

### **Georgetown Police Department: Follow Up Report of Det. Hutchinson**

Suspect
Byron Howland, 517 Brandywine Road, Cle Elm, Major
306-222-8913
42 – 5’11” - 180 lbs.
Persons Interviewed:
Byron Howland 517 Brandywine Road, Cle Elm, MR 77304 306-222-8913
Suzanne Sells 1215 E. Hummingbird Lane, MR 98103 504-328-6601
Jenny Sells 1215 E. Hummingbird Lane, MR 98103 504-328-6601
Agent Clancy Flynn Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force 504-346-9901
Sherry Vinton 8002 Eastlake Ave., MR 98103 504-777-1470

6/2/20XX-1 1315 hrs. Met with Suzanne Sells and she explained that she tracked her daughter Jenny’s e-mails for the last 2 weeks and she provided printouts of exchanges with “lawman.” Jenny turned 16 on March 16. Mrs. Sells said she first discovered e-mails on 5/13 and the sexual explicit nature of the exchanges disturbed her. The e-mails suggested a relationship that had gone on for an extended period of time and that it was of a sexual nature. Told her would attempt to identify “lawman.”

1500 hrs. Called the state Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) and spoke to Special Agent Clancy Flynn. Walked to his office and provided him with copies of Mrs. Sells printouts.

6/5/20XX-1 0945 hrs. Received call from Agent Flynn. He stated that he used an administrative subpoena to trace [lawman@comcad.net](mailto:lawman@comcad.net) and was able to identify the IP user as Byron Ward Howland. Howland is well known to this dept as a legislator from Adams County who resides in Cle Elm and was at one time a Cle Elm police officer before becoming a lawyer.

1030 hrs. Called Mrs. Sells and made arrangements to come by her house tomorrow when her daughter was due home from school.

6/6/20XX-1 1730 hrs. Along with Special Agent Flynn went to the Sells residence and met Mrs. Sells and her daughter. Interviewed and took a written statement from Jenny Sells. Questioned Jenny about knowing Byron Howland. At first she denied knowing him. When we confronted her with the e-mails and the fact that we had traced his identify she admitted that he was "lawman."

Jenny said she first chatted with "lawman" in an Internet chat room back in 8/XX-2 and that they became friends. "Lawman" expressed concern about Jenny's difficult home life, particularly his concern about her being unable to get any understanding from her mother. Jenny said that she learned that "lawman" was Byron Howland when they met at the Georgetown mall. Over the fall of 20XX-2 they met several other times, usually at the mall.

On December 1, 20XX-2, Howland invited Jenny to his condominium which is in the Laurelhurst building near the state capitol building. He said he was in town for a committee meeting. Howland served her dinner and wine. They spent the evening talking on the couch. He began to fondle her. She resisted and told him "no." He smothered her until she stopped resisting. He then penetrated her vagina with his fingers and had her perform oral sex on him. Afterwards he apologized and drove to her neighborhood and dropped her a block from her house.

This did not the end of their relationship. Howland met with her the next day. He again said he was sorry for putting his hand over her face. They began meeting at least once a month at Howland's condo, drinking wine, and having intercourse. Howland told Jenny that he loved her, but given his position, no one could know about their relationship. "It's our secret."

Jenny said she told her friend Sherry Vinton about her relationship with Howland.

With Jenny and her mother's consent, Agent Flynn took custody of Jenny's computer.

2030 hrs. Consulted with Senior Deputy Prosecutor Ashley Miller about search warrant and potential criminal charges against Howland.

2230 hrs. Obtained search warrant for Howland's condo.

6/7/XX-1 0130 hrs. Agent Flynn and I serve search warrant on Howland's condo. Howland not present. Took photographs of the condominium. Seized bottles of Woodpine wine which is the kind of wine Jenny Sells said she drank with Howland. Seized the computer located in the living room. Agent Flynn took possession of the computer. Officers assigned to surveillance of the condominium to alert if Howland returns.

0830 hrs. Checked Major State Legislature Web site. Howland is the chair of the house of representatives judiciary committee. Called legislative staff and found that a judiciary committee meeting was conducted on Dec. 1, 20XX-1.

Ran a records check on Jenny Sells and discovered that on February 9, 2009 at 2:00 a.m. Georgetown Police arrested her just outside the Georgetown mall. Jenny had been cited for being a minor in possession because she was drunk and carrying a beer bottle Jenny was drunk and carrying a beer bottle. Eventually, Jenny's case was diverted to a Juvenile Conference Committee and Jenny had to perform community service hours.

The report indicated that Jenny Sells reported to the arresting officers that she had been sexually assaulted and the Georgetown Police Special Assault Unit had separately investigated that.

Obtained the reports from the Special Assault Unit. The report says that Jenny told the arresting officers that she met a man she described as in his mid-thirty's. She said he told her his name was Drake. Jenny said that they drove down to the river in his car, and they sat in the car, drank beer and talked. She said that Drake sexually attacked her, putting his hand over her nose and mouth until she could not breathe and forced her to perform oral sex on him. He threatened that if she told anyone, he knew where she lived and he would come after her. Drake drove her back to the mall and dropped her off.

The patrol officers who arrested Jenny contacted the Special Assault Unit. The officers called Jenny's mother and took Jenny to Lakeview Medical Center for a sexual assault examination and the Georgetown Police Sexual Assault Unit took a report. Suzanne Sell's came to the Medical Center and drove her daughter home. The case was eventually closed for lack of a suspect. The officers also had cited Jenny for being a minor in possession of alcohol.

1030 hrs. Agent Flynn calls. Forensic analysis of Howland's computer's hard drive revealed more than 200 images of child pornography in unallocated clusters. Although these images had not been downloaded into a particular file they were found in the temp files. A key word search for "teengirl" disclosed ribbons of e-mails between Howland and Jenny.

A key word search of Jenny's computer revealed the same communications. E-mails from Howland expressed affection and concern but were not sexually explicit. No mention was ever made of Jenny's visits to the condo. On the other hand, Jenny's e-mails contained sexually explicit short stories and poems with references to Howland.

Called Senior Deputy Miller to consult. Miller said she wanted Jenny in for an interview right away.

1200 hrs. Went to the Eckstein High School. Took Jenny out of school to the Prosecutor's Office for an interview with Senior Deputy Miller. Sat in on the interview. When questioned about what happened on February 9, 2009, Jenny admitted that she had been with Howland that night. She said she made up the story about Drake to get her mother to "ease off" on her about being drunk. She said she also told the story to explain how she got the beer and to protect Howland. Took a supplemental written statement.

1545 hrs. Spoke with Sherry Vinton who said that in early April Jenny had confided in her that she was seeing a legislator who she really cared for. Jenny swore Sherry to secrecy. Met with her and obtained a written statement.

1930 hrs. Officer Bethel calls. Suspect Howland has just arrived at the condo. Briefed Bethel and instruct her to arrest Howland and bring him to East Precinct. Contacted Agent Flynn.

2035 hrs. Agent Flynn and I met with suspect Howland. Advised him of his rights. Howland refuses to waive and talk with us. Booked Howland into the County Jail.

Called Senior Deputy Miller and updated her. Howland will be charged Rape 2, Communicating with a minor for immoral purposes through electronic communication and three counts of Child Rape 3. Case cleared.