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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Issues Statement on Decision to Prosecute Detective Accused of Dereliction of Duty

Internal investigation leads Columbus Police Division to file charges against detective who negligently failed to perform her duty in sexual assault and kidnapping cases, possibly others

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that prosecutors in his office will be pursuing criminal charges that the Columbus Police Division (CPD) filed against Detective Amy Welsh after an internal investigation found that she mishandled evidence in a 2012 sexual assault case and a 2018 kidnapping case. Welsh was a detective assigned to the sexual assault division in 2011.

Welsh is being charged with three counts of dereliction of duty, each a second degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$750 fine under Ohio Revised Code [Section 2921.44](#). Welsh has been relieved of duty and is subject to discipline up to and including termination.

City Attorney Klein issued the following statement:

“First and foremost, I want to emphasize that nearly all the men and women of the Columbus Police Division serve our city and its residents with honor and integrity. Every day, they put their lives on the line to uphold their sworn duty to protect us, most often with little to no fanfare. However, when our office is provided evidence of misconduct, we will work with the Columbus Police Division to hold those individuals within their ranks accountable. While our office will prosecute the dereliction of duty charges the Division filed against Detective Welsh, we also want to ensure that justice is served in these and possibly other cases she may have neglected. As such, we will work with the Division and the Franklin County Prosecutor’s office to audit her cases to fully assess what other investigations may need to be addressed.”

On June 2, 2012, Detective Welsh was assigned a sexual battery case and interviewed the victim. On June 24, 2012 Welsh took possession of the rape kit but failed to properly request lab testing. However, on August 1, 2012 she wrote in an offense report that she was “waiting on labs.”

More than two years later, on September 29, 2014 a property room clerk discovered the rape kit and finally sent it to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) for testing. Subsequently, on October 27, 2014 and again on September 4, 2015 Detective Welsh was notified that BCI’s Forensic Unit found a DNA match in her case, but she failed to act in both instances. On August 5, 2019—more than seven years after the incident occurred—a CPD detective discovered one of the DNA match reports in paperwork from Welsh’s desk.

Separately, on June 17, 2018 Detective Welsh was assigned a kidnapping case after a car with two young children inside was stolen from a Rally's Restaurant on the city's east side. On July 9, 2018 she received an envelope containing a DVD of surveillance video of the incident sent from Rally's corporate headquarters. On September 26, 2018 Welsh inactivated the investigation due to a lack of new evidence even though she was in possession of the surveillance video.

Copies of the [complaints and probable cause affidavits](#) are available online.

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