

Statement from: Gina Sheridan
Finance Manager
City of Reidsville

Date of Incidence: August 4, 2025

On August 4, 2025 at 8:45am Mayor Nail had a letter waiting for Assistant Chief Snell placing him on leave without pay after he failed to show up to three interviews with an investigator asked to do an internal investigation with regard to allegations from Snell that an Officer (Swanson) had accessed his office and pilfered throw files on his computer and desk. As evidence, Snell explained he had a video of the officer doing this. Officer Snell was asked to turn over the video immediately, and did not, resulting in Snell being placed on leave with pay, pending this internal investigation by an outside investigator. Snell did not/would not participate in the investigation, hence the letter from the mayor stopping the paid leave. At approximately 8:45am on August 4, 2025, I became aware that Assistant Chief Snell and Council Members Theron Harris and Verdie Williams were at City Hall in/near the Conference Room when I heard their voices. I got up from my desk and met City Attorney DuAnne Cowart-Davis in the hallway as she came through the interior door of City Hall. I walked to the mayor's office, as did Attorney Davis. I was met at the mayor's door by Nivea Jackson, City Clerk and Council Member Williams. I was standing between them when Nivea motioned her arm while trying to calm the atmosphere and Council Member Williams grabbed Nivea's arm and said "He (Snell) will be paid!" Williams then looked at me and said "He (Snell) will be paid!" I then said to Williams "I do not do payroll." Nivea tried to explain calmly that Mrs. Debra (Towns) handles payroll and while she was not there on Monday's that she would make sure she knew this. From there Williams asked Council Member Harris if he agreed Snell should be paid and he said he did. Williams then motioned to her phone and said, "Carolyn agrees also." Things became very heated at this point and Attorney Davis said that a vote did not need to be taken outside of a meeting. Williams then said "We have done it before. We are doing what is RIGHT. Come on now, you know. That's 3 and we can ask Donald and Dan later." At this point Williams continued to say that they (Williams, Harris and Crume-Blackshear) did not agree to an investigator and that Snell had requested a different investigator "which is his right." Attorney Davis then said she felt like it needed to be turned over to the GBI. Williams asked, "the actual GBI?" and Davis responded that was correct. Williams then said "Snell are you ok with the GBI? Theron, are you ok with the GBI?" Then once again motioned to her phone that Crume-Blackshear was also ok. The mayor then said that she would withdraw her letter

placing Snell now on leave without pay to, continued leave with pay pending it being turned over to the GBI.

On the evening of August 4, 2025, at approximately 5:35pm during the City Council Planning Session as the mayor asked for any closing comments Council Member Carolyn Crume-Blackshear asked that the Council go into Executive Session. City Attorney Davis stated that without a Called Meeting we could not go into Executive Session. Council Member Crume-Blackshear stated that they had “spoken with GMA and we can.” Council Member Donald Prestage stated that this violated the Open Meetings Act because it was not advertised. Council Members Crume-Blackshear and Williams stated it did not violate the Open Meetings Act and made a motion and a second. Attorney Davis again shared her disagreement. Mayor Nail also stated that this violated the Open Meetings Act, as did Council Member Prestage. The reason for the Executive Session was “Personnel” - with regard to the investigation of Assistant Chief Snell, the failure of Snell to produce the video evidence from the hidden personal camera in his office and his ultimate failure to cooperate with this investigation.



TGTV
NEWS

To: Reidsville City Council

Mayor V. Nail

Attorney Duann Davis

FROM: Nivea C. Jackson, City Clerk

WHEN: August 15, 2025

RE: Memorandum of understanding of events

I would like to take the opportunity to provide my recollection of the events that happened at City Hall on Monday August 4, 2024, 2025. I arrived at work minutes late, (8:10am) as I normally do. Upon exiting my vehicle, Councilman Theron Harris was outside at the rear of the building on his cellphone. Once inside, I placed my breakfast in the microwave to warm and went into the Finance Manager's office and began conversing. Mr. Harris asked if I was going over to my office. I advised, "if he needed me to." I got up and preceded to the front office where Mrs. Debra Towns and Lori Thompson's workspaces are to speak to them as I hadn't made it up front since my entry into the building. Once I walked into the office door, I noticed Assistant Chief Snell standing in the office in uniform. My understanding was that Assistant Chief Snell was on paid leave until further notice. Councilman Harris and Assistant Chief Snell asked to speak with me about his return to work. I sat them in the office conference room and went in and spoke to the Mayor about the Councilman and Assistant Chief being in the office. Their request was to check on the status of Chief Snell's suspension. In Mr. Snell's understanding he was to be suspended for a total of 14 days. His 14 days had expired, and he was here to report for duty and orders. Assistant Chief Snell had an administrative letter at the "front desk" awaiting him when he came to City Hall that morning. I did not read this letter personally. Assistant Chief Snell demanded the Mayor explain why he was "basically fired" when he has done nothing wrong. Mayor Nail explained that in the previous week, strides had been made to close the investigation involving Snell. The Mayor and Chief had tried to contact

Assistant Chief Snell Tuesday-Thursday. He was not fired, in accordance with policy, but his status would be changed to unpaid until the conclusion of the investigation. The Assistant Chief had a meeting scheduled with the investigator and had not come or made contact of any kind with the investigator, Mayor or Chief, explained the Mayor.

On Sunday, August 3rd, the day prior to the office incident, many City staff members received a text message from Assistant Chief Snell explaining that he had been unreachable due to the death of his grandmother and illness of his mother.

Returning to the events of Monday, after Assistant Chief asked the Mayor to explain the reason he would not be getting paid. I then stepped up to the front and called the Attorney, Duann Davis. I asked her to come to City Hall immediately. The Mayor advised Snell; that he is not being fired, but he has also failed to cooperate with the investigation. She also told Snell that the investigator had made a three-hour drive to interview him and could not complete the interview and close the investigation. Both parties, the Mayor and Snell, were upset, yet civil. I asked Councilman Harris who was present the whole time, quietly in witness, and Assistant Chief Snell to standby and await further in the conference room. The Mayor had taken a seat in her office right next door to the conference room with the door open. Verdie Williams enters City Hall. Attorney Davis arrives minutes later. Williams and Davis begin the discussion in the hallway visible to both parties. Verdie Williams asks what the letter says that Snell has. Snell informs Councilwoman Williams that he is to remain on administrative leave, but without pay. Williams addressed Duann Davis and advised that some of the Council had spoken about this, and if Snell is to be on leave, he will continue to be paid. The Mayor stated that this could not be done without a meeting. Councilwoman Williams stated that as long as 3 councilmembers were in agreement, referring to Council Williams, Harris and Blackshear, this could be done. Councilwoman Williams addressed the Attorney and stated that the Council had not been properly informed about the investigation in the first place. The Mayor stated to Williams and Snell that the matter was under

investigation and she (the Mayor), could not speak about it. Williams states she does not want to mess with the case. She would like the Council to be informed of why an investigator was called for a personnel matter and who ok'd the investigator to be called. The Mayor stated to Councilwoman Williams that the Council was wrong for stepping into an investigation. There was no time to call together a Council and she was exercising her day-to-day rights as Mayor. The Mayor states that "I followed guidelines set forth by the personnel policy, with the Attorney, and that Assistant Chief Snell was being uncooperative. More charges could come from this investigation. Duann agreed with the Mayor and says "I think we should just turn it over to the GBI and let them deal with this." Councilwoman Williams says, "ok, let's, I am not trying to stop an investigation, what I am trying to let you know is that Assistant Chief (now pointing at Gina Sheridan) will be paid, you got that, he will be paid". Duann we have done this in the past and I don't know why this is a problem now. This is a 'weak Mayor' system. The Mayor says "you love to call me weak." Williams states "I am not calling you weak, I am saying our form of government puts the Council in charge. We can fire you. The Council can fire the Mayor and the Chief. What I am saying is the Council gets the final say. We can bring back anyone that you fire. We are not messing with your investigation. We are stating that Snell will be paid until we figure out what is going on." I walked up front at this point.

The Mayor agreed to recant her previous statement to ASSISTANT CHIEF Snell. Assistant Chief Snell requested in writing the paperwork to reflect that he will be paid while on leave. The Mayor agrees to rewrite her statement to say that Snell would be on administrative leave, with pay as directed by the Council. Duann Davis told Verdie Williams that this change should constitute an ad in the paper for a meeting. Williams said she would be leaving to go speak with other Council members. Verdie Williams and Theron Harris left. Snell stayed until he received the revised letter from the Mayor in which I delivered to him while he waited in the conference room and then left.

Nivea C. Jackson