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## Illinois State Bar Association HS Mock Trial Invitational

*People of the State of Illinois  
v.  
Alex Buckley*

None of the characters in this case are real. Any similarity between these characters and living people is coincidental and unintentional.

This problem is based on a problem prepared by Susan Johnson and Elise Wilson of the Carolina Center for Civic Education and is used with its generous permission.

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## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On the evening of May 18, 2018, a fire engulfed the Lincoln Dormitory at Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy in Lake City, Illinois, killing student Carly Walsh, who lived in the dormitory.

The Defendant, Alex Buckley, a former student at Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy, has been charged by the People of the State of Illinois with having committed the criminal offenses of Aggravated Arson and First Degree Murder in connection with the death of Carly Walsh. The Defendant has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

## AVAILABLE WITNESSES

<b>Prosecution Witnesses</b>	<b>Defense Witnesses</b>
Dakota Pope, Student	Alex Buckley, Defendant
Hayden Rodriguez, Guidance Counselor	Jordan Calvin, Store Owner
Casey Burke, LCPD Division Chief	Kennedy Felder, Forensic Psychologist

## CASE DOCUMENTS

### Legal Documents

1. Indictment
2. Statutes
3. Pre-Trial Orders
4. Jury Instructions

### Affidavits and Reports

#### *Prosecution*

1. Affidavit of Dakota Pope
2. Affidavit of Hayden Rodriguez
3. Report of Casey Burke

#### *Defense*

1. Affidavit of Alex Buckley
2. Affidavit of Jordan Calvin
3. Report of Kennedy Felder

### Exhibits

1. Lake City Police Department Arrest Report
2. Lake City Police Department Witness Interview Summaries
3. Lincoln Dormitory Low-Angle Photograph, May 19, 2018
4. Lincoln Dormitory Aerial Photograph, May 19, 2018
5. Gasoline Can (recovered from scene)
6. Photo of Alex Buckley's Uniform

7. Gas N Go Receipt, May 18, 2018
8. Map of Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy
9. Text messages from Carly Walsh's phone, May 21, 2017
10. Text messages from Carly Walsh's phone, July 25, 2017
11. Emails between Hayden Rodriguez and Alex Buckley
12. Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy Student Incident Report

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) Case No. 18-CF-1807  
 )  
ALEX BUCKLEY, )  
Defendant. )  
 )

**INDICTMENT**

**COUNT I**

THE GRAND JURORS chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Illinois, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths, present that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018, in the County of Lincoln, in the aforesaid State of Illinois, ALEX BUCKLEY committed the offense of AGGRAVATED ARSON, in that the said defendant did knowingly, intentionally, and without legal justification, burn an occupied building to wit, defendant ALEX BUCKLEY poured one or more gallons of gasoline on or near the door and hallway of room 321 of Lincoln Dormitory, a school building, located at and owned by Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy, Lake City, County of Lincoln, State of Illinois, and set the gasoline alight, burning said hallway, door and dormitory room, knowing that one or more persons were present in said dormitory, or that said act of arson caused a living person, Carly Walsh, to suffer great bodily harm, all without the consent of said Academy or of the occupants of said dormitory room, all in violation of the Criminal Code of 2012, as amended, 720 ILCS 5/20-1.1(a), and against the peace and dignity of the same people of Illinois.

A TRUE BILL OF INDICTMENT

Hailey Appleton

Foreperson of the Grand Jury, Lincoln County,  
State of Illinois

Dated: June 1, 2018

## COUNT II

THE GRAND JURORS chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Illinois, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths, present that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018, in the County of Lincoln, in the aforesaid State of Illinois, ALEX BUCKLEY committed the offense of FIRST DEGREE MURDER, in that the said defendant, while committing a forcible felony, to wit during the commission by said defendant of an act of aggravated arson, knowingly and without lawful justification, proximately caused the death of a living person, Carly Walsh, in violation of the Criminal Code of 2012, as amended, 720 ILCS 5/9-1(a)(3), and against the peace and dignity of the same people of Illinois.

A TRUE BILL OF INDICTMENT

Hailey Appleton

Foreperson of the Grand Jury, Lincoln County,  
State of Illinois

Dated: June 1, 2018

## COUNT III

THE GRAND JURORS chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Illinois, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths, present that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018, in the County of Lincoln, in the aforesaid State of Illinois, ALEX BUCKLEY committed the offense of FIRST DEGREE MURDER, in that the said defendant, poured one or more gallons of gasoline on or near the door and hallway of room 321 of Lincoln Dormitory, a school building, located at and owned by Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy, Lake City, County of Lincoln, State of Illinois, and set the gasoline alight, burning said hallway, door and dormitory room, which acts caused the death of Carly Walsh, and that when the defendant performed said acts s/he did so with the intent to kill or do great bodily harm to Carly Walsh, in violation of the Criminal Code of 2012, as amended, 720 ILCS 5/9-1(a)(1), and against the peace and dignity of the same people of Illinois.

A TRUE BILL OF INDICTMENT

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**ILLINOIS CRIMINAL CODE**  
(Selected Provisions)

(720 ILCS 5/4-5) (from Ch. 38, par. 4-5)

**Sec. 4-5. Knowledge.** A person knows, or acts knowingly or with knowledge of:

(a) The nature or attendant circumstances of his or her conduct, described by the statute defining the offense, when he or she is consciously aware that his or her conduct is of that nature or that those circumstances exist. Knowledge of a material fact includes awareness of the substantial probability that the fact exists.

(b) The result of his or her conduct, described by the statute defining the offense, when he or she is consciously aware that that result is practically certain to be caused by his conduct.

Conduct performed knowingly or with knowledge is performed willfully, within the meaning of a statute using the term "willfully", unless the statute clearly requires another meaning.

When the law provides that acting knowingly suffices to establish an element of an offense, that element also is established if a person acts intentionally.

(720 ILCS 5/4-4)

**Sec. 4-4. Intent.**

A person intends, or acts intentionally or with intent, to accomplish a result or engage in conduct described by the statute defining the offense, when his conscious objective or purpose is to accomplish that result or engage in that conduct.

(720 ILCS 5/9-1)

**Sec. 9-1. First degree Murder - Death penalties - Exceptions - Separate Hearings - Proof - Findings - Appellate procedures - Reversals.**

(a) A person who kills an individual without lawful justification commits first degree murder if, in performing the acts which cause the death:

(1) he either intends to kill or do great bodily harm to that individual or another, or knows that such acts will cause death to that individual or another; or

(2) he knows that such acts create a strong probability of death or great bodily harm to that individual or another; or

(3) he is attempting or committing a forcible felony other than second degree murder.

(720 ILCS 5/20-1.1)

**Sec. 20-1.1. Aggravated Arson.**

(a) A person commits aggravated arson when in the course of committing arson he or she knowingly damages, partially or totally, any building or structure, including any adjacent building or structure, including all or any part of a school building, house, trailer, watercraft, motor vehicle, or railroad car, and (1) he knows or reasonably should know that one or more persons are present therein or (2) any person suffers great bodily harm, or permanent disability or disfigurement as a

result of the fire or explosion or (3) a fireman, policeman, or correctional officer who is present at the scene acting in the line of duty is injured as a result of the fire or explosion.

For purposes of this Section, property "of another" means a building or other property, whether real or personal, in which a person other than the offender has an interest that the offender has no authority to defeat or impair, even though the offender may also have an interest in the building or property; and "school building" means any public or private preschool, elementary or secondary school, community college, college, or university.

(720 ILCS 5/20-1)

**Sec. 20-1. Arson; residential arson; place of worship arson.**

(a) A person commits arson when, by means of fire or explosive, he or she knowingly:

(1) Damages any real property, or any personal property having a value of \$150 or more, of another without his or her consent; or

(2) With intent to defraud an insurer, damages any property or any personal property having a value of \$150 or more.

Property "of another" means a building or other property, whether real or personal, in which a person other than the offender has an interest which the offender has no authority to defeat or impair, even though the offender may also have an interest in the building or property.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) Case No. 18-CF-1807  
 )  
ALEX BUCKLEY, )  
Defendant. )  
 )

**PRE-TRIAL ORDER**

On this the 1st day of November, 2018, the above-captioned matter came before the undersigned judge for pretrial conference. The parties, appearing through their counsel, indicated their agreement to, and approval of, the terms of this Order, and requested that it be made the Order of this Court. The terms of this order, accordingly, shall not be altered, except upon a showing of good cause.

**I. Statement of Case**

The State has charged the Defendant, Alex Buckley, with the offenses of Aggravated Arson and First Degree Murder in connection with the death of Carly Walsh.

The Defendant has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

**II. Stipulations of the Parties**

The parties have entered into the following stipulations, which shall not be contradicted or challenged:

1. The case of *State v. Buckley* has been bifurcated. This trial concerns only the guilt phase. No evidence that goes solely to the extent of the penalty faced by Buckley may be presented by either party.
2. Alex Buckley has entered a plea of not guilty to all indicted charges and has not indicated an intent to raise any affirmative defense.
3. Carly Walsh died at 9:47 a.m. on May 19, 2018. Her death was caused by sepsis and multi-

organ failure due to full-body third degree burns.

4. Jurisdiction, venue, and chain of custody of all evidence are proper and may not be challenged.
5. Both parties waive all objections and motions based on the Constitution of the United States. Both parties also waive all objections and motions based on privilege.
6. All witnesses reviewed their affidavits and reports immediately prior to trial and were given an opportunity to revise them. None did so. All witnesses affirm the truthfulness of everything stated in their affidavits. When preparing and reviewing their sworn statements, all witnesses were instructed to include everything that they know may be relevant to their testimony.
7. All documents, signatures, and exhibits included in the case materials are authentic; no objections to the authenticity of any documents will be entertained. Both parties must still lay proper foundation prior to entering evidence, and both parties reserve the right to dispute any legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections other than to authenticity.
8. All electronic timestamps contained within exhibits are authentic and accurate.
9. All objections to Exhibit 1, the Arrest Report prepared by the arresting officer of the Lake City Police Department, have been waived. If offered, it is admissible by either party at any time the record is open without further foundation. However, both parties reserve the right to object to Exhibit 2 (witness interviews).
10. No witness currently possesses any physical injury relating to or resulting from the events of May 18, 2018 or any other events materially relevant to this case.
11. Todd Larkin is currently studying abroad in an exchange student program through Eden University and was not able to be subpoenaed to testify. He has been declared unavailable as a witness.
12. Alex Buckley was taken into custody at 11:40 p.m. on May 18, 2018 in the parking lot adjacent to Lincoln Dorm on the Prairie Lake Academy campus.

*Judge Catherine Meyer*

ENTERED: November 1, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
v. ) Case No. 18-CF-1807  
)  
ALEX BUCKLEY, )  
Defendant. )  
)

**SECOND PRE-TRIAL ORDER**

This cause having come before the Court for a second pretrial conference to address clarification of the issue of the necessary mental state or conduct to convict for First Degree Murder. Having considered the argument and legal briefs of the parties, the Court hereby enters the following SECOND PRE-TRIAL ORDER which shall govern the parties during the jury trial to be held in the above-captioned matter:

While the First Degree Murder statute describes three "types" of murder, first degree murder is a single offense. The different theories embodied in the first degree murder statute are merely different ways to commit the same crime.

The difference between the three theories set forth in the statute is the mental state or conduct that accompany the acts that cause the death.

An intentional murder involves a more culpable mental state than knowing or felony murder.

Additionally, under the theory of "knowing murder," a person who is aware that his acts create a strong probability of death to another may be found guilty of first-degree murder even if the victim's death was caused unintentionally.

In order to prove murder, it is not necessary to show that the defendant had a specific intent to kill or do great bodily harm or that he/she knows with certainty that his/her acts will achieve murderous results. It is sufficient to show that the defendant voluntarily and willfully committed an act, the natural tendency of which was to destroy another's life.

*Judge Catherine Meyer*

ENTERED: December 18, 2018

## **JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

*At the conclusion of a jury trial, the judge will instruct the jury how to apply the law to the evidence. Hypothetically, if the judge in your mock trial case were to provide instructions to the jury, they would look something like the following.*

*[Please note: These instructions may NOT be tendered to the mock trial jury or used as an exhibit during the competition; however, students may use these concepts in fashioning their case and making arguments to the jury.]*

### **PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **I. Role of the Jury**

Now that you have been sworn, and before the presentation of evidence, I have the following preliminary instructions for your guidance as jurors in this case.

You and only you will be the judges of the facts. You will have to decide what happened. You should not take anything I may say or do during the trial as indicating what I think of the evidence or what your verdict should be. My role is to be the judge of the law. I will make legal decisions during the trial, and I will explain to you the legal principles that must guide you in your decisions.

Neither sympathy nor prejudice should influence your verdict. You are to apply the law as stated in these instructions to the facts as you find them and in this way decide the case.

#### **II. Evidence**

The evidence from which you are to find the facts consists of the following:

1. The testimony of the witnesses;
2. Documents and other items received as exhibits; and
3. Any facts that are stipulated—that is, formally agreed to by the parties.

The following things are not evidence:

1. Statements, arguments, and questions of the lawyers for the parties in this case;
2. Objections by lawyers;
3. Any testimony I tell you to disregard; and
4. Anything you may see or hear about this case outside the courtroom.

You must make your decision based only on the evidence presented in court. Do not let rumors, suspicions, or anything seen or heard outside of court influence your decision in any way.

You should use your common sense in weighing the evidence. Consider it in light of your everyday experience with people and events, and give it whatever weight you believe it deserves.

Certain rules control what can be received into evidence. When a lawyer asks a question or offers an exhibit into evidence, and a lawyer on the other side thinks that it is not permitted by the

rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. An objection simply means that the lawyer is requesting that I make a decision on a particular rule of evidence. Objections to questions are not evidence.

You should not be influenced by the objection or by my ruling on it. If the objection is sustained, ignore the question. If it is overruled, treat the answer like any other.

## **A. Direct and Circumstantial Evidence**

Evidence may either be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw, heard, or did. Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should consider both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. You may decide the case solely based on circumstantial evidence.

## **B. Credibility**

In deciding the facts, you must determine what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You are the sole judges of the credibility, or believability, of the witnesses. You may believe all, some, or none of a witness's testimony. In deciding which testimony to believe, you should use the same tests of truthfulness as in your everyday lives, including the following factors:

1. The ability of the witness to see, hear, or know the things the witness testifies to;
2. The quality of the witness's understanding and memory;
3. The witness's manner and behavior while testifying;
4. The witness's interest in the outcome of the case or any motive, bias, or prejudice;
5. Whether the witness is contradicted by anything the witness said or wrote before trial or by other evidence; and
6. How reasonable the witness's testimony is when considered in the light of other evidence that you believe.

Inconsistencies or discrepancies within a witness's testimony or between the testimonies of different witnesses may or may not cause you to disbelieve a witness's testimony. Two or more persons witnessing an event may simply see or hear it differently. Mistaken recollection, like a person's failure to recall, is a common human experience. In weighing the effect of an inconsistency, you should also consider whether it was about a matter of importance or an insignificant detail. You should also consider whether the inconsistency was innocent or intentional.

The weight of the evidence to prove a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testified or the quantity of evidence that was presented. More important is how believable the witnesses were, and how much weight you think their testimony deserves.

You will now hear opening statements by the parties and the presentation of evidence. At the conclusion of the evidence, I will instruct you on the law that you are to apply to the facts.

## **POST-TRIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **I. Duty of Jury; Apply the Law**

Members of the jury, you have seen and heard all the evidence and the arguments of the lawyers. It is your duty to find the facts and to render a verdict reflecting the truth. You should consider all the evidence, the arguments, contentions and positions urged by the attorney(s), and any other contention that arises from the evidence. All twelve of you must agree to your verdict.

My role now is to explain to you the legal principles that must guide you in your decisions. You must not substitute or follow your own notion or opinion about what the law is or ought to be. You must apply the law that I give to you, whether you agree with it or not.

### **II. Presumption of Innocence; Reasonable Doubt; Burden of Proof.**

The defendant, Alex Buckley, pleaded not guilty to the offense charged. The fact that the defendant has been indicted is no evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed to be innocent. The presumption of innocence means that Alex Buckley has no burden or obligation to present any evidence at all or to prove that s/he is not guilty.

The entire burden or obligation of proof is on the government to prove that Alex Buckley is guilty. This burden stays with the government throughout the trial. In order for you to find Alex Buckley guilty of the offenses charged, the government must prove each and every element of the offenses charged beyond a reasonable doubt.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt or to a mathematical certainty. A reasonable doubt is a fair doubt based on reason, logic, common sense, or experience. It may arise from the evidence, or from the lack of evidence, or from the nature of the evidence. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that fully satisfies or entirely convinces you of the defendant's guilt.

If, having now heard all the evidence, you are convinced that the government proved each and every element of a charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt, you should return a verdict of guilty for that offense. However, if you have a reasonable doubt about one or more of the elements of the offense charged, then you must return a verdict of not guilty of that offense.

### **III. Definition Of Aggravated Arson**

A person commits the offense of aggravated arson when, in the course of committing arson, s/he knowingly damages, partially or totally, any building, and

- [1] s/he knows or reasonably should know that one or more persons are present therein.
  - [or]
  - [2] any person suffers great bodily harm as a result of the fire.

## **Aggravated Arson**

To sustain the charge of aggravated arson, the State must prove the following propositions:

*First Proposition:* That the defendant, in the course of committing aggravated arson, knowingly damaged, partially or totally, any building; and

*Second Proposition:* That when the defendant did so, s/he knew or reasonably should have known that one or more persons were present therein.

[or]

That Carly Walsh suffered great bodily harm as a result of the fire.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each one of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant guilty.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any one of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant not guilty.

## **IV. Definition Of First Degree Murder**

A person commits the offense of first degree murder when s/he kills an individual without lawful justification if, in performing the acts which cause the death,

[1] s/he intends to kill or do great bodily harm to that individual;

[or]

[2] s/he knows that such acts will cause death to that individual;

[or]

[3] s/he knows that such acts create a strong probability of death or great bodily harm to that individual;

[or]

[4] s/he is committing the offense of aggravated arson.

## **Issues In First Degree Murder**

To sustain the charge of first degree murder, the State must prove the following propositions:

*First Proposition:* That the defendant performed the acts which caused the death of Carly Walsh; and

*Second Proposition:* That when the defendant did so,

S/he intended to kill or do great bodily harm to Carly Walsh; or

S/he was committing the offense of aggravated arson.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each one of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant guilty.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any one of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant not guilty.

### **Explanation To Jury That It May Not Find Defendant Guilty Of Felony Murder And Not Guilty Of Underlying Felony**

To sustain the charge of first degree murder solely based on the defendant committing the act of aggravated arson, the State must prove that when the defendant performed the acts which caused the death of Carly Walsh, the defendant was committing the offense of aggravated arson. Accordingly, you may find the defendant guilty of first degree murder based on the defendant committing the act of aggravated arson only if you also find the defendant guilty of aggravated.

If you find the defendant not guilty of aggravated arson, then you must find the defendant not guilty of first degree murder solely based on the defendant committing the act of aggravated arson.

### **Causation In Felony Murder Cases**

A person commits the offense of first degree murder when s/he commits the offense of aggravated arson, and the death of an individual results as a direct and foreseeable consequence of a chain of events set into motion by his/her commission of the offense of aggravated arson.

It is immaterial whether the killing is intentional or accidental.

#### **Intent**

A person intends to accomplish a result or engage in conduct when his/her conscious objective or purpose is to accomplish that result or engage in that conduct.

#### **Knowledge**

[1] A person knows the nature or attendant circumstances of his/her conduct when s/he is consciously aware that his/her conduct is of that nature or that those circumstances exist.

Knowledge of a material fact includes awareness of the substantial probability that the fact exists.

[2] A person knows the result of his/her conduct when s/he is consciously aware that that result is practically certain to be caused by his/her conduct.

## AFFIDAVIT OF DAKOTA POPE

1        My name is Dakota Pope. I just graduated from Prairie Lake Preparatory  
2 Academy this spring, and I'll be attending Rollins College in Florida this fall. I am so  
3 excited. Rollins has a beautiful campus and small classes, and they're giving me a good  
4 scholarship. I was also accepted into the Honors Degree Program. And, after everything  
5 that happened to Carly Walsh, I'm just glad to leave Lake City, Illinois.

6        Carly was my best friend. She was really competitive in everything she did. She  
7 was the captain of the girls' soccer team for two years, and she joined the Mock Trial  
8 and Science Olympiad teams. Despite how hard she pushed herself, Carly was a really  
9 kind, thoughtful person. She went out of her way to be friends with everyone. If there  
10 was a big exam, she'd organize a study group and buy all the pizza, or if there was a  
11 school dance, she'd invite all of our friends over before to get ready. Her parents paid  
12 extra for her to have a single room in Lincoln Dorm, so it was a great, big space to hang  
13 out with other students. Our student IDs give us access to all campus buildings until 10  
14 p.m. on weekdays and 11:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday. No one without an active student  
15 ID can get in, and outside those hours, students can only get into their own dorms.

16       Until the start of our senior year, the only person I can think of who was ever  
17 mean to Carly was her ex-boyfriend, Todd Larkin. Todd was a year older than Carly  
18 and me, and he dated her for half of our sophomore and most of our junior year. At  
19 first, Todd seemed like the perfect boyfriend for Carly since he was captain of the  
20 football team and very popular. They were always together at all the school dances and  
21 school social events. But by the end of our sophomore year, things had changed. For  
22 one thing, Todd wasn't much of a student. He seemed to be okay with earning C's, and  
23 he would force Carly to skip study groups to spend time with him. Todd was  
24 controlling like that in most aspects of their relationship. He would get mad at her for  
25 speaking to or texting other guys. Sometimes I noticed bruises on Carly's arms. When I  
26 asked her about them, Carly said she got them playing soccer. I'd watched some of the  
27 games and they did get pretty physical, and I didn't think Carly would lie to me.

28       Over the summer, I thought things between them were getting better. Carly and  
29 Todd were both taking classes in summer school, and they spent a lot of time together.  
30 Carly sent me photos of them swimming and going to cookouts, and I couldn't see any  
31 bruises, though it looked like Carly had put filters on the pictures. But when I came  
32 back to school in the fall and the bruises were back – months away from soccer season –  
33 I confronted her. This time she admitted it was Todd. She said Todd would sometimes  
34 grab her too hard or even hit her, but she insisted it was deserved or they were just  
35 playing and Todd didn't know his own strength. I wasn't so sure, and I told her that she  
36 needed to go to the school administration, but she said no. She said Todd would get  
37 upset if she told anyone, and she begged me to keep it to myself. I never actually saw  
38 Todd grab her or treat her roughly our junior year, so I did as Carly asked. But when he  
39 graduated in 2017 and Carly ended the relationship, I was so relieved.

40       Todd didn't take it too well at first, and he even sent her some pretty scary texts  
41 that summer, which Carly showed to me. But as far as I know, no one at Prairie Lake  
42 heard from him after he left for college at Eden University. Eden is four hours away  
43 from Prairie Lake. I'd been friends with Todd on Facebook since my sophomore year,  
44 and I still read his posts sometimes. In early December of 2017 Todd posted photos of  
45 his new girlfriend at Eden University. One week later he posted, complaining that his  
46 dad had taken away his car because he'd gotten a DUI and had lost his license for 6  
47 months. Todd's relationship status was unchanged, though. I was thankful...now Todd  
48 had no way to get here. But just as everything with Todd was resolved, Alex Buckley  
49 started acting crazy toward Carly.

50       Every semester when grades were released, the school posted GPA and class  
51 rank data on the student portal of the school website. At the end of our junior year,  
52 Carly found out she was in the running to be our class's valedictorian and would  
53 potentially receive the Williamson Scholarship. I'm not sure who Mrs. Williamson was,  
54 but she must've been a pretty big deal. Her scholarship gives the class valedictorian a  
55 free ride to the college of their choice every year. I didn't have the grades to care much  
56 about it, but I know Carly did. She talked about it all the time; whenever there was a  
57 project, a test, or even a homework assignment, Carly would shut herself in her room

58 studying, saying that was the only way she could earn the Williamson. Carly didn't  
59 need the money -- her family was well-off. I assumed she just saw it as another  
60 competition to win.

61       Alex Buckley was Carly's biggest competition for the Williamson Scholarship.  
62 Alex was on scholarship to Prairie Lake, and Alex had retained the top spot in our class  
63 for most of our first three years. Alex was a science buff, and Alex took every AP course  
64 Prairie Lake offered, except AP Art. Alex managed to ace nearly every class, join a few  
65 clubs, run cross country, and work a job at a gas station down the road all at the same  
66 time, even if it meant sometimes going to school events in a work uniform. Alex and I  
67 weren't great friends or anything, but we had a lot of classes together, and Alex was  
68 clearly brilliant. The first couple years of high school, Alex would sometimes come to  
69 Carly's study groups to help people out, which I really appreciated. But when the class  
70 ranks were posted at the end of the 2017 spring semester, that all changed. Carly and I  
71 were looking at the ranks on a computer in the library when Alex walked up. Alex saw  
72 that Carly's GPA was just barely higher than Alex's and Alex became angry. Alex  
73 glared at Carly and kicked over a chair before stomping out of the room.

74       When the fall semester of our senior year began, Carly sometimes invited Alex  
75 over to study as she always had. But Alex would say no because Alex "didn't want to  
76 help Carly steal the Williamson," or because, "if Carly is really the best, she should be  
77 able to ace the test without my help." As the year went on, Alex's comments became  
78 more and more aggressive, and I started to feel uncomfortable just being around Alex.  
79 Sometimes in AP Calculus, I saw Alex scowling angrily at Carly when Carly was looking  
80 the other way. If Alex saw me watching, Alex would look down and start working on a  
81 math problem. It was strange. In the spring, Alex even punched a wall after Carly scored  
82 higher than Alex on one Calculus test. Alex had to wear a brace on Alex's right hand  
83 until right around our final exams. Alex's attitude concerned Carly, but it also made her  
84 want to work harder. Carly told me that even if Alex needed the money, Carly didn't  
85 want the scholarship to go to someone who was so obsessed and hyper-competitive.

86       Carly's hard work paid off. Going into final exams in May, Carly had all A's, and  
87 Alex was on the verge of getting a B in AP Calculus BC. Carly tried to be nice about it,

88 and she even invited Alex to a math and science study group at her room in Lincoln  
89 Dorm the Friday before finals. But, unsurprisingly, Alex turned down the invitation  
90 because it might help Carly. Alex wasn't the only one to decline the invitation, though.  
91 Everyone Carly invited bailed to go to the Finals Dance instead. It's a huge tradition, like  
92 a prom but even better. It starts at 9 p.m. and ends at midnight, and almost every senior  
93 goes since it's their last dance at Prairie Lake. But Carly didn't want to attend. Carly's leg  
94 had been in a cast since she broke it at the first soccer game in April, and she said if she  
95 couldn't dance, she might as well study. I didn't want her to be stuck all alone, so I said  
96 I'd come study, too. If only I'd known what would happen. I wish I'd convinced her to  
97 meet in the library or go to the dance anyway; then maybe she'd still be here.

98 That night, on May 18, 2018, I got to Carly's third floor dorm room just after 9  
99 p.m. Everyone else had already left for the dance; I didn't see or hear anyone else in the  
100 dorm. We ordered a pizza, grabbed some sodas from the vending machines, and got to  
101 work. By about 10:55p.m., we had finished the pizza and were getting a little tired of  
102 studying. Carly was sitting at her desk in the far corner nearest the door, while I was on  
103 the other side of the room, beside the window. She called me over to watch a funny  
104 video on her computer, and as I was getting up to go back to my chair, I started to smell  
105 gasoline. I thought that maybe I was delusional because I was so tired, but then I saw  
106 fluid coming under the door. Seconds later, everything ignited.

107 I didn't know what to do. We didn't have any water or any way to put the fire  
108 out, and my phone was dead so I couldn't call for help. The fire alarm started blaring,  
109 but the sprinklers didn't come on immediately. I pulled the window open in the hopes  
110 that we could escape. I could hear Carly coughing a lot from the smoke, and I reached  
111 for her hand and motioned to the window. I told her to jump first, and then I would  
112 jump and make sure we both got away safely. It was a long way down, but there was  
113 grass outside the window, and we had no other option. Carly shook her head no,  
114 motioned to her leg, and told me through her coughs to take her unlocked phone, get  
115 out and call for help. That was the last thing she ever said to me, possibly to anyone.

116 I did what Carly said. I jumped out the window. I landed really hard on my right  
117 side, and I felt an immediate pain in both my right leg and my right wrist. I tried to get

118 up and find Carly's phone to call 911, but it hurt too much to move. Panicking, I looked  
119 around for someone to help me, and I saw a person walking rapidly away from the  
120 dorm toward the parking lot. They were wearing a yellow collared shirt and dark pants,  
121 and they were carrying a bright red object that looked like a plastic gas container. I  
122 could not tell which hand the person was using to carry the object. The clothes looked a  
123 lot like the uniforms they wear at the gas station where Alex Buckley works. The person  
124 was far enough away that I couldn't see their face, but they were the same height and  
125 had the same hair color as Alex. I called out to them for help, but they didn't turn  
126 around. They seemed startled because they tripped over the curb, dropped the gas can,  
127 and got up and ran into parking lot, ducking behind a dark colored SUV.

128 A few seconds later, I heard voices. It was two juniors, Ana Lewis and Don  
129 Zacek, running toward me, dressed like they'd been at the dance. They told me that  
130 they had called 911 and help was on the way. I couldn't stand up, so Ana and Don  
131 found Carly's phone, grabbed under my arms, and pulled me farther away from the  
132 building. It hurt like crazy, but the fire was growing quickly, so we needed to get as far  
133 away as we could.

134 It took the firefighters five minutes to arrive, and at least another minute for  
135 police and the paramedics. It seemed like an eternity. A firefighter asked me if I knew of  
136 anyone still in the building, and I frantically told them Carly was trapped inside  
137 because of her leg. Then EMTs put me on a gurney and took me to an ambulance,  
138 where a police officer asked if I had any idea what happened. I kept asking if they were  
139 able to get to Carly. She was still inside and I couldn't stop shaking, thinking that she  
140 was stuck in there. I told the police officer about the gasoline and the person in the  
141 yellow shirt and gave him Carly's phone. At that point, the firefighters ran up with a  
142 person they'd just pulled out of the building. The person was burned from head to toe  
143 and so disfigured that I couldn't immediately tell who it was. But I could see the  
144 remnants of a cast on their right leg, and I knew that it was Carly. I felt like I was going  
145 to puke and my mind went blank. I think I might have passed out for a few seconds.

146 Once I came to, we were next to each other in the ambulance. The EMTs  
147 surrounded her in the ambulance while it rushed us to the hospital. We were both taken

148 right into surgery. The next thing I knew, I woke up in the recovery room with casts on  
149 my right leg and wrist. I tried asking about Carly over and over, but no one would talk  
150 with me. I later learned that she died a few hours after we got to the hospital. The  
151 doctors tried everything to save her, but she was too badly burned. I couldn't believe it.  
152 I never even got to say good-bye. If only I'd made Carly go through the window first. I  
153 will never forgive myself.

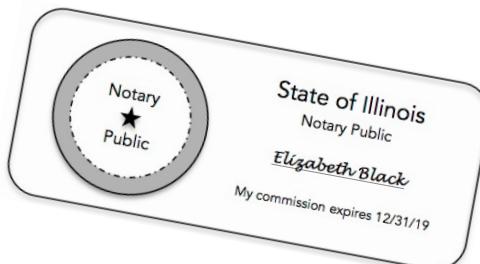
154 When I got out of the hospital a few days later, I heard that they had arrested Alex  
155 Buckley for Carly's murder. Some people thought it could have been Todd Larkin, but I  
156 know it was Alex. Alex always got so angry when Carly did well, and Alex talked about  
157 the Williamson as "my scholarship and no one else's." Besides, Todd is at least half a foot  
158 taller than Alex; I would have recognized Todd if he had been in the parking lot that  
159 night. At least Alex's plan didn't work: the school cancelled exams and donated the 2018  
160 Williamson award to charity in Carly's honor. But that's not enough. Alex killed Carly. I  
161 want Alex to pay for what happened to Carly, and I hope Alex rots in jail for the rest of  
162 Alex's life.

163 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:  
164 Exhibit 5 looks like the gas canister I saw the person carrying on May 18, 2018. Exhibit 6  
165 is the uniform for workers at Gas 'N Go. Exhibit 8 is a map of Prairie Lake Preparatory  
166 Academy and the surrounding area. Exhibits 9 & 10 are accurate screenshots of texts  
167 Carly received during the summer of 2017, which she showed to me at that time. I have  
168 also reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit 2, and they appear to be a fair  
169 and accurate characterization of my conversation with the police on May 18, 2018.

Dakota Pope

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018.

Elizabeth Black



## AFFIDAVIT OF HAYDEN RODRIGUEZ

1        My name is Hayden Rodriguez. I am a guidance counselor at Prairie Lake  
2 Preparatory Academy, a prestigious high school in Lake City, Illinois. I was the person  
3 responsible for selecting Alex Buckley as a scholarship student to attend Prairie Lake, and  
4 I was also Alex's academic advisor.

5        I've been an advisor at Prairie Lake since 2008. On average, 450 students attend  
6 Prairie Lake each year, divided evenly among me and the two other advisors. As a  
7 guidance counselor, I have many responsibilities. I help students resolve social conflicts if  
8 any arise, navigate stress or anxiety if they feel it, and regain good academic standing if  
9 they lose it. The biggest part of my job is helping students plan for college.

10       At a private school like Prairie Lake, advertising is everything, and one of our  
11 most important selling points is that we get results. Parents choose Prairie Lake because  
12 we take pride in our students' accomplishments and are invested in their success. It is my  
13 job to see that each student graduates and attends their best fit college. With such a large  
14 student body, this is a huge responsibility, and one that I take very seriously. When a  
15 student enters their senior year, I help them prepare their college applications and even  
16 arrange practice interviews if they request them. I encourage our highest achievers to  
17 apply to the top universities in the nation. If I see that a student is less skilled  
18 academically, I steer them toward universities where they can still achieve success.

19       Finding the right programs and colleges for everyone takes a lot of time and can be  
20 a bit stressful. I've never seen this happen at Prairie Lake, but I've definitely heard of  
21 advisors at prep schools losing their jobs when an assigned student doesn't go to college  
22 or doesn't graduate. Thankfully, most of our students (or, more accurately, their parents)  
23 are extremely self-motivated and don't need a lot of help.

24       One of my favorite parts of my job is getting to know and assist our scholarship  
25 students. While most students pay a hefty price to attend this school, each year we admit  
26 between eight and twelve low-income students on merit-based scholarships. I helped  
27 start this program in 2010 after Prairie Lake got some bad press about lack of diversity,  
28 and I have been a big proponent of it ever since. I think the program benefits everyone:

29 these students help our school by adding socio-economic diversity, and we help them by  
30 giving them a first rate education.

31 As a result of my hard work, every single one of our scholarship students has  
32 graduated with honors and attended a four-year university. The program's success has  
33 generated lots of good press for the school and even resulted in a significant raise for me  
34 a few years ago. The only hiccup we've ever had is with Alex Buckley.

35 Alex started school in the fall of 2014. Alex came from a single parent household,  
36 and Alex's mother was tasked with caring for both Alex and a younger sibling. From  
37 what I gathered, Alex's mother tried to provide Alex with support, but due to stress and  
38 finances, she was unable to offer Alex the kind of encouragement and financing necessary  
39 to put a child through college. Despite Alex's circumstances, however, Alex was excelling  
40 in public school, so when I received Alex's application, I decided that Alex would be a  
41 perfect scholarship candidate.

42 Alex's transition from public school to boarding school was a little bumpy, and  
43 Alex did have one small incident during freshman year. Alex had joined the Science  
44 Olympiad team and was enthusiastic about Alex's robotics project. But when it came time  
45 for the regional competition, Alex finished in fourth place, just shy of advancing to the  
46 next level. Alex kicked over one of the advancing students' projects, and it caught on fire.  
47 Thankfully, no one was hurt. But the project was so damaged that the other student  
48 dropped out of the competition, and Alex, now in third place, was allowed to advance.  
49 While this helped to foster Alex's interest in science, Alex's teacher advisor and I agreed  
50 that Alex's behavior was unacceptable. As a result, I met with Alex once per week for the  
51 rest of the semester to talk about anger management and coping strategies. Alex seemed  
52 to progress well with my counseling, so at the end of the year, I signed off for Alex to  
53 continue at Prairie Lake without further intervention.

54 Alex excelled academically even as a freshman at Prairie Lake, proving that I was  
55 right to select Alex for our diversity program. Alex not only held the top position in the  
56 class, but Alex also joined a few clubs and started a volunteer organization that  
57 encouraged our students to serve as tutors at low-income elementary schools in Lake  
58 City. When Alex turned 16, Alex even picked up a job at a gas station nearby to earn

59 some extra money, and Alex's grades were not affected at all. Alex wanted to study  
60 chemical engineering at Stanford, and based on Alex's first two years, I believed Alex  
61 could do it.

62 In fact, by the middle of Alex's sophomore year, it was clear that Alex might be a  
63 contender for the Williamson scholarship. The Williamson is the only full-ride college  
64 scholarship we offer, and it is awarded to each class's valedictorian. I knew that if Alex  
65 won, not only would Alex benefit, but Alex's success would result in positive publicity  
66 for Prairie Lake and my diversity program. But of course, if someone else won, Alex still  
67 had the grades to get into Stanford and could apply for other scholarships.

68 When I told Alex about the Williamson award, Alex was excited – almost too  
69 excited – about the prospect of a full merit scholarship. Every time report cards and class  
70 ranks came out, Alex would come into my office and ask, "How's my scholarship?" or  
71 "No one's beating me for the Williamson, right?" Each time, I assured Alex that Alex's  
72 top class rank seemed secure. By Alex's junior year, Alex started to act somewhat  
73 arrogant about it. When Alex declined to take AP Art, an "easy A" course that most  
74 juniors at Prairie Lake take, I reminded Alex that doing well on AP courses is the best  
75 way to maintain top class ranking. But Alex didn't listen. That decision allowed Carly  
76 Walsh, another junior, to just barely pass Alex in the class rankings. I didn't know Carly  
77 very well because she wasn't assigned to me, but I had heard good things about her from  
78 her teachers and her advisor.

79 When the rankings came out in spring of 2017 and Alex was no longer first, Alex  
80 immediately started scrambling to get back to the top position. I helped Alex plan the  
81 best senior schedules I could, but I made it clear that with the extra AP course, Carly  
82 might have an edge over Alex no matter what. Alex seemed furious. I tried to convince  
83 Alex to apply to other scholarships and reminded Alex that Stanford has generous need-  
84 based aid programs, but Alex said, "No, I have to stop Carly. If I don't, I can kiss Stanford  
85 goodbye. All my hard work will be for nothing. I'll be stuck in menial jobs the rest of my  
86 life. The Williamson is my only way out! I have to do whatever it takes to get back on  
87 top." Alex's response concerned me, but I thought Alex just planned to put even more  
88 effort into getting good grades. I didn't think Alex intended to do anything rash.

89        Alex worked harder than any student I have ever seen during senior year. Looking  
90 back, perhaps I should have asked Alex more questions or checked in more often, but I  
91 always saw Alex as a driven student and I didn't want to do anything to harm Alex's  
92 work ethic. However, in early spring, when Alex punched a wall from stress and  
93 fractured a hand, I decided to step in. I scheduled a meeting with Alex at the end of April  
94 to try and talk about what Alex was feeling.

95        Alex came by for a few minutes on April 26, 2018, still wearing a brace on Alex's  
96 wrist. I tried to talk through what happened and get Alex to open up about the anger Alex  
97 was experiencing, but it felt like I was getting nowhere – Alex had become irrationally  
98 angry about the scholarship and was having a lot of trouble calming down. Although Alex  
99 seemed on edge, Alex finally agreed to my game plan: I would give Alex information on  
100 three additional scholarship programs, and Alex would complete the applications and  
101 meet up with me in three weeks. I thought Alex was likely to receive a good portion of  
102 Alex's college tuition if Alex put work into these applications. I reminded Alex that I was  
103 always available to read essays, look over resumes, or just talk. Even though Alex seemed  
104 irritated, Alex nodded, so I thought Alex would do as I recommended. But Alex was  
105 muttering as Alex left. I couldn't make out all the words, but I am certain that I heard  
106 Carly's name.

107       I didn't see or hear from Alex during the three-week period. I sent a check-in email  
108 on May 10 but received no response. Alex skipped our appointment on May 17. I tried to  
109 schedule another meeting with Alex, but Alex's email made it clear Alex wanted no part  
110 of that. Based on Alex's emails, I hoped Alex had applied for the other scholarships.  
111 However, after investigating further, I couldn't find records of Alex requesting the official  
112 transcripts or written teacher recommendations that most scholarships require. Alex  
113 could have sent unofficial transcripts, which are available for free online, and requested  
114 teacher recommendations in-person instead of through my office. But I don't think that's  
115 likely. Alex had always requested through my office in the past, which leads me to  
116 believe that Alex never filled those applications out. I did not have a chance to speak with  
117 Alex about it before the horrifying events of May 18.

118        On May 19, I was absolutely devastated when I learned that Carly Walsh had been  
119        killed in a dorm fire. I was even more shocked to learn that Alex had been arrested when  
120        Officer Murray interviewed me. I want to believe that Alex is a good person and would  
121        never commit such a heinous act, but the way Alex talked about Carly was definitely  
122        extreme. I wish I had done more to help Alex; perhaps if I had been more proactive, I  
123        could have intervened and prevented this tragedy.

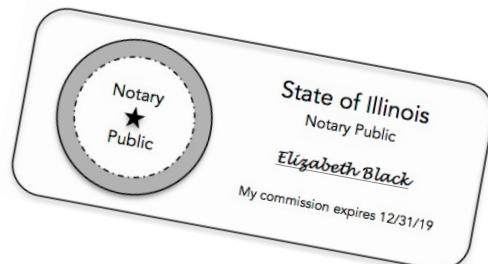
124        I know people have been talking about Todd Larkin as someone who could have  
125        been involved. I wasn't Todd's advisor, but I had seen him come into the advising office  
126        before. He wasn't the brightest student, and his grades frequently fell so low that he lost  
127        academic eligibility to play sports. His father, who is a generous donor to the school,  
128        protested (unsuccessfully) to more than one of my colleagues to get Todd's eligibility  
129        back. That being said, I never heard of Todd being reported for any physical abuse or  
130        violent altercations. With his family's reputation in the community, I don't know how  
131        amenable Prairie Lake students would be to filing a report about Todd, but if one had  
132        been created, it would have passed through my office.

133        Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:  
134        The statements attributed to me in Exhibit 2 appear to be a fair and accurate summary  
135        of my conversation with the police on May 19, 2018. Exhibits 3 & 4 show Lincoln Dorm  
136        after that terrible fire. Exhibit 8 is a map of the school. Exhibit 11 accurately reflects my  
137        email correspondence with Alex Buckley during April and May of 2018. Exhibit 12 is  
138        the disciplinary report I filed during Alex's freshman year; it is the only report in Alex's  
139        disciplinary file.

Hayden Rodriguez

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018

Elizabeth Black





## LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

1   **Division Chief:**   Casey Burke  
2   **Date:**            July 28, 2018  
3   **RE:**              Rept. No. 2018-0218117

### 4   **SUMMARY**

5   Carly Walsh, a senior at Prairie Lake Preparatory School, died as the result of burns  
6   sustained in a fire deliberately set outside her dorm room (321 Lincoln Dormitory) on the  
7   night of May 18, 2018. Alex Buckley, a classmate of Walsh, threatened Walsh as Buckley  
8   grew concerned that Walsh would earn the Williamson Award, a full-ride college  
9   scholarship. All evidence points to Buckley as the perpetrator who set fire to Walsh's dorm  
10   room, and Buckley has been charged with arson and felony murder.

### 11   **CREDENTIALS**

12   I am the Division Chief of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Lake City Police  
13   Department ("LCPD"), a position I have held since June of 2015. I earned my Bachelor of  
14   Science with Honors in chemistry from Cornell University in 1995 and then attended the  
15   University of Illinois at Chicago, earning my Masters of Forensic Science in 1997. I worked  
16   for the Chicago Police Department as a forensic specialist from 1997 until 2007, during  
17   which time I conducted DNA, fingerprint, and blood spatter analysis for more than 300  
18   cases. From 2004 until 2007 I continued working while I obtained my Masters in Forensic  
19   Psychology online from Southern New Hampshire University. In 2007, I accepted a  
20   detective position in the LCPD. Admittedly, some of my colleagues in Chicago considered  
21   this move a step backward in my career, but I wanted to raise my family in a smaller, safer  
22   environment. In 2011 I was promoted to Chief Investigator, and in 2015 I assumed the role  
23   of Division Chief in the Criminal Investigation Division of the LCPD.

24   Since 2007 I have attended more than 200 hours of Continuing Professional Education  
25   seminars on topics covering the best practices in arson investigations, fingerprint, DNA,  
26   and bloodstain pattern analysis, and examination of the criminal mind. I am a member of

27 the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the International Crime Scene Investigator's  
28 Association, the International Association of Crime Analysts, and the American Society of  
29 Criminology.

30 As Division Chief, I am responsible for overseeing all LCPD criminal investigations. I  
31 analyze or review all evidence relating to major crimes, including, but not limited to,  
32 homicide, kidnapping, rape, armed robbery, and arson. This case was no exception, as I  
33 personally conducted the investigation into the death of Carly Walsh.

34 **BASES OF OPINIONS**

35 I relied on the following evidence to reach my conclusions:

- 36 • Police report filed by Officer Nicholas Murray, including summaries of the interviews  
37 Officer Murray conducted at the scene (Exhibits 1 & 2)
- 38 • Physical evidence at or near the crime scene, including (1) fragments of wood and  
39 carpet from Lincoln Dormitory; (2) the gasoline can located near the dorm; and (3)  
40 the clothing that Buckley wore at the time of Buckley's arrest (Exhibits 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- 41 • Fingerprint analysis of the gasoline can found at the scene (Exhibit 5)
- 42 • Gasoline receipt time-stamped 22:34:46 on 5/18/18 from the Gas n' Go station  
43 located at 1719 Forest Drive, Lake City, Illinois 60187 (Exhibit 7)
- 44 • Texts retrieved from Walsh's cell phone (Exhibit 9 & 10)

45 I visited the scene on May 19, 2018 to gather physical evidence from Lincoln Dormitory.  
46 The photos in Exhibits 3 & 4 accurately depict the building on that day, and Exhibit 8  
47 accurately portrays the campus. I did not conduct my own interviews of eyewitnesses to  
48 the events of May 18, 2018 relying instead on the accounts that Officer Murray provided.

49 To come to my conclusions, I analyzed (1) the composition of various materials found at  
50 the crime scene; (2) the fingerprints found on the gas container; and (3) the interview  
51 notes recorded by Officer Murray. The methods I used are standard within the field of  
52 crime scene analysis and are used by crime scene investigators globally.

53 **INVESTIGATION**

54 **1. Fire accelerant analysis**

55 According to eyewitness Dakota Pope, the fire began in the vicinity of room 321 in Lincoln  
56 Dormitory. Photographs of the scene were taken on May 19, 2018 after the fire chief  
57 declared the building safe to enter. At that time, I obtained samples of carpet, wallboard,  
58 and flooring from the vicinity of room 321 and the surrounding area. I sealed the samples  
59 in airtight metal containers to prevent evaporation of any accelerants used to start the fire.

60 I also mapped the areas where the damage was most extensive in order to determine the  
61 origin of the fire. My mapping revealed that the charring was most intense outside room  
62 321, confirming that the hallway just outside the door to room 321 was the place of origin.  
63 Back at the lab, I analyzed the samples using the “passive headspace” method: I inserted  
64 carbon strips into the metal cans containing the samples. Next, I warmed the cans and  
65 debris, driving the accelerant residue from the debris into the top, or “headspace,” of the  
66 containers, where it was absorbed by the carbon strips. The carbon strips were removed  
67 from the cans and washed with solvents to release the trapped material; then the solvents  
68 were injected into a gas chromatograph to analyze their chemical composition. This  
69 method is extremely sensitive and can detect one one-thousandth of a drop of an  
70 accelerant. My tests revealed that regular grade gasoline (87 octane) was poured under  
71 and on the outside of the door of room 321 and subsequently ignited.

72 The burn pattern indicates that approximately one gallon of gasoline was used as the  
73 accelerant. The gasoline quickly caught fire, spreading into the room and igniting the  
74 surrounding rooms. Due to the presence of thick industrial carpet in the hallway and in the  
75 room itself, smoke quickly engulfed the room and the hallway, making it difficult for anyone  
76 in the vicinity to see or to breathe. The fire spread quickly throughout the top floor but was  
77 contained by the eventual activation of the sprinkler system and the quick response of the  
78 Lake City Fire Department before extensive damage to the lower floors.

79 Gas chromatography analysis of minuscule amounts of gasoline remaining in the gas can  
80 at the scene revealed that it contained detergents and other additives consistent with both  
81 the accelerant used in the fire and the regular gasoline sold at the Gas n’ Go station on  
82 Forest Drive. The station owner, Jordan Calvin, provided a cash receipt for one gallon of  
83 gasoline purchased at the station approximately 30 minutes prior to the ignition of the fire.  
84 The composition of the sample is also consistent with regular gasoline sold by Sheetz,  
85 Wawa, and Exxon stations within a two-mile radius of the school, so it is not possible to  
86 definitively conclude that the gasoline was purchased at the Gas n’ Go on Forest Drive.  
87 However, receipts from those three stations during the hours of 9 to 11 p.m. on May 18,  
88 2018 did not reveal any purchases of one single gallon of gasoline.

## 89 **2. Fingerprint analysis**

90 Fingerprint analysis compares prints obtained from physical evidence with prints from  
91 known individuals, analyzing them for similarities or differences in patterns (arch, loop,  
92 whorls) and minutia (ridge endings, bifurcation, and short ridges). Ridge endings are the  
93 points at which a ridge, or line, terminates; bifurcations are points at which a single ridge  
94 splits in two; short ridges are significantly shorter than average. Our laboratory uses  
95 pattern-based algorithms to compare two prints. While the FBI does not require a specific

96 number of matching characteristics to declare a match, the greater the number of points in  
97 common, the more reliable the result. Some experts in the field require only 12 points in  
98 common to declare a match, while other experts require 20 points in common. Our  
99 standard is to declare a match if two samples have 16 or more points in common.

100 Four fingerprints (three full and one partial) were found on the gasoline container retrieved  
101 from the scene. I compared those prints against the prints obtained from Alex Buckley  
102 during booking. I determined that two of the prints found on the gasoline container  
103 matched those of Buckley: (1) A full print from the handle of the container was a 20-point  
104 match for the left middle finger of Buckley; and (2) A full print from the screw-on lid of the  
105 container was an 18-point match for Buckley's left index finger. A partial print, also taken  
106 from the lid of the can, was a seven-point match with Buckley's left thumb.

107 One additional full print was obtained from the lid of the can. This print did not match the  
108 prints from Alex Buckley, and no match was obtained when the print was run through the  
109 federal IAFIS ("Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System") database. Several  
110 unidentifiable partial smudges were obtained from the handle and body of the container.

### 111 **3. Interview analysis**

112 Officer Nicholas Murray interviewed key eyewitnesses as part of his investigation;  
113 summaries of those interviews are included in his report (Exhibit 2).

114 The interviews revealed several key facts that implicate Buckley in this fire. First, Buckley  
115 believed that Walsh was about to earn the full-ride college tuition Williamson Award, an  
116 award Buckley had demonstrated substantial interest in receiving. Second, Buckley had  
117 demonstrated threats of and tendencies toward violence, with respect to property and  
118 Buckley's own person. Finally, Buckley had access to gasoline – the accelerant used to  
119 start the fire – at Buckley's job at the Gas n' Go station located one mile from the school.

120 Based on his investigation at the scene, Officer Murray apprehended Alex Buckley at  
121 11:40 p.m. on May 18, 2018 to prevent Buckley from fleeing the area.

## 122 **CONCLUSIONS**

123 The evidence demonstrates that Alex Buckley set the fire in Lincoln Dormitory on May 18,  
124 2018, that led directly to the death of Carly Walsh. Accordingly, on May 19, Alex Buckley  
125 was arrested and charged with arson and felony murder.

126 While no eyewitness definitively placed Buckley at the scene, the physical evidence and  
127 the testimony of Dakota Pope make it extremely likely that Buckley was present at Lincoln  
128 Dorm on May 18, 2018 when the fire was set. Pope attests that an individual wearing a

129 yellow shirt and dark pants, believed to be the perpetrator, fled the scene in a suspicious  
130 manner soon after the fire was set. When apprehended, Alex Buckley was wearing a  
131 uniform matching that description: a Gas n' Go yellow polo shirt and dark cargo pants.  
132 Pope also reported that the alleged perpetrator dropped the gasoline can that was found at  
133 the scene, a can that contained Alex Buckley's fingerprints.

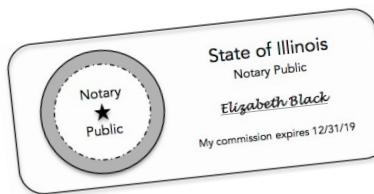
134 Admittedly, the timeline makes it a bit difficult for Buckley to reach the scene in time.  
135 Buckley clocked out at work from the Gas n' Go at 10:40 p.m., and the fire was reported at  
136 11:01 p.m. by a call to 911 (so it may have begun several minutes prior). Buckley does not  
137 own a car, and buses do not run between the gas station and the school at that hour on  
138 Friday evening. Still, it would have been possible for Buckley, a member of the school  
139 cross country team, to walk briskly or to jog from the gas station to the school in 15  
140 minutes, arriving in time to set the fire.

141 Buckley claims that Walsh's former boyfriend, Todd Larkin, purchased one gallon of  
142 gasoline at the station on the night of May 18, 2018 using a loaner container from Gas n'  
143 Go. As already stated, station owner Jordan Calvin provided a receipt proving that such a  
144 gasoline purchase was made – but since it was a cash purchase, the buyer cannot be  
145 corroborated. Security cameras at the station were not working on the night in question, so  
146 no videos exist to prove that Larkin made the purchase in question. Although our  
147 investigation revealed that Larkin had sent threatening texts to Walsh in late spring and  
148 summer of 2017, no other witnesses report seeing Larkin in Lake City after Larkin  
149 graduated in May of 2017 and left for Eden University, four hours from Lake City.

150 Our investigation did confirm that Larkin got into trouble during his first year at Eden U. He  
151 failed several courses and was arrested in December 2017 for underage drinking and DUI.  
152 Larkin's license was revoked for six months, and Larkin was ordered to complete a 20-  
153 hour substance abuse course and pay a \$1,500 fine. As a first-time offender, Larkin's  
154 charges were dismissed after successful completion of these requirements. But because  
155 of his arrest, Larkin's fingerprints are in the IAFIS database. The prints were tested and  
156 determined not to match the prints from the gasoline can obtained during this  
157 investigation. Additionally, Larkin was scheduled to move into a summer school dorm the  
158 weekend of May 18 - 20, 2018, to repeat courses failed during Larkin's freshman year.  
159 Because of this information, Larkin was not considered to be a viable suspect.

Casey Burke

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018



Elizabeth Black

## AFFIDAVIT OF ALEX BUCKLEY

1        My name is Alex Buckley. I was born on April 25, 2000, and I have lived in Lake  
2 City, Illinois my whole life. I used to be a senior at Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy. I  
3 was weeks away from graduating and winning one of the highest honors in the whole  
4 school, but then I was arrested for this crime that I did not commit.

5        Growing up, I never thought I would be a prep school kid. My dad left when I  
6 was pretty young, and my mom worked two jobs to support me and my little brother.  
7 We always had food and a place to stay, but we never had money to buy more than the  
8 essentials. My mom told me that if I worked hard in school, I could earn a scholarship,  
9 go to college, and get a good job. I'm districited to Lake City High, but it's a pretty  
10 dangerous place and they don't offer a lot of advanced classes. So I decided to apply to  
11 the scholarship program at Prairie Lake Prep. After loads of essays and interviews, they  
12 let me in, so I packed up my few belongings and went off to boarding school.

13       Prairie Lake was a complete culture shock. Almost everyone there came from  
14 money, and I didn't always fit in. I didn't have a new cellphone like most people, and  
15 while I could get texts and send emails, I could never afford data plans that let me text  
16 constantly. I mainly used the phone for school, to call my mom, or in emergencies.

17       I saw a lot of people at Prairie Lake taking the school for granted: missing  
18 homework assignments, slacking on projects, or even skipping class. I didn't have that  
19 luxury. My mom wouldn't yell at an administrator if I didn't get an A, so I had to work  
20 for my grades. And I wanted to make the most of my opportunity. I've always wanted to  
21 be an engineer, so I joined the Science Olympiad club. That got off to a rough start after I  
22 accidentally knocked over another student's robotics project. It caught on fire, so the  
23 student quit the competition. Because of what happened, my guidance counselor forced  
24 me to sit through anger management training. But despite all that, I ended up advancing  
25 to state finals my freshman year, and Science Olympiad became my favorite club. I made  
26 friends there, and those friends even convinced me to join cross-country to get in shape.

27       Sometimes it was hard to balance it all, especially because I had to pick up a job at  
28 a Gas 'N Go station near campus. The station is open 24/7. I usually worked 10 hours a

29 week, mostly on weekends. I didn't have a car, but my boss, Jordan Calvin, understood if  
30 I was a little late because the bus wasn't on time. By the middle of my senior year, I even  
31 got a promotion to shift supervisor. The only bad thing was that the station was about a  
32 mile from campus. Some nights when I was scheduled until 10:30 p.m., I wouldn't get off  
33 work until 11:00 p.m. By that time, the buses wouldn't be running. While the 15 to 20-  
34 minute walk to my dorm wasn't bad during the day, it felt a lot longer when I had to do it  
35 alone at night.

36 I always thought that I would get the Williamson Scholarship to pay for college. The  
37 Williamson – given to the valedictorian – is the most prestigious award at the school. The  
38 competition is intense. Every time class ranks are posted, everyone checks to see where they  
39 stand. Until my junior year, I had stayed in the top position for our class, and I hoped that I  
40 would be a shoo-in to win. But as junior year began, Carly Walsh started catching up to me.  
41 She was able to take one more AP course that year than I was, and her GPA in May of 2017  
42 was a couple hundredths of a percent higher than mine.

43 I never had anything personal against Carly; we took most of the same rigorous  
44 classes and she always seemed to work hard. But I knew that she had the money to go  
45 anywhere she wanted without any loans – even Harvard or Yale. I wanted to attend  
46 Stanford for chemical engineering, but unless I got a huge scholarship, it wouldn't be an  
47 option. I tried not to hold it against Carly, but it hurt to watch her trying to take away my  
48 future just because she liked being competitive. When she wasn't focused on beating me,  
49 though, Carly could be nice. We were in Science Olympiad together for two years, and  
50 we even studied for AP exams together during junior year. AP exams don't factor into  
51 your GPA, so there was no need to be competitive, and Carly actually helped me out.

52 That being said, Carly and I were not friends, especially not senior year. After  
53 Carly passed me in class rank, she was actually pretty rude to me. If she outperformed  
54 me, she would laugh at me or call me a "sore loser," and once after an AP Calculus test  
55 she made me so angry that I punched a wall in the hallway and fractured a couple of  
56 bones in my right hand. After the doctor said to avoid writing, typing, and other hand  
57 activities for the next month, I realized that I needed to do something about how Carly  
58 was making me feel. My school counselor, Hayden Rodriguez, offered to meet with me

59 and help me apply for other scholarships, but I wanted to focus my efforts on the  
60 Williamson. I started working even harder, staying in the library late at night and even  
61 bringing textbooks to read behind the counter at work if business was slow. I had never  
62 felt this stressed about school in my life, but I didn't want to let Carly take my dream  
63 away from me.

64 By the middle of May of 2018, I was feeling pretty good. I had gotten my  
65 Stanford acceptance letter, I had studied endlessly for AP Calculus, and I knew that AP  
66 Chemistry would be a breeze. My hand was feeling better, too - I hardly ever had to  
67 wear the brace the doctor had prescribed. Exams would be exhausting, but I was going  
68 to get through them, and I was feeling prepared. Then, on May 18, everything fell apart.

69 That Friday, the 18th was the last day of spring classes, and exams were  
70 scheduled to start the next Monday, May 21st. But instead of worrying about exams,  
71 everyone was talking about the Finals Dance. It's a Prairie Lake tradition, the last big  
72 event seniors can go to before graduation. My friends had been pestering me to go, but  
73 honestly, I don't like dances. Carly was hosting a study group, but I wasn't interested. In  
74 any case, I was scheduled to work until 10:30 p.m. Even if I wanted to go to the dance, it  
75 would have taken me at least an hour to walk home, shower and change, and then walk  
76 to the gym. Even if I got off work on time, I would miss all but the last half hour of the  
77 dance - unless I went in my silly work uniform. My uniform is an eyesore; I didn't think  
78 I would have too much fun in a yellow polo and black cargo pants, so I told everyone I  
79 was booked for the night.

80 That day, I got out of class and immediately started getting ready for work since  
81 my shift started at 4:30 p.m. The night shift worker often came in late, so I knew I might  
82 not get out on time at 10:30 p.m. But that didn't bother me too much; I didn't usually  
83 make plans for after work, and I was honestly thankful for the extra time on the clock.  
84 Plus, it's unusual to get a bunch of customers that late, so it was pretty easy work.

85 At any rate, that's where I was on May 18 - at work. It was a weird shift right  
86 from the start. The station had blown a fuse during a storm earlier that week, and the  
87 security cameras weren't working. Jordan was in the office on the phone, trying to get  
88 the security company to fix them. Ever since the storm, Jordan had been telling every

89 employee to be hyper-vigilant if they saw anything out of the ordinary. At some point  
90 that evening, Jordan told me the night shift worker had called in sick, so Jordan would  
91 take his place. By 10:35 p.m., I was ready to be done with customer surveillance and go  
92 home, but Todd Larkin walked in.

93 I hadn't seen Todd in almost a year, but he was hard to forget: he was loud and he  
94 was huge -- at least half a foot taller than I am. He graduated from Prairie Lake when I  
95 was a junior, and from what I know, everyone was happy to see him go. He comes from a  
96 really wealthy family in Eden -- his dad owns the Chicago Bulls NBA team -- and he gets  
97 away with basically everything. Carly Walsh dated him for almost two years. I never  
98 really understood it; no one did. He treated her terribly. Every time I saw them together,  
99 he berated her about not being smart or pretty or thin enough. Sometimes, she even came  
100 to class with bruises on her arms, which I assumed were from Todd. Carly ended things  
101 when he graduated, and he took it badly. Until May 18, 2018, I thought he had gone off to  
102 college and found someone else -- I'd seen pictures he posted on Instagram in early  
103 November of 2017, kissing another girl in front of the Eden University football stadium.

104 When Todd came in, he asked if we had any empty gas containers so that I could  
105 sell him a single gallon of gas. I was pretty wary of dealing with him alone in the middle  
106 of the night, so I tried to make the sale and get him out of the station as quickly as  
107 possible. I grabbed the red loaner gas container we keep as a courtesy for customers,  
108 charged him for a gallon, and then sent him outside to fill the container. He paid in cash.  
109 I don't remember what Todd was wearing, except one thing. I remember that he was  
110 wearing gloves because it seemed so out of the ordinary since it was May and the  
111 weather was nice. As I saw Todd turn out of the parking lot, I straightened up the  
112 service counter, clocked out in Jordan's office, and left.

113 I thought about going to the dance or walking to a fast food place for a quick bite,  
114 but I checked my phone, and it was already 10:45 p.m. so I decided to stop by the  
115 vending machines at the student union instead. I do that a lot, so I don't remember what I  
116 got. Then I headed back to my dorm, Roberts Hall. On the way, I heard sirens. I assumed  
117 it was a false alarm -- that someone had burned their popcorn too much and set off the  
118 detector -- but then I started to smell smoke from the direction of the Lincoln Dorm quad.

119 I thought about going to look, but I was tired from work and decided to just go home. All  
120 of a sudden, a police officer approached me and asked to see my phone. I had nothing to  
121 hide, so I unlocked it and handed it to him. Suddenly he told me I was being taken into  
122 custody, handcuffed me, and threw me into the back of a police car. I was completely  
123 caught off guard; I had no idea what the police could possibly want with me! The next  
124 day, I was shocked when they charged me with arson and felony murder. It's absolutely  
125 insane that they think I'd do this!

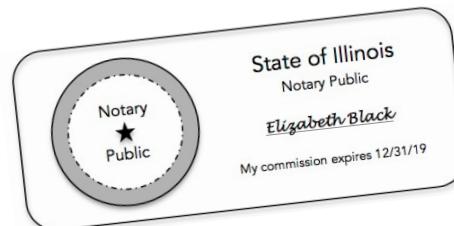
126 I have no idea how the fire started or who would do that to Carly. The police  
127 should be trying to find the real killer. It was probably Todd Larkin – if anyone wanted  
128 to hurt Carly, it was him. But when I tried to tell the police that, they wouldn't listen.  
129 They probably know that Todd's rich family would make sure he got away with it, so  
130 they decided not to even look for him. They only want to lock someone up, and I'm an  
131 easy target. I have to admit, I'm pretty scared.

132 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following:  
133 Exhibits 3 & 4 are photos of the dorm shown to me by the police. Exhibit 5 looks like the  
134 gas container I loaned to Todd Larkin, though I can't be sure it's the exact same one.  
135 Exhibit 6 is my work uniform at Gas 'N Go. Exhibit 7 looks like the receipt I printed out  
136 for the station's records when I sold the gas to Todd. Exhibit 8 is a map of Prairie Lake's  
137 campus. Exhibit 11 shows emails between me and my guidance counselor, Hayden  
138 Rodriguez. Exhibit 12 is a disciplinary report from my freshman year that I had to sign. I  
139 have also reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit 2, and they appear to be a  
140 fair and accurate characterization of my conversation with the police on May 18-19, 2018.

## Alex Buckley

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018

Elizabeth Black



## AFFIDAVIT OF JORDAN CALVIN

1        My name is Jordan Calvin. I have lived in Lake City, Illinois since I was a teenager.  
2        I was not born in the United States, but I am proud to say that I became a citizen on  
3        September 11, 2011. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, "Patriot Day," just seemed like the right  
4        time to act.

5        I'm proud, now, to call America my home. Where else could a poor immigrant  
6        family start from nothing and after a few years own more than 40 gas stations across five  
7        states? My parents sacrificed a lot to bring our family to this country, and I am grateful  
8        every day that they did. Watching them start the Gas 'N Go business taught me that hard  
9        work, diligence, and integrity are the path to success. Growing up, my parents made sure  
10        that I learned what it meant to work hard. They had me rotate through every job in the  
11        stores before I went off to Lakeview University, where I earned my business degree with  
12        honors. After I graduated in 2009, my dad made me the manager of our store in Eden.  
13        Three years later he promoted me to regional manager for five stores in Lincoln County,  
14        where I've tripled the overall sales in just five years.

15        As regional manager, I oversee the hiring and training of our store managers,  
16        develop our regional marketing plan, and make sure that each store is running efficiently.  
17        I also lead quarterly trainings for all of our employees, including part-timers. Our  
18        cashiers are the face of our brand, so I want to make sure they're a good fit and uphold  
19        our company motto: "We go the extra mile so you don't have to." Also, employee morale  
20        is important to me. I want our employees to know that we care about them, so I chat with  
21        them individually when I visit the stores each week.

22        My favorite store is the one on Forest Drive in Lake City. It's not too far from the  
23        interstate, so it's open 24/7. It's also only a mile from that expensive boarding school,  
24        Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy. Students from the school are frequent customers.  
25        Many drive expensive cars I could never have afforded at their age. They dress in designer  
26        clothes and spend ridiculous amounts on snack food and energy drinks. I'll bet they  
27        receive an allowance from their parents and never have to earn their own money.

28        In the second week of April this year, the store manager at the Forest Drive store  
29        went on maternity leave for two months, so I picked up many of her shifts. That's when I

30 really got to know Alex Buckley, a high school student we hired in 2016. Alex impressed  
31 the store manager from the start, and I could see why. Alex asked lots of questions at the  
32 quarterly trainings and was eager to learn. Whenever I visited that store, I could see that  
33 Alex was a hard worker and great with the customers.

34 Alex started working as a cashier right after Alex turned sixteen. I was surprised  
35 that a student at the prep school applied for a job, but then I learned that Alex was  
36 attending on a full scholarship. The number of activities on Alex's resume impressed me,  
37 and Alex's reference, a teacher named David Gray, said Alex was a model student with a  
38 strong work ethic. When I got to know Alex, I agreed with the teacher's assessment.  
39 Alex's mom was a single parent and unable to financially support Alex, so Alex wanted  
40 to work as many hours as I would allow. Yet despite that tough background, Alex always  
41 had a very upbeat, positive attitude. My family's encouragement had always been so  
42 important to me that I wanted to "pay it forward" by helping Alex. In the years that Alex  
43 worked for me, Alex became like family. Whenever I saw Alex, I would ask about Alex's  
44 classes and other activities. Alex started showing me quarterly report cards and class  
45 rank reports, and I was amazed -- Alex was first in the class in both 2015 and 2016! Alex  
46 clearly could achieve anything, with the right resources and support.

47 Because of Alex's initiative and great attitude, Alex was quickly promoted from  
48 cashier to head cashier. In December of 2017 the manager promoted Alex to shift  
49 supervisor. This change meant that Alex supervised and trained other cashiers, counted  
50 the registers as each cashier clocked out, and put the extra cash and checks in the store  
51 safe. Alex did an excellent job with these new responsibilities.

52 Soon after I began filling in as store manager in mid-April, Alex reported to work  
53 with one hand wrapped up in a brace. Alex told me that several bones were fractured  
54 because "I lost my cool for a second." I was surprised by that. I offered to let Alex take a  
55 few weeks off until the hand healed, but Alex reacted very strongly. "NO!! I mean, thank  
56 you, but I really need to work if I can. I promise I'll still be able to do a good job." Alex  
57 appeared stressed by the very thought of not working, so I dropped the subject.

58 During that time, I noticed that Alex also started bringing in textbooks to study  
59 during slow periods. Alex had never done that before, so I made a joke about "Guess

60 you're not succumbing to senioritis, are you?" Alex looked startled, so I quickly said, "It's  
61 a compliment! Most seniors slack off by now, don't they?" Alex looked extremely upset,  
62 saying, "I wish I could! If I keep my top class rank, I'll get a full college scholarship. But if  
63 someone else gets in my way and takes my money, I don't know what I'll do." A customer  
64 came in right then, so we didn't talk any further. But the conversation stuck with me  
65 because Alex looked pretty anxious about the whole thing.

66 Even so, I never saw Alex do anything violent, even when stressed. In fact, around  
67 the station, Alex was known for being nice to everyone. Alex was cool, calm, and collected  
68 when dealing with angry customers, and Alex went out of the way to help Alex's co-  
69 workers whenever they were given difficult tasks. It seemed to me like Alex's  
70 professionalism carried over into Alex's academic life as well. Even though Alex talked  
71 constantly about wanting to be the top student at Prairie Lake, Alex always spoke  
72 respectfully about Alex's classmates. I remember once, Alex was talking about a classmate,  
73 Carly something, who was competing against Alex for that top spot. Alex said she was the  
74 nicest person Alex had met. More than once, Alex said how glad Alex was to have Carly  
75 as a friend, even if she was smarter than Alex. Alex told me that the competition pushed  
76 Alex to work harder, and that was why Alex brought so much schoolwork into the station.

77 On May 19, I was stunned when I heard Alex had been arrested and accused of  
78 murdering another student by setting a fire in a dorm the night before. I was even more  
79 shocked when I learned that the victim was Carly. That was just crazy! When the police  
80 came to interview me, I told them they must be mistaken: Carly was Alex's friend, and  
81 besides, Alex was working at the store on the evening of May 18. Alex was scheduled  
82 from 4:30 - 10:30 p.m. and was definitely at the station, manning a cash register, when I  
83 arrived at 9:00 p.m.

84 I remember that night very clearly; I was aggravated to be at the station. Usually I'd  
85 be home at that hour on a Friday, but I had to come in to deal with the company that  
86 provides our security cameras. We have two cameras outside to cover the gas pumps, and  
87 two cameras inside that view the entire store. Lightning had struck a nearby transformer a  
88 few days earlier, overheating the circuits and blowing out all the cameras. The security  
89 company kept promising to fix them, but no one had shown up yet. It was ridiculous.

90 Even though the store was in a safe area, I paid good money to keep those cameras  
91 working, and I was tired of excuses. So I called up the company, asked to speak with a  
92 manager, then spent several hours getting passed around and playing phone tag. To add  
93 insult to injury, the night shift worker called in at around 9:45 p.m., claiming to be sick,  
94 and I had no one to fill in besides me. It was going to be a long night.

95 Around 10:15 p.m., while I was on hold with the security company, I let Alex know  
96 that I would take over at 10:30 p.m. and Alex could go home. I vaguely remember waving  
97 at Alex around 10:40 p.m. when Alex came into my office to clock out. I don't remember  
98 hearing anyone come into the store between 10:15 p.m. and when Alex left, but I had seen  
99 cars in the parking lot near the gas pumps. Around midnight, when I walked outside to  
100 take out trash, I smelled smoke and saw light in the direction of the prep school. I finally  
101 left for home at 6:30 a.m. My house is in the opposite direction, so I didn't learn about the  
102 fire at Prairie Lake Prep until the police came to see me at the station that same day.

103 When the police spoke with me, they asked if Alex had ever purchased or taken  
104 gasoline from the station. I said no, not to my knowledge. I also told them that we try to  
105 keep one or two inexpensive red plastic gasoline containers at each of our stores to loan to  
106 motorists who run out of gas, but I couldn't seem to find the one for the Forest Drive store.  
107 I didn't know if the store had one the night of the fire, since that's not something I'd  
108 confirmed when I began filling in as manager. In checking our cash register receipts for  
109 May 18, I found a receipt for one gallon of gas purchased inside the store just after 10:30  
110 p.m. That was an unusually small purchase, and I have no idea who bought it since they  
111 paid with cash and we have no security video footage from that night.

112 Like everyone in town, I was horrified to hear that a student died in the fire. The  
113 news reports say that Carly was a senior and one of the brightest students in the school  
114 – maybe even the top student in the class. What a tragic loss! I cannot imagine what her  
115 family and friends are going through. Given how Alex spoke about Carly, I'm sure Alex  
116 was just as devastated by her loss as anyone in Prairie Lake. I hope the police catch the  
117 person who did it – because there's just no way it was Alex.

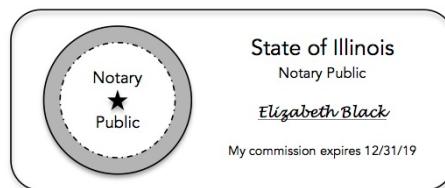
118 Of the available exhibits, I am familiar with the following and only the following;  
119 Exhibit 5 looks like the type of gas container we usually keep at our stores (although I

120 cannot confirm that it's from any of the stores I manage). Exhibit 6 looks to be the  
121 uniform that all Gas n' Go employees are required to wear. Exhibit 7 is a receipt for one  
122 gallon of gasoline purchased on May 18, 2018, and it is the only receipt for such a small  
123 amount of gasoline that the station collected between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. that  
124 evening. Exhibit 8 is a map of Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy; it also gives  
125 information about the direction and distance to the Gas N' Go gas station my family  
126 owns near the school. I have also reviewed the statements attributed to me in Exhibit 2,  
127 and they appear to be a fair and accurate characterization of my conversation with the  
128 police on May 19, 2018.

Jordan Calvin

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018

Elizabeth Black



## REPORT OF DR. KENNEDY FELDER

*State v. Buckley: Findings and Conclusions*

August 15, 2018

### **Retention and Compensation**

The defense asked me to examine the evidence surrounding Carly Walsh's death, to develop a criminal profile for the perpetrator, and to see how well that profile fit with Todd Larkin, a person of interest in this case who was only cursorily investigated by the Lake City Police Department. I spent a total of 45 hours on case preparation, for which I was paid my standard defense consulting rate of \$500/hour. If I testify, I will earn an additional \$5,000 to cover my time and expenses.

### **Background and Qualifications**

I am a criminal profiler. In 1982 I received my BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois. To pursue my interest in criminal psychological profiling, I earned my PhD in psychology at the University of Chicago in 1987. I then applied to work at the FBI. After completing the FBI's training program and working as a field agent for five years, I was promoted to a profiler position at the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime ("NCAVC"). There, I honed my skills and investigated hundreds of cases involving abduction, homicide, arson, terrorism, and other violent crimes.

After 21 years as a profiler, I decided to step back from fieldwork and accept a teaching position with the NCAVC. Since 2013, I have taught criminal investigation and profiling to new FBI recruits looking to join the NCAVC. When asked, I consult for the State or the defense, and I frequently testify as an expert witness in those cases. My consulting rate of \$500/hour only applies when I consult for the defense, as any work done on behalf of the State is considered part of my job with NCAVC. Since 1995, I have testified as an expert at least 45 times, of which approximately 30 were for the defense.

### **Rationale and Methods**

While generating a criminal profile isn't an exact science, it can be an extremely useful tool in an investigation. Creating a profile essentially involves deductive reasoning. Each element of a crime enables profilers to infer facts about the perpetrator based on crime trends, similarity to other cases, and criminal psychology. An accurate profile can help investigators narrow down their suspect pool, targeting their efforts toward those most likely to have committed the crime. Profiling can help officers stay smart and safe as they apprehend violent or dangerous criminals.

31       Criminal profiling is generally a five step investigative process in which a profiler  
32 analyzes all available evidence in a case to develop a profile of the likely perpetrator of the  
33 crime. First, a profiler considers the specific type of criminal act, comparing it to similar  
34 crimes in the past. Next, the profiler conducts a detailed analysis of the crime scene in  
35 order to determine how the crime was committed. Factors such as the offender's  
36 movements and positioning during the crime, as well as their use of any weapons or  
37 physical substances to aid in commission of the crime, clue us into the criminal's thought  
38 process during the event. Next we evaluate the victim's activities, contacts, and  
39 background to find connections to potential suspects and possible motives for their  
40 targeting. In the process, we analyze physical and testimonial evidence with the objective  
41 of determining possible and probable motives. Finally, putting it all together, we produce a  
42 full profile of the criminal. Depending on the extent of the evidence, the profile may include  
43 information about height, build, background, intelligence, drug use, or a host of other  
44 factors specific to the probable perpetrator.

45       I began my research in this case by investigating the fundamental details of the  
46 crime. First, I gathered information about the criminal act itself, reviewing Exhibits 1 & 2  
47 (Police Report and Witness Interviews), Exhibits 3, 4 & 5 (Crime Scene Photographs), and  
48 Exhibit 8 (Map). This evidence revealed that this incident was an act of arson that  
49 specifically targeted Carly Walsh, and that the fire was started with an accelerant, gasoline.

50       From there, I reviewed as much information as I could about the victim. I read the  
51 statements of Dakota Pope and Alex Buckley, Exhibits 9 & 10 (text messages recovered  
52 from the phone of Carly Walsh) and Exhibit 11 (emails between Alex Buckley and Hayden  
53 Rodriguez). Next, I reviewed the forensic evidence associated with the case, including the  
54 report of LCPD Division Chief Burke and Exhibit 7 (Gas Receipt from Gas n' Go). Finally, I  
55 contacted Prairie Lake Prep and asked for all student disciplinary reports associated with  
56 fire. They provided me with only one report, Exhibit 12, an incident report about Alex  
57 Buckley. I asked both the school and Buckley's attorneys for any other reports filed about  
58 Buckley and Larkin, and the school provided none. Upon completing my review of the  
59 material facts in this case, I was able to create a criminal profile of the perpetrator.

60 **Findings and Conclusions**

61       **A. Type of Arson**

62       The first step in profiling an arson case is to classify it based on mode, motive, and  
63 destruction. People light destructive fires for many reasons, from pyromania (an irresistible  
64 impulse to set fires) to insurance fraud. In this case, based on the choice of victim and the  
65 level of destruction, I was able to conclude that this crime constituted "spite" or "revenge"  
66 arson. In cases driven by revenge, fire damage is typically extensive but is focused on the  
67 site occupied by the victim. A revenge arsonist's goal is to cause as much harm as possible

68 to the victim, so it is not uncommon for these fires to claim lives. This motivation and the  
69 resulting damage distinguish revenge arson from other types of arson. Most arsonists either  
70 feel indifferent about harming others or try to avoid it, while revenge arsonists' primary goal  
71 is to inflict harm.

72 **B. Profile of Revenge Arsonist**

73 A thorough profile includes information about the perpetrator's probable background,  
74 intelligence level, prior bad acts, modus operandi, and relationships with others. Revenge  
75 arsonists typically come from a lower to lower-middle class household. They are also  
76 typically of lower intelligence; they rarely succeed in school and often have lower IQs. In  
77 this case, where no measures were taken to hide or destroy physical evidence such as the  
78 gas container, it is unlikely that the perpetrator possesses a high degree of intelligence.  
79 Despite their relative lack of intelligence, however, revenge arsonists typically have at least  
80 10 years of formal education.

81 Revenge arsonists typically display a history of minor violence. People who prefer  
82 fire as a weapon tend to light smaller fires earlier in life as a way to get out their anger.  
83 Typically they also lash out at friends or loved ones when stressed. In most cases, we look  
84 for someone with either a criminal record or a history of violent behavior. In many  
85 instances, these actions will coincide with use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs.

86 Revenge arsonists almost always follow a similar pattern in the method they use to  
87 commit their crimes. Usually these perpetrators set the fires in or around the community  
88 where they live. Yet even if they reside close to the crime scene, revenge arsonists tend to  
89 stay away from the site once they start the fire. Typically, they use a personal vehicle to get  
90 to their intended burn site, and they leave in that vehicle almost immediately after setting  
91 the fire. Unlike pyromaniacs or thrill seeking arsonists, these arsonists do not watch their  
92 fires. Instead, they light the fire and flee the scene for hours to days after the incident, and  
93 they usually focus on developing a strong alibi.

94 Finally, revenge arsonists follow a similar pattern in their relationships, both with the  
95 victim and with others. These individuals see the world as constantly cheating them, and  
96 their relationships are typically unhealthy and short-lived. They value a high degree of  
97 control in their relationships and may tend to exhibit abusive behaviors for the duration of  
98 any relationship. When they view their victim as having hurt or cheated them, arson serves  
99 as a way to vengefully harm the victim; they see it as a *quid pro quo*. Because these  
100 arsonists target a specific individual and don't necessarily idolize fire itself, they pose a low  
101 threat of committing a series of similar acts in the short term.

102 **C. Application to Todd Larkin**

103 Todd Larkin fits the profile of a revenge arsonist in a number of significant ways, so I  
104 am concerned by the Lake City Police Department's ("LCPD's") quick dismissal of Todd as

105 the possible perpetrator. While I understand the arresting officer's reluctance to believe a  
106 detainee's claim about an alternative suspect, I found no evidence that the LCPD made any  
107 real attempt to verify or disprove that Larkin was present at or near Prairie Lake  
108 Preparatory Academy on May 18. The LCPD reported that Larkin was presumed to be in  
109 Eden moving into his summer school dorm on the weekend of May 18-20, but no witness  
110 confirmed that assumption. Larkin could have been in Prairie Lake on May 18 and driven to  
111 Eden on May 19 or 20.

112 Larkin lost academic standing due to failing grades and had to enroll in summer  
113 school at both Prairie Lake and Eden University to maintain a passing average. Larkin's  
114 academic difficulties correspond to the intelligence level I would expect to see in a revenge  
115 arsonist. In addition, Larkin's criminal record includes a recent DUI, which signals alcohol  
116 abuse, and statements about Larkin reveal a history of violence. Larkin also had access to  
117 a vehicle – a dark SUV like the one seen by Pope – and was not found near the site of the  
118 fire afterward, two important revenge arsonist profile factors.

119 Larkin's relationship with the victim is even more troubling, as it is laden with both  
120 psychological and physical abuse. Larkin used a number of stereotypical abuse and control  
121 tactics during his relationship with Walsh. He isolated her from her friends; he constantly  
122 criticized her, undermining her self-esteem to make her dependent upon him; and when  
123 those tactics failed to control Walsh, Larkin apparently escalated to physical abuse.

124 Larkin's manipulative, domineering behavior stems from the same type of personality  
125 that seeks revenge when a relationship ends. Larkin's texts indicated Larkin's perception  
126 that Walsh wronged him by ending their relationship. Since it appears that the LCPD did not  
127 bother to corroborate Larkin's whereabouts on the night in question, I cannot rule out the  
128 possibility that this fire was Larkin's attempt at revenge.

#### 129 **D. Application to Alex Buckley**

130 Although the defense only asked me to focus my investigation on Todd Larkin,  
131 having generated this profile, I cannot help but evaluate its application to Alex Buckley.  
132 While I must admit that some parts of the profile fit Buckley, several red flags raise serious  
133 questions about whether Buckley could be the arsonist. First, Buckley's intelligence level is  
134 significantly higher than I would expect of the person who started this fire; it would be highly  
135 unusual for a revenge arsonist to graduate second in their high school class. In addition,  
136 Buckley's relationship with the victim doesn't immediately give cause for concern; Buckley  
137 seemed to have a functioning relationship with Walsh as a colleague in school, if not as a  
138 friend. In fact, Buckley seemed to have close, functioning relationships with many of  
139 Buckley's peers and with Buckley's boss, another deviation from the profile.

140 In addition, Buckley's behavior at the time of the fire is very different from that of a  
141 typical revenge arsonist. Such perpetrators almost never remain at or near the scene of the

142 crime immediately afterward. Instead, these arsonists generally try to place themselves in  
143 highly crowded areas that are far from the crime scene, where multiple people can  
144 corroborate their alibi. While I can't say with certainty whether or not Buckley's alibi of  
145 walking alone to the student union after work is to be believed, I can say that the story  
146 Buckley is telling does not fit the typical criminal profile for a revenge arsonist.

147 It is true that there are multiple accounts of Buckley responding violently when  
148 Buckley perceived that other students' achievements interfered with Buckley's own  
149 success. However, Buckley's school record only included one documented instance of past  
150 violent behavior – nearly four years prior – and Buckley claims the incident was purely an  
151 accident. Buckley received anger management counseling as a result of that incident, and  
152 Buckley's school counselor reported that Buckley learned coping strategies and was able to  
153 move on. While Buckley's words to and about Walsh are certainly concerning, Buckley  
154 does not fully fit the revenge arsonist profile. It is clear that the Lake City Police Department  
155 rushed to judgment in arresting Buckley within an hour of the incident.

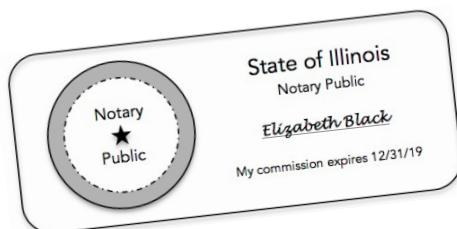
156 **E. Oath**

157 I understand I have a duty to update this report if I receive any additional relevant  
158 information or reach any additional conclusions prior to trial. I understand that I also have a  
159 duty to be truthful and complete in this report, and I have upheld that obligation.

Kennedy Felder

Signed and sworn before me on  
November 1, 2018

Elizabeth Black



LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS			
<b>Arrest Report</b>			
<b>Lincoln County</b>		<b>Case #:</b> 2018-0218117	
<b>Arrestee's Name: (Last, First, Middle)</b> Buckley Alex C.		<b>SS#</b> xxx-xx-4723	<b>D.O.B</b> 04/25/2000
<b>Charges:</b> Arson; Felony Murder		<b>Booking Number:</b> 02073647	<b>Defendant Status:</b> Adult
<b>Crime</b> <b>Occurred:</b>	<b>Date</b> 05/18/2018	<b>Time:</b> 23:01	<b>Location:</b> Prairie Lake Preparatory 732 Forest Dr. Lake City, Illinois, 60187
<b>Circumstances of Arrest</b>			
<b>Responding Officer:</b>	Officer Nicholas Murray		
<b>Victim:</b>	Carly Walsh		
<b>Report of Responding Officer:</b>			
<p>On May 18, 2018, I was called to a fire on the campus of Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy. When I arrived, the Lake City Fire Department was already on the scene. As Fire Captain Tyler Brook noted, this fire appeared to be deliberately set. Although it caused extensive damage to the dorm, his team was able to contain it before it spread to other buildings. I began interviewing witnesses and collecting evidence. I spoke with several Prairie Lake students. Based on their accounts of Buckley's interactions with Carly Walsh, and Pope's description of the clothing, height, and hair color of the suspected perpetrator, I had enough evidence to bring Buckley in. I found Buckley in the parking lot near Lincoln dorm, wearing the outfit Pope described. Buckley voluntarily gave me Buckley's phone. I then brought Buckley to the station for questioning. Buckley was held overnight and arrested the next day (5/19/18).</p>			

***Forensic evidence (collected at the scene) :***

- A red gasoline container found in the parking lot near Lincoln Dorm.
- Alex Buckley's cellular phone, voluntarily handed over to me. Relevant screenshots were catalogued and preserved.
- Carly Walsh's cellular phone, provided by Dakota Pope. Relevant screenshots were catalogued and preserved.
- The clothes Buckley was wearing when arrested were photographed and preserved as evidence.

<b>Submitted By:</b>  <i>Nicholas Murray</i> Ofc. Nicholas Murray #218	<b>Approved By:</b>  <i>Danielle Flynn</i> Sgt. Danielle Flynn #117
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**Exhibit 2****LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS****Arrest Report****Lincoln County****Case #: 2018-0218117/1**

<b>Arrestee's Name: (Last, First, Middle)</b>	<b>SS#</b>	<b>D.O.B</b>
Buckley Alex C.	xxx-xx-4723	04/25/2000

<b>Charges:</b>	<b>Booking Number:</b>	<b>Defendant Status:</b>
Arson; felony murder	02073647	Adult

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
Arson	05/18/2018	23:01	Prairie Lake Preparatory
<b>Occurred:</b>	<b>Friday</b>		732 Forest Dr.
			Lake City, Illinois, 60187

**Circumstances of Arrest**

<b>Responding Officer:</b>	Officer Nicholas Murray
<b>Victim:</b>	Carly Walsh

**Report of Responding Officer:*****Report Addendum: Witness Interviews*****Recorded by Officer Nicholas Murray**

**Dakota Pope:** 11:15pm, 05/18/18 interviewed at the crime scene Dakota Pope spoke with me at the scene of the crime. While Pope was visibly injured, Pope was not in critical condition. Pope seemed in shock at the time of the interview and continued to repeat the name "Carly," telling me we needed to "Get Carly out." Pope insisted that student Carly Walsh was still inside the burning building when Pope got out. Pope reported being in the dormitory building at the time it was set on fire. Pope stated that Lincoln Dorm was one of three dorms that housed female students and that Pope had been in the room assigned to Carly Walsh for a study session at the time the fire started. Pope recalled smelling gasoline and seeing a pool of liquid forming under the dorm room's door seconds before the fire started. Pope stated that Pope escaped the fire by jumping out the window, and that this jump was the source of Pope's injury. Pope described seeing someone rapidly flee the scene of the fire; that individual reportedly dropped a red gas canister. Pope noted that this suspect was wearing a yellow shirt and dark pants and compared their wardrobe to the work uniform of a student named Alex Buckley. Pope noted that Buckley had made threats towards Walsh in the past and insisted that I find and question Buckley.

**Ana Lewis and Don Zacek: 11:23pm, 05/18/18 interviewed at the crime scene**

Ana Lewis, the Resident Assistant ("RA") for Carly's floor of Lincoln Dorm, spoke with me at the scene of the crime. Lewis reported attending a school dance and seeing the fire as she was walking home with her date, Don Zacek. She reported seeing smoke and flames coming from the dorm starting at 11:00pm and immediately called 911. Lewis reported seeing a victim, later identified as Dakota Pope, exit from the third-floor window. Lewis and Zacek moved Pope away from the fire to the location where the EMTs found the three of them. Lewis indicated that only students could enter dorms because an access card is required, though she admitted that someone had propped the door open for a short time that afternoon. Zacek corroborated her story in full.

**Alex Buckley: 12:25am, 05/19/18 interviewed at the police station**

After being advised of Buckley's rights, Alex Buckley chose to speak with me about the fire. Buckley claimed Buckley worked at a convenience store about a mile from the Prairie Lake campus, and that Buckley was working until 10:45pm on May 18. Buckley claimed that after work, Buckley walked to the school's student union, purchased food with cash at a vending machine, and then walked toward Roberts dorm, where Buckley lived. Buckley denied being at or near the scene of the crime until 11:40 p.m., when the police found Buckley walking towards the dormitories and apprehended Buckley. At the time of the arrest and the interview, Buckley was wearing what Buckley identified as a convenience store uniform. The uniform included a yellow polo shirt with a small logo on the front and dark cargo style pants. Buckley was not wearing an arm brace at the time of arrest, although Buckley complained of pain in Buckley's right wrist and asked to retrieve a brace from Buckley's room prior to leaving the campus. This request was denied. When asked if Buckley's work required contact with red gas canisters, Buckley stated that the station had such canisters available to loan to customers in need. Buckley reported providing one to a customer, Todd Larkin, on the night of May 18. Buckley claimed that Larkin was a former boyfriend of the victim. Buckley voluntarily provided Buckley's cellular phone for examination. While the phone contained no text messages of material consequence, emails between Buckley and Hayden Rodriguez that discussed Carly Walsh were documented and preserved.

**Jordan Calvin: 10:04am, 05/19/18, interviewed at Gas n' Go**

Jordan Calvin reported being the regional manager and an owner of the establishment where Alex Buckley was employed. Calvin stated that Buckley was a model employee. Calvin recalled Buckley being present at the station on May 18, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to about

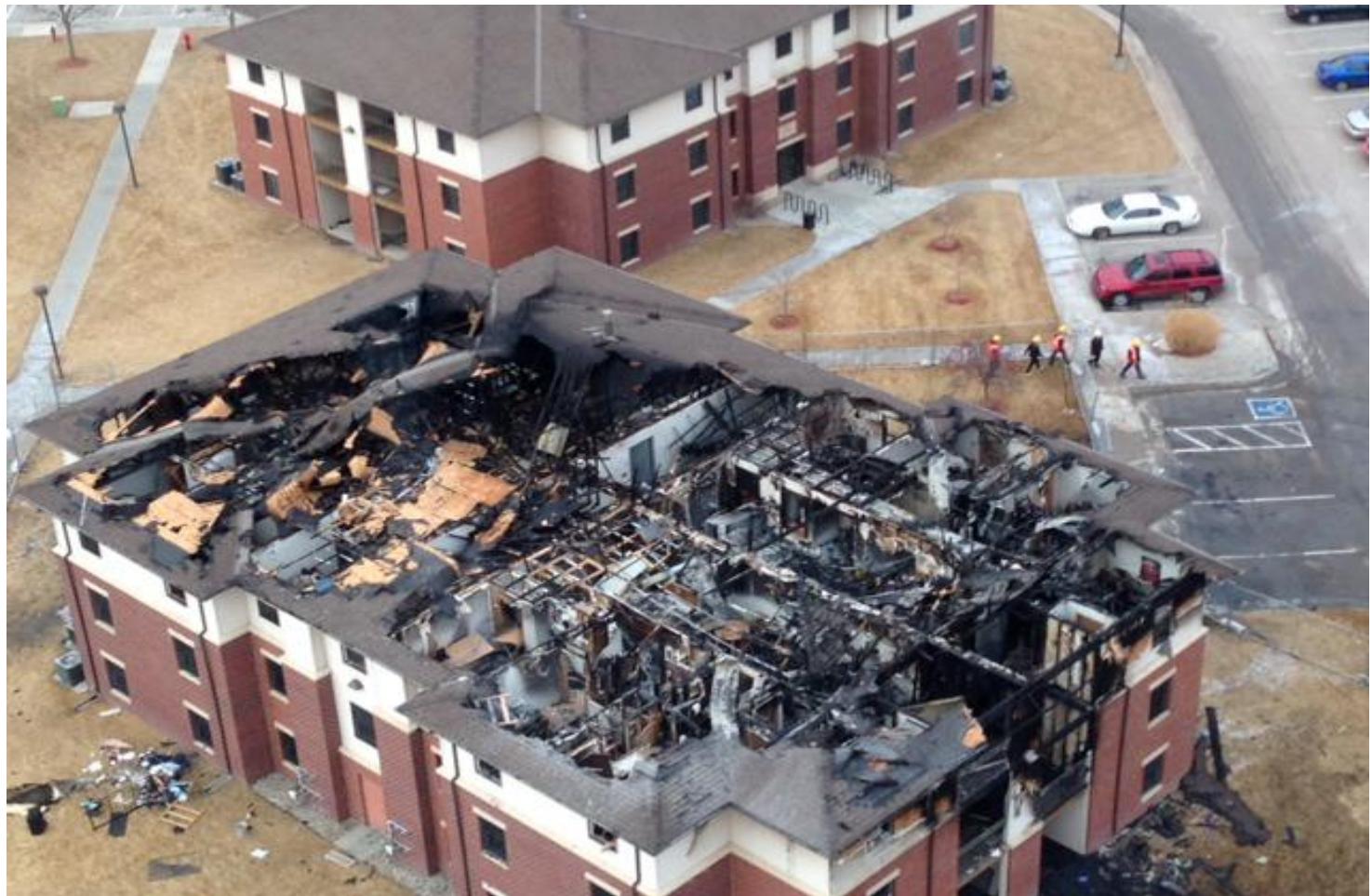
10:40 p.m. When asked if the station carried red gas containers, Calvin stated that they did, and that one was unaccounted for. When asked about customers between 10 and 11pm on May 18, Calvin reported working in the store's office at that time and denied seeing or hearing any customers enter the station during that period. Calvin provided a receipt for a purchase of one gallon of gas in that time frame.

**Hayden Rodriguez:** 11:25am, 05/19/18, interviewed on the Prairie Lake Preparatory campus

Because Buckley had discussed negative feelings about Carly Walsh, Hayden Rodriguez was interviewed about those communications with Buckley. Rodriguez, Buckley's academic advisor, explained that Buckley was in the running for a full college scholarship, and that Buckley saw Carly Walsh as Buckley's only competition. Rodriguez reported Buckley becoming enraged and aggressive about the prospect of not winning the scholarship, but stated that the only injury Buckley ever caused was to Buckley's own hand. Rodriguez also provided me with Buckley's full disciplinary history, which contained one report.



Lincoln Dormitory, Low-Angle Photograph taken May 19, 2018



Lincoln Dormitory, Aerial Photograph taken May 19, 2018

**Exhibit 5**



**Key:** **Circles:** full prints (20 points, 18 points) matching Alex Buckley  
**Triangle:** partial print (7 points) matching Alex Buckley  
**Star:** full print; no match found

**Exhibit 6**



→ **Yellow**



→ **Black**

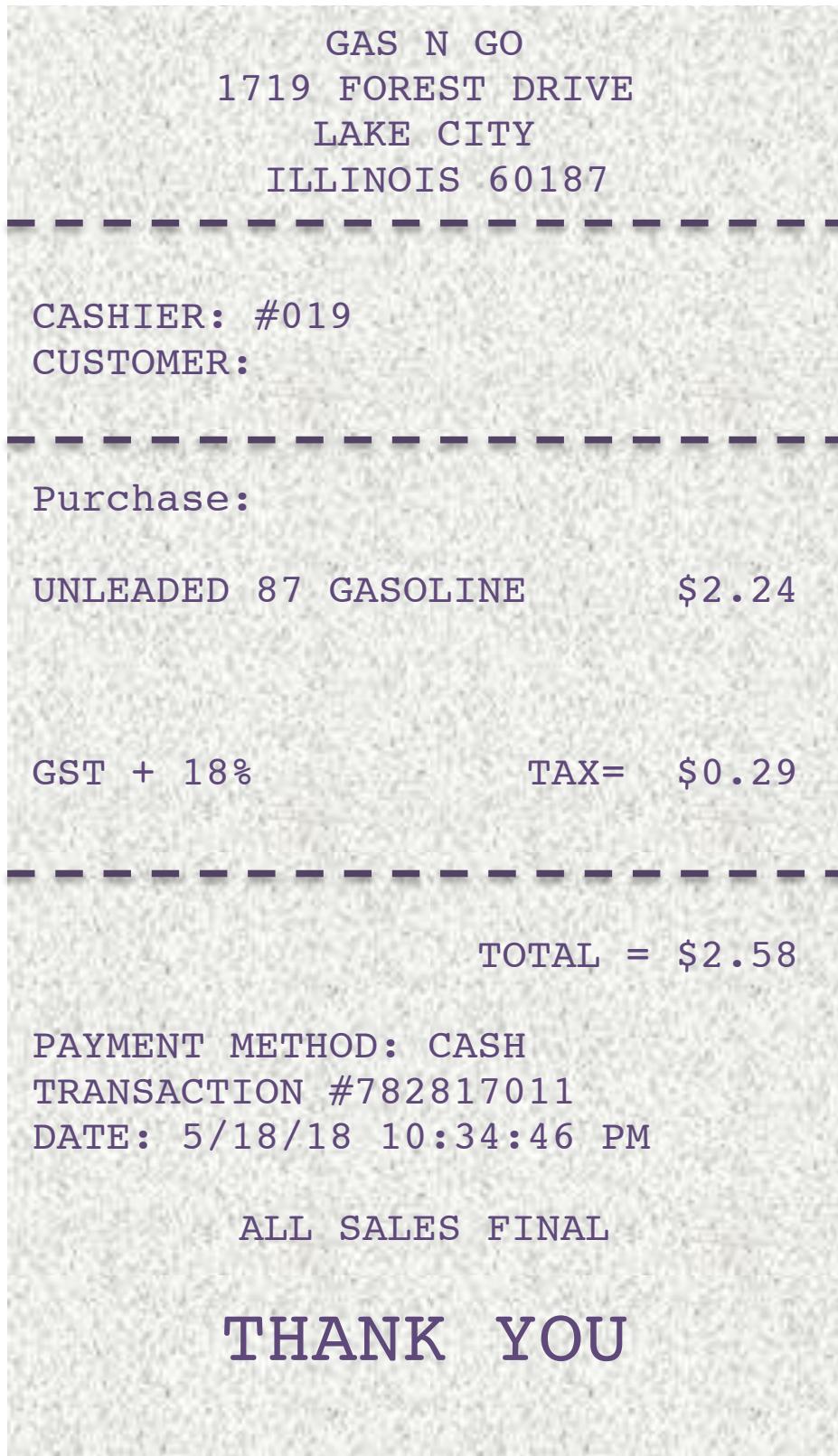


Exhibit 8

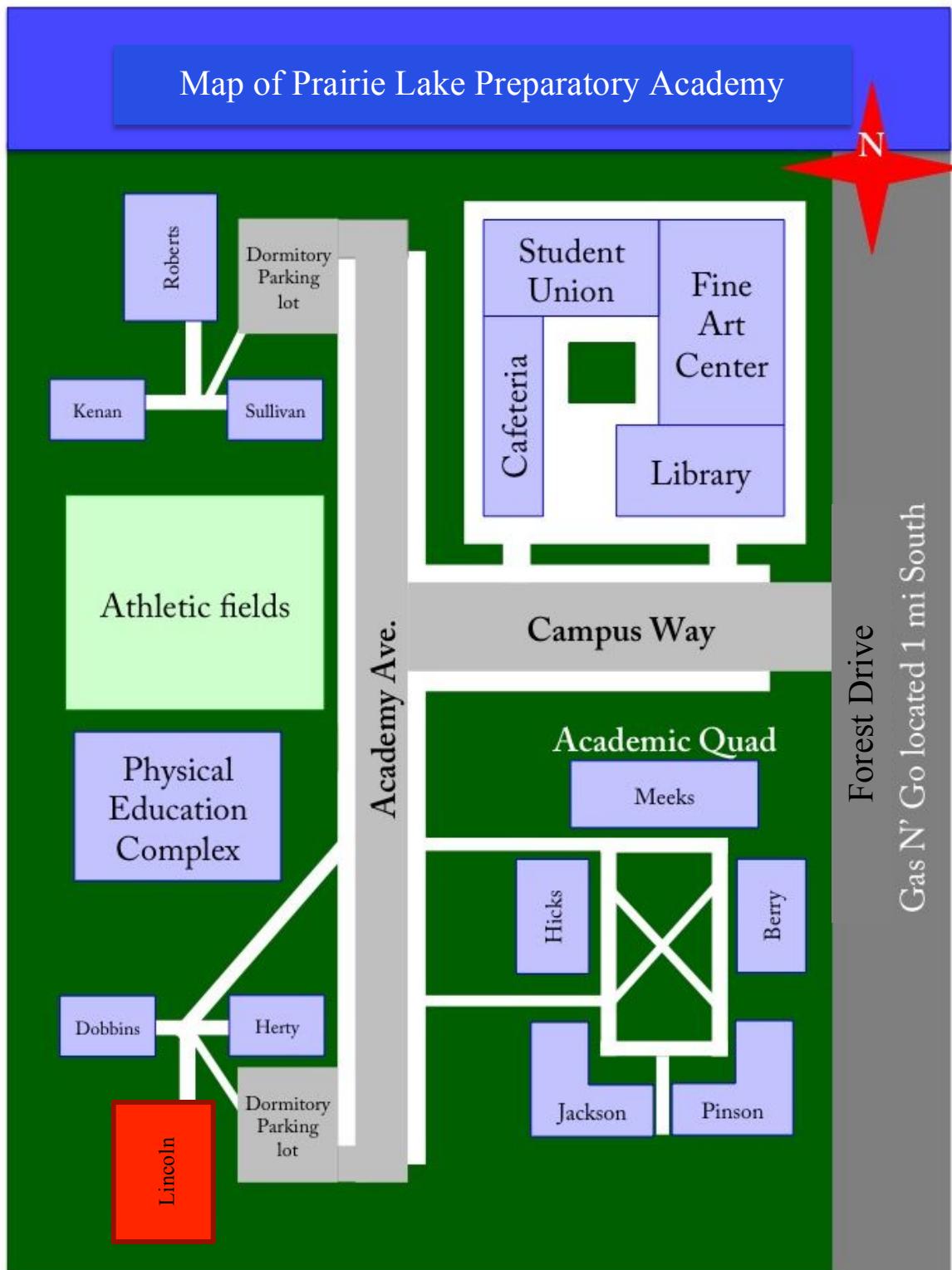


Exhibit 9

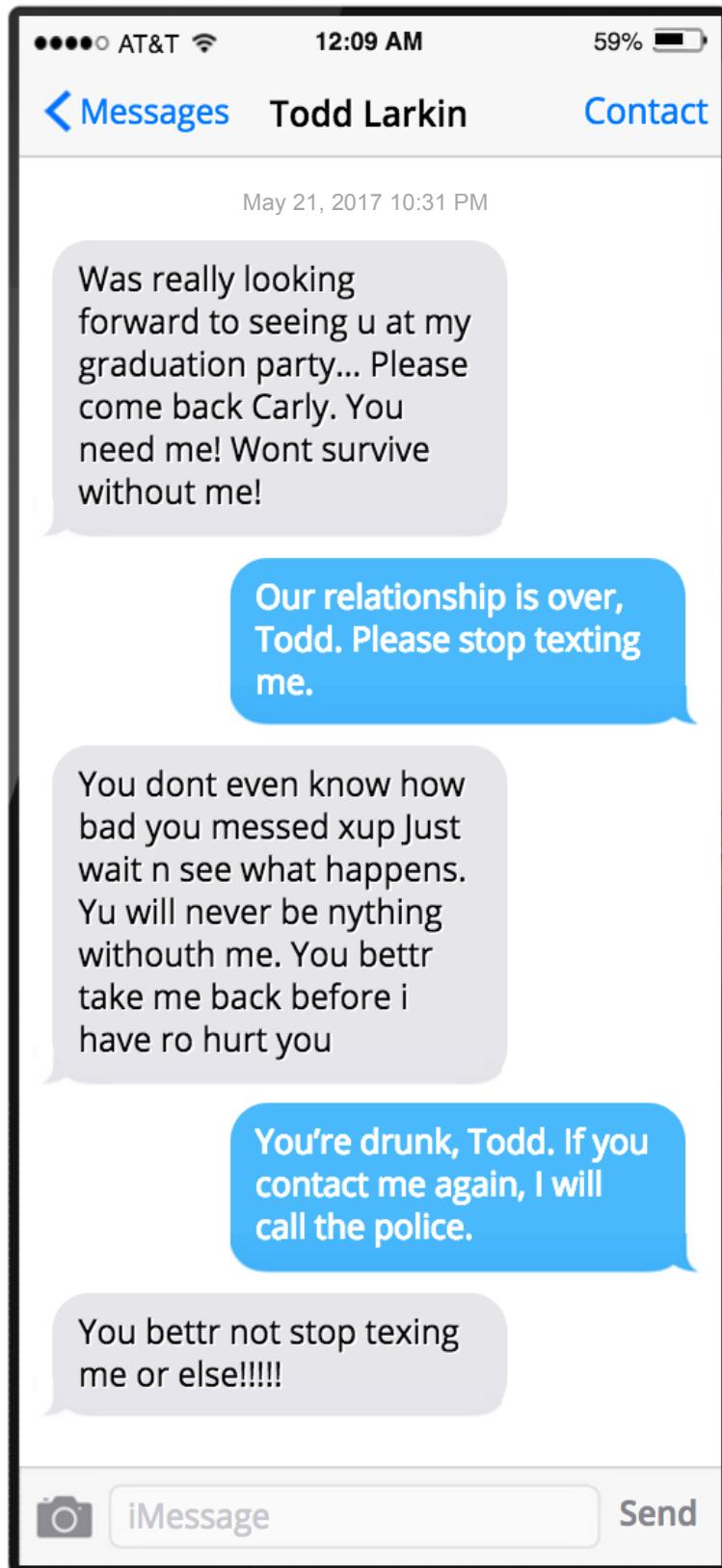
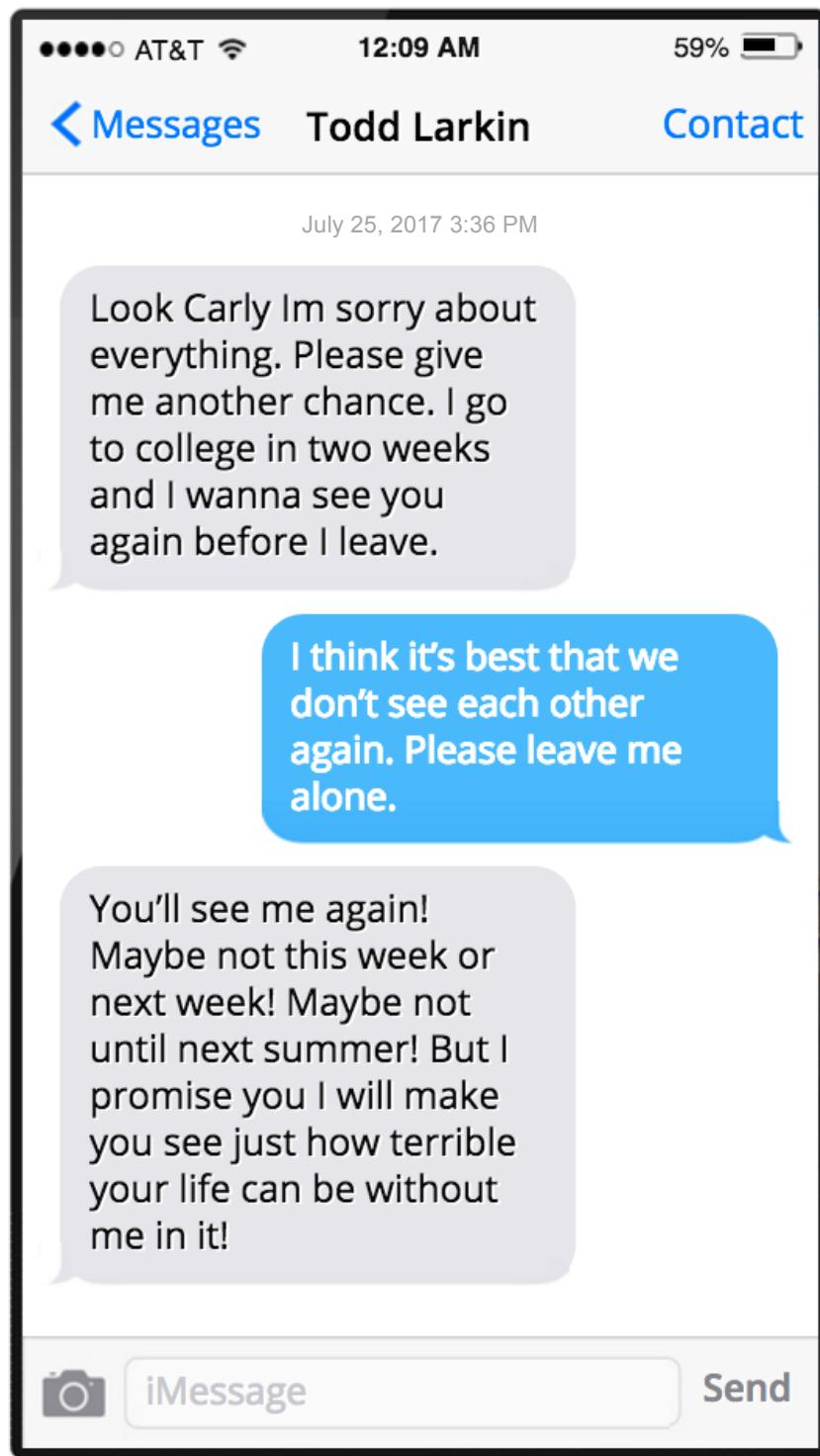


Exhibit 10



*On 4/25/2018 at 10:35 AM, Alex Buckley <[abuckley@plprep.org](mailto:abuckley@plprep.org)> wrote:*

I can come by around 3:35. But unless you have a way to get Carly Walsh out of the picture, there isn't much to talk about.

- Alex

*On 4/24/2018 3:10 PM, Hayden Rodriguez <[hrodriguez@plprep.org](mailto:hrodriguez@plprep.org)> wrote:*

I'd just like to chat. I know an injury can make this time of year difficult, especially when you are under stress.

Best,  
Hayden Rodriguez

*On 4/24/2018 at 2:42 PM, Alex Buckley <[abuckley@plprep.org](mailto:abuckley@plprep.org)> wrote:*

I can come in after class on Thursday. But I am really fine. I just lost control for a bit.

- Alex

*On 4/24/2018 9:35 AM, Hayden Rodriguez <[hrodriguez@plprep.org](mailto:hrodriguez@plprep.org)> wrote:*

Alex,  
I heard about your hand injury. I would love to make an appointment to discuss what happened and how to best move forward. If you are free anytime this week, please let me know.

Best,  
Hayden Rodriguez

*On 5/17/2018 at 8:57 PM, Alex Buckley <[abuckley@plprep.org](mailto:abuckley@plprep.org)> wrote:*

My scholarship is going to be fine. After this weekend, Carly Walsh won't matter to me at all. I spent too much time this year letting Carly get the best of me, when I really just needed to take matters into my own hands this whole time. No need to meet. I have work anyway.

- Alex

*On 5/17/2018 4:13 PM, Hayden Rodriguez <[hrodriguez@plprep.org](mailto:hrodriguez@plprep.org)> wrote:*

Alex,

I noticed you missed our meeting today. Is everything going okay? How did the scholarships turn out? Do you have any time to meet this week? Maybe Friday during lunch or after school before the dance?

Best,

Hayden Rodriguez

*On 5/10/2018 9:14 AM, Hayden Rodriguez <[hrodriguez@plprep.org](mailto:hrodriguez@plprep.org)> wrote:*

Alex,

How are the scholarship applications going? Have you turned them in yet? If you need any help proofreading, my door is always open; if not, I will see you at 3:35 next Thursday for our meeting.

Best,

Hayden Rodriguez

# Student Incident Report

## *Prairie Lake Preparatory Academy*

**Report date and time:** March 10, 2015 3:45pm  
**Incident date and time:** March 8, 2015 10:50am  
**Report filed by:** Hayden Rodriguez  
  
**Student name:** Alex Buckley  
**Date of birth:** April 25, 2000      **Age:** 14      **Grade:** 9  
**Incident Location:** Prairie Lake physical education complex  
**Offense:** Destruction of property  
**Parent notified:** Yes      **Police called?** No

**Description of incident:**

Alex competed in the Robotics event at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition hosted in the Prairie Lake gymnasium. Alex was awarded fourth place. As the top three places were announced, Alex became resentful and angry. Alex punched at and then kicked the project built by the student who took second place. The project fell over, started to smoke, and eventually caught on fire. The fire alarm sounded and the building was evacuated. While Alex claims the incident was an accident and that Alex did not intend to harm the project, the teacher advisor for Science Olympiad, David Gray, disagreed. Mr. Gray called me during the alarm and said that Alex had intentionally harmed the project and ought to be suspended or punished.

**Remediation/follow up recommended?** Yes

**Description of recommended remediation:**

Alex should receive anger management counseling once per week for the remainder of the school year. Failure to complete the counseling sessions will result in Alex's expulsion. At the end of the school year, Alex should be re-evaluated and, pending advisor approval, be allowed to continue studying as a scholarship student at Prairie Lake.

**Signature of student:** Alex Buckley    **Date:** 3/10/15

**Signature of counselor:** Hayden Rodriguez    **Date:** 3/10/15

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**Remediation completed?** Yes

**Date completed:** May 14, 2015

**Description of completed remediation:**

Alex met with me each Thursday from March 12 – May 14, 2015. I worked with Alex on developing skills to handle stressful situations and deal with anger in a respectful manner. Alex had

experienced some difficulty during the transition from a large public school to Prairie Lake, and I have helped Alex learn to control the emotions resulting from this transition. Alex has made significant progress in the past two months, and based on that progress, I am fully comfortable signing off for Alex to continue studying at Prairie Lake in our scholarship program.

**Signature of counselor:** Hayden Rodriguez      **Date:** 5/14/15