometimes pausing briefly or sighing before responding.

He told the dispatcher there had been no physical altercation, rejecting her use of the term "disturbance."

"I wouldn't call it a disturbance," Tavaréz-Rodríguez said. "I'm just trying to cover myself."

Both he and his wife were intoxicated, Tavaréz-Rodríguez told the dispatcher.

When the dispatcher inquired if his wife was with him, he said she was "right next" to him and appeared to ask someone if they wanted to talk to the dispatcher.

"You didn't tell her you hit me in the ear?" a woman's voice can be heard saying in Spanish.

When the dispatcher asked if anyone was in danger, Tavaréz-Rodríguez said no.

"She's super, super nice to me," he said of his wife.

Tavaréz-Rodríguez explained he made the call "just trying to protect my, my person," according to the recording.

"I understand," the dispatcher said. "We'll definitely have someone come out and make contact with you, OK?"

It was not clear if an officer responded to the scene. A search for the incident in publicly available Fayetteville Police Department records generated no results, and a request to the Police Department for any reports tied to the incident hadn't been filled as of Friday.

The discovery

Two days later, Tavaréz-Rodríguez's supervisors would be en route to his Vandenberg Drive home, trying multiple methods to get in touch with the officer after he failed to show up for his 6 p.m. shift.

A dispatch recording at 6:07 p.m. on April 28 captured a police officer calling the 911 Center to inform dispatchers of the check on Tavaréz-Rodríguez.

"I don't want to put it over the radio because this is one of our officers," the caller said, adding that he would be on the scene with at least one other officer. Names and other identifying information for the caller were redacted from the recording.

Also at 6:07 p.m., in a separate recording, a dispatcher contacted Verizon to request an "emergency" ping on a phone number. According to a search warrant in the wake of the deaths, supervisors traced Tavaréz-Rodríguez's location to his home by pinging his phone number.

When the Verizon employee asked if the ping was related to "an emergency involving death or serious physical injury," the dispatcher told him it was.

"It is in regards to a subject who we believe may be attempting to harm himself or his wife," she said.

The dispatch log from when supervisors made the discovery provided further insight into how the event unfurled. According to the log, police first contacted dispatchers at 6:09 p.m., with officers arriving at the Vandenberg Drive home at 6:21 p.m.

Paramedics were called to the scene at 7:32 p.m. and reported someone was dead at 8:35 p.m. It appears from the log that the couple's bodies weren't removed from the home until after a request for transport was made at 4:34 a.m. Saturday.

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911 but no report: Fayetteville officer in reported murder-suicide called for help days before death

[Justin Moore](#)
CBS 17

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (WNCN) — A Fayetteville police officer dialed 911 just days before he and his wife died in a reported murder-suicide.

Officer Domingo Tavaréz-Rodríguez, 53, and his wife Yenitza Torres were found dead with gunshot wounds inside their home on April 28. The Fayetteville Police Department did a wellness check after he did not show up for his shift.

Less than 48 hours before their deaths, on April 26, Tavarez-Rodriguez called 911.

He described an incident after the couple returned home around 10 p.m.

Tavarez-Rodriguez initially told the 911 dispatcher it was not a call for an emergency. It was a call for service.

“I was having dinner with my wife and she had too much to drink,” Tavarez-Rodriguez told the dispatcher.

The dispatcher asked if he was involved in a disturbance with his wife.

“I wouldn’t call it a disturbance. I just want to cover myself,” Tavarez-Rodriguez said.

In the three minute call, a woman’s voice could be heard saying “You didn’t tell them you hit my ear because you were drunk,” in Spanish.

The dispatcher told Tavarez-Rodriguez to avoid any further contact so, things didn’t escalate. She ensured him an officer was on the way.

According to Fayetteville police, an officer did respond to the 911 call. However, the responding officers did not make a report.

Two days later, police found Tavarez-Rodriguez and Torres dead.

The North Carolina Bureau of Investigation is still investigating the case.

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Hope Mills board moves forward with plans for sports complex

[Jason Canady](#)

CityView

HOPE MILLS — The town of Hope Mills just moved closer to having a sports complex.

On Jan. 6, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with CHA Consulting. Since then, the firm has worked closely with the parks and recreation division to plan for construction of a Hope Mills sports complex.

On Monday, representatives of CHA Consulting presented three plans for the new

facility.

After reviewing the designs, the commissioners and recreation department officials unanimously chose Concept C. That consensus allows Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison to move forward with making the sports complex a reality.

The plan calls for two large fields, two softball fields with turf, an expandable field, batting cages, bullpens, and an area to host food trucks. The centerpiece of the complex will include a large welcome area for team members and fans to easily congregate. The plan also includes ample parking spaces.

The ball fields would double as soccer fields, and the largest field would double as an entertainment area for concerts and “movie night” type events.

CHA Consulting representatives said careful thought was put into every detail.

The sports complex will be on the golf field on Golfview Road. American Rescue Plan federal funding was approved in the amount of \$1.4 million.

Commissioner Grilley Mitchell asked Lamarco Morrison about the funding.

Morrison said there are several ways to pay for the complex, including sponsorships.

The “B” word being another.

“Bonds,” said Morrison.

Morrison also said there are opportunities to bring in Double-A baseball teams to help fund the field.

“I envisioned field No. 2 being a stadium that’s home to a Double-A team,” said Morrison, who added that the town has been approached by a couple of teams that might want to make Hope Mills home.

Morrison also suggested the field can bring in large tournaments including youth world series games known for pumping millions into a hosting town’s economy.

“There’s an opportunity to host tournaments and make money for other operations,” said Commissioner Joanne Scarola, noting food trucks. “I like that.”

Also at Monday’s meeting, the board unanimously approved two initial zoning cases. One is for 8.11 acres for planned retail at Waldo’s Beach and Camden roads. The other is for 8.33 acres in a more restrictive residential zoning district at Hunting Ridge and Rockfish roads.

The board spent the first part of the meeting recognizing the police force and public works department. Representatives of both departments received a standing ovation.

The board met in closed session to consult its attorney about personnel matters.

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All communication not specifically exempted by North Carolina law is a public record and subject to release upon request.