

# TIMELINE REVIEW OF HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Data from Contracted Investigator

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*There was a simple press release posted that the student was rushed to Erlanger and was doing fine.*

**OCTOBER 2008**

*A student at Howard High School was tazed by Officer Jamie Fields. He was later transferred to Erlanger Hospital for the sustained injuries.*

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*There was no direct response from Sheriff Hammond.*

**2013**

*Officer Kilpatrick struck a man in the head causing him to need six staples.*

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*"As soon as we were notified by the victim, we did start our CID investigation which very quickly led to this conclusion," Sheriff Jim Hammond told WDEF 12 News. He said Greer was immediately fired and charged following the investigation.*

**JANUARY 2014**

*Sheriff Deputy Willie Greer was fired over a sexual assault claim.*

## AUGUST 2015

*A man was shot and killed by Hamilton County deputies.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*We asked the city to do an independent investigation," Hammond said. "That is standard procedure in a situation like this — to ask another agency to take a transparent look."*

## AUGUST 2015

*A jailed man was beaten by six officers while he was handcuffed.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*After the incident, Sheriff Jim Hammond called for an internal affairs investigation. On Tuesday, the Sheriff's Office could not provide an update on the status of those cases, and said they were in the hands of their attorney. "Officers aren't perfect, but I'm not going to back officers that step outside of their training. We'll look at it," Hammond said after the video surfaced last year.*

## JANUARY 2017

*Sheriff Deputy Gene Meyers resigned after an intern accused him of sexual assault.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*He does not doubt the woman's account.*

*"I have no reason to believe this young lady did anything wrong," he said. "She was the victim from the beginning."*

*Myers' behavior was completely unacceptable. "I want to assure the public and our interns that nothing like that will be tolerated while I'm sheriff," he said.*

## JANUARY 2017

*Christopher Sexton was shot 15 times by officers and he later died.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*He hired TBI to investigate and handle any press related to the incident.*

## AUGUST 2018

*Hamilton County Sheriff's Office was involved in a shooting incident.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*There was no direct response from Sheriff Hammond.*

## DECEMBER 2018

*Charles Toney was beaten by Officer Blake Kilpatrick and other officers.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*Hammond had no direct response. A spokesperson said that Officer Kilpatrick was on paid leave while the investigation remains open. They also said that Toney's injuries were within normal limits.*

### **CLERGY INVOLVEMENT**

*Members of the clergy met with one of the HCSO's captains and Sheriff Hammond on December 21, 2018 at HCSO headquarters.*

## JANUARY 2019

*Matthew Colton Gilmore was pulled over during a traffic stop and slammed to the ground by Officer Long.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*Hammond had no direct response. In fact, DA Pinkston requested that TBI investigate the allegations against Officer Long. TBI said they would share their findings with DA Pinkston directly.*

### **CLERGY INVOLVEMENT**

*Members of the clergy met with one of the HCSO's captains on January 2, 2019 at HCSO's headquarters.*

*Members of the clergy also toured the jail at this time.*

## FEBRUARY 2019

*Shandle Ridley was illegally searched for marijuana by Officer Wilkey. She was then baptized by him as he fondled her breasts.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*The sheriff said in a statement that he will cooperate with Pinkston's office and would schedule a hearing to address Wilkey's employment status.*

### **CLERGY INVOLVEMENT**

*Members of the clergy met with one of the HCSO's captains on February 5, 2019 at HCSO's headquarters.*

*Members of the clergy met with one of the HCSO's captains on February 28, 2019 at HCSO's headquarters.*

## APRIL 2019

*Man was beaten while in police custody by other incarcerated folks and police did not intervene. He later died.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*There was no direct response from Sheriff Hammond.*

### CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

*Sheriff Hammond sent an official letter to members of the clergy to form a taskforce centered on reviewing policies and procedures.*

## MAY 2019

*Officer Long shot and killed Tyler Hays at a traffic stop. Mr. Hays ran from the deputy and he was shot.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*Hammond had no direct response. In fact, DA Pinkston requested that TBI investigate the allegations against Officer Long. TBI said they would share their findings with DA Pinkston directly.*

### CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

*Members of the clergy met with one of the HCSO's captains and Sheriff Hammond on December 21, 2018 at HCSO headquarters.*

## JUNE 2019

*Officer Long shot at Ronald Hutson during a traffic stop.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*Hammond had no direct response. In fact, DA Pinkston requested that TBI investigate the allegations against Officer Long. TBI said they would share their findings with DA Pinkston directly.*

## JULY 2019

*Officer Wilkey and Bobby Browser pulled James Mitchell over, handcuffed him, and performed a cavity search.*

### RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

*"What needs to happen is both of us [DA Pinkston and himself] needs to shut up in the news and sit down in each other's office and solve this problem," Hammond said. Hammond laid out his request loud and clear, a sit down with Pinkston to work out their differences. This comes after an affidavit was filed Monday in which the District Attorney alleged someone at the sheriff's office was trying to slow down the state's investigation into former Hamilton County Deputy Daniel Wilkey.*

### CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

*Members of the clergy held a press conference in front of HCSO and held a vigil following.*

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

"What he did in that affidavit was highly unusual. For him to go on record for a plaintiff in a case, I think that's beyond the scope of what he ought to be doing," Hammond said. In the document, Pinkston alleges the sheriff's office wouldn't hand over their policy manual. But Hammond said that's not true, the manual is accessible to all of his employees online. "We've had a policy and procedure manual for years. Ever since we've been certified. You can't be certified without a policy and procedure manual. We do not have a book because we would have having to rewrite that book every day," he added.

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

Pinkston also alleges having issues obtaining Wilkey's dashcam video and a catastrophic data loss. Hammond said the server failure, which Channel 3 has reported on in the past, was the result of an issue with a software vendor and not his department. "A lot of tape was lost. Nothing was lost in terms of Mr. Wilkey. There was subsequent tapes the DA asked for later that were lost because he didn't ask for them," he said.

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

"I will never give a position or a video because you cannot take a 4, 5, 6 -- 10, 12-minute video and pull snippets, which was done. I'm not sure the entire video was ever shown totally in the news. Even if it was, you cannot pass judgment on what you see until you look at, 'Why did this happen? What was the training? What was the authorized training? What actually resulted in long-term?' I am just not going to do that. Hammond also published a press release.

## RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF HAMMOND

"Every complaint gets addressed in one way or another. Is there a time when sometimes something slips through the cracks, absolutely, when you've got that many people," he added.

Hammond said he's relying on support from deputies outside of the facility to help cover the 30-40 positions at Silverdale that haven't been filled. "We do it with overtime. We do it, sometimes I use patrol to help. Right now, as you know, the schools are down, so I've asked the SRO Division to help us so we can cover some of the security issues while we let those who are more trained deal with the prisoners, deal with their part," Hammond said.

## OCTOBER 2019

A 14-year-old girl was groped with her friends during a traffic stop by Officer Wilkey. He also made a boy strip off his clothes as Officer Tyler McRae watched.

## CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

The taskforce asked for training manuals, policies and procedures, and subsequently HCSO stopped communicating with the taskforce.

## DECEMBER 2019

A woman filed a lawsuit against Wilkey for unlawfully stopping her, touching her nipples and crotch, and ordering her to expose her breasts. A man filed a complaint against Wilkey for stopping him, handcuffing him, and frisking him.

## JUNE 2020

Reginald Arrington Jr. was beat by five officers. Dashcam footage regarding this incident was lost.

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office deployed tear gas on protesters in downtown Chattanooga.

## CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

Members of the clergy released a letter asking for Sheriff Hammond's resignation in July 2020 following.

## JANUARY 2021

Incarcerated people have not been fed, have not received medical attention, and they have been getting tased and maced excessively at Silverdale Detention Center since HCSO took over.

## CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

Chattanooga Clergy for Justice created a timeline and website to publish injustices committed by HCSO and have asked for Hammond to produce policies and procedures.

# REVIEW OF OFFICERS IN HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Data from Contracted Investigator

**19+**

offenses have been documented and reported since Sheriff Hammond was elected in 2008



**8**

officers were identified from these various reports as conducting gruesome offenses amongst several others who have not been named

**1**

officer was fired by Sheriff Hammond; several others either resigned or remain on paid leave

