

Jason Angel

Feb. 1, 2022

Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board  
Attn: Board Communications  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Email: [boardcommunications@ppb.ok.gov](mailto:boardcommunications@ppb.ok.gov)

Members of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board,

I am a Tulsa Police officer and have spent the last eight years on patrol, as a field training officer training new academy graduates, an operator on our Special Operations Team (SWAT equivalent), and as a detective. Note that my opinions are my own and are not official statements of my department. Though I must put this disclaimer on the letter to comply with department policy, please know that dozens of Tulsa Police officers share my belief that Daniel Holtzclaw is innocent of all allegations made against him, including those brought before the board at this time in regard to accuser Tabitha Barnes (Count 5, Tabitha Barnes, procuring lewd exhibition).

I, like many others, saw media coverage of Holtzclaw's conviction and believed that he was a corrupt cop abusing his power, trusting that the system got it right. I was relieved he was convicted because I saw him as an embarrassment to law enforcement.

Having reviewed his case over the past five years, I now believe the corruption within the police department was real but came from biased investigators who used unethical methods to procure testimony to help their shabby, or at best circumstantial case.

Daniel was an Oklahoma City Police officer who was accused of committing a sexual assault on a traffic stop. Though the accuser underwent a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner exam within hours of the alleged assault, and though Holtzclaw's vehicle and uniform were secured for testing within 24 hours of the alleged assault, there were no signs of sexual activity whatsoever.

Kim Davis one of the lead detectives, admitted at trial and in media interviews that she believed the accuser based on her emotional state as she told detectives what happened. Acting against policy, Det. Davis did not record this interview. Kim Davis and Detective Rocky Gregory interviewed Daniel Holtzclaw later that day and stated that during the interview they came to believe he was a psychopath and a narcissist, because he did not react the way they assumed he should have, had he been falsely accused. Det. Davis stated in an interview that if she were accused of doing something like that, "[her] voice would probably (have gone) up 10 octaves," and she'd say, "What?! I didn't do that!"

Daniel is half-Japanese, the son of police officers and a military veteran, a college football player, and was an active police officer. I know as a patrol officer, Marine Corps veteran, high school football player,

and having lived in Okinawa as a Marine, that each of these elements contribute to a person's character, in this case being calm in the wake of false accusations. He, like other active cops, knew complaints come with the territory of working in rough neighborhoods where your presence is necessary, but not always wanted. But because he was not rattled like Det. Davis believes she would have been, and with no evidence to support her beliefs, Det. Davis and Det. Gregory pursued a course to convict Holtzclaw on hunches alone.

In the most unethical way of investigating a case possible, the detectives created a profile of who they thought Holtzclaw would victimize, black women with drug and prostitution histories. The detectives then searched through records of who Holtzclaw contacted while on patrol from him calling in the information over the radio. They went out and procured testimony by telling the women that the detectives received a tip that the women were sexually assaulted, often even stating by an Oklahoma City Police officer. This lie is how Tabitha Barnes came to become an accuser.

In violation of policy once again, detectives did not record their first interview with Ms. Barnes, but Det. Gregory reported that he interviewed her, and she made accusations about a cop who looked like he might have been Indian touching her breasts. She gave the interview while under the influence of Ambien, a drug used to treat insomnia, and was falling asleep during the interview. We would never interview a suspect or victim in that situation because the person is not in his or her right mind. Then a few days later Det. Gregory manages to record the next interview. In that interview Ms. Barnes claims she would recognize the officer who assaulted her and made her expose herself if she was shown a picture. The police never showed her a photo line up. This is a standard tool that would have greatly helped the prosecution, but she was never presented with a line up.

This is likely because the only person the detectives ever showed a line up to (Terri Morris) did not select Holtzclaw from it and Lt. Muzny, the supervisor for Davis and Gregory, admitted in a deposition in 2019 that victims were not shown line ups, "because we were afraid she might not pick Holtzclaw." So even if she was assaulted, how would we know who did it?

Later, in a deposition in 2018, Ms. Barnes stated that the officer never touched her, contradicting her trial testimony. When testifying at trial she was under the influence of PCP. She and the other accusers had criminal charges, DHS investigations, and other negative consequences hanging over their heads, encouraging them to testify. Det. Gregory, in an interview with one of Ms. Barnes' children, noted that the children were coached by Ms. Barnes on what to say when interviewing with the detective. It frustrates me as someone who cares about the integrity of my profession, and as a human being, dad, brother, etc. that this dishonest investigation went forward, not being deterred by every red flag along the way.

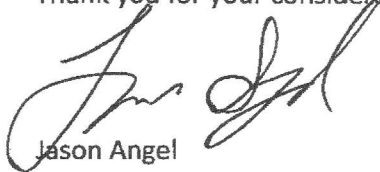
What a nightmare for anyone, but especially a police officer. A he-said-she-said situation, no cameras or witnesses, and the accuser is a black female saying he sexually assaulted her. This at a time when racial tensions are high and other cities are seeing the destruction of businesses, homes, vehicles by violent rioters and looters when they don't get their way. Police departments, local governments, and even judges and juries feared the possible outcomes of a not-guilty verdict. The protesters shouting outside

Ref: Daniel K. Holtzclaw, DOC# 731154, Docket 2/2022

the courthouse at the time of Holtzclaw's trial made it very clear that their intent was to riot if they did not get the conviction they desired.

You have a chance to help right part of that wrong today. The detectives correctly assumed that the number of accusations procured against Holtzclaw would sway a district attorney's office and a jury when no evidence is present. You have one count before you and I ask that you look at the evidence objectively, and you will find, like so many others, that Daniel is innocent of that count before you, as well as all others.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Angel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent than the last name "Angel".

Jason Angel