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Considering the community response to the perceived interactions between Monroe County Emergency Services and former Captain David Fullmore, we would like to make clear some of the allegations and follow-up of the highlighted incident. On April 21st, 2024 a call was dispatched for a motor vehicle accident on Hwy 83 North near Stokes Store Road. Two off duty officers were on scene and advised that the patient was unconscious and entrapped with another bystander claiming to be a nurse.

Engine 1 with Captain David Fullmore and Firefighter/EMT Sam Williams, Battalion 1 with BC Clay Walton, and Medic 12 with Firefighter/Paramedic Blake Leggett and Firefighter/EMT Olivia Forbes responded. The patient was found to be alert and oriented upon arrival of the paramedics with no respiratory distress. The scene was handled without incident with the crew extricating the patient, providing initial care, and then transferring to a helicopter due to the mechanism of injury.

It was not until an edition of The Monroe County Reporter was published with a picture of the scene that any issues were brought to light. It is department policy that any time an employee is performing work on or near an accident/roadway scene that they are to wear a traffic vest or their turnout gear with reflective accents. It is further the industry standard and best practice to fully stabilize a vehicle that has left the roadway, is on its side, or another position that could move, roll, or otherwise injure our crew or further injure the patient(s). These are standards and training as taught by the State of Georgia to every line firefighter. Our Fire Officers are held to an obviously higher standard than line personnel when it comes to securing a scene. They are responsible for the safety of their crew AND the patient for what they can mitigate. While it may seem heroic to run into a scene without considering factors that could harm or kill oneself or their crew, it is not. The decision to have 2 crew members inside, 3 outside, and 1 bystander without stabilization was exhibiting unnecessary risk.

When the two officers together were called to explain the image and how it came about, there was no explanation on deviation of standard practice. Monroe County Emergency Services Chief Matt Jackson, being a seasoned Firefighter/Paramedic himself, understands the drive to jump in and get to work. For that very reason, while still having to hold his officers to a standard that keeps the safety of their crews paramount, he gave them **the option** of discipline. While balancing the administrative requirement for standards for Officers and understanding the nature of our drive to jump in, he offered a choice. Take a write up with a one-shift suspension or produce a presentation detailing the importance of stabilizing a vehicle on a scene. This discipline had no weight to either officer's current rank. They were not advised that they broke a Monroe County policy, they were advised of their deviation of standard industry practice.

When the time had come for both officers to present their presentations, Chief Walton gave his and Captain Fullmore advised he thought he would just wait until the next meeting. That was obliged. The day before the following month's officer meeting, Captain Fullmore advised that he would be unavailable due to an appointment with his wife. Chief requested it just be sent to him to review. In an apparent struggle to find or transfer the file he made the comment, "I hope I don't have to go redo all of my hard work". Three days later, his presentation was sent to Chief Jackson. It was noted in the source code that it had been created five years earlier by a fire department in Maryland, and easily accessible on the internet. After presenting to an on-duty crew and pressed by Chief Jackson, he advised that it took him about 4 weeks on the presentation while not citing that it was someone else's work. Had Captain Fullmore come to Chief Jackson at any point in the previous 4 weeks and spoken about any issues or had simply advised that the presentation was not his work, we would not be here today.

If there is one thing that is paramount in the fire service, it is integrity. This was simply an issue of integrity, which combined with other instances of poor performance at the officer level, which resulted in the demotion of probationary Captain Fullmore. Regardless of the perceived targeting, that is simply not the case. It is well known, and highly regarded, the time and dedication that probationary Captain Fullmore has poured into Monroe County. Monroe County is fortunate to have been the benefactor of his talents and skills for over 20 years. As he was on probation, having just been promoted in February, he was demoted to Firefighter/Paramedic, not fired as again erroneously reported. David Fullmore then spent the next four weeks utilizing his sick and FMLA time to decide the route he would take. He chose to resign. The department is not dismissive of his time and dedication to the county and to the department. The department only wishes the very best for David Fullmore and his family as he moves on from Monroe County Emergency Services.

The work of everyone on that scene is appreciated and we are thankful that the patient has recovered and that all of our crews are safe. We are aware that the public are not versed on the dangers we mitigate to accomplish our goals. To be very clear, Captain Fullmore was not demoted because of his actions/inaction on this scene. Both he and his supervisor received the same discipline to highlight the need for safety so that this would not be repeated. This public statement serves to remind the citizens we serve that we are proud to respond to the calls for help with crews that are trained, ready, and skilled for a safe outcome for all involved.