



# MIDDLE TWP POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                              |                                        |                                                                                     |                                         |                                                |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Department<br><b>MIDDLE TWP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 | 2. Mun. Code<br><b>0506</b>                                  | 3. Phone Number<br><b>609-465-8700</b> | 4. CAD Incident#<br><b>2022-84446</b>                                               | 5. Other Agency Case #                  | 6. Department Case Number<br><b>2022-20969</b> |                                     |
| 7. Crime/Incident<br><b>AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 | 8. New Crime/Incident If Changed<br><b>FATAL PLANE CRASH</b> |                                        | 9. Victim(s) New Address if Changed<br>[REDACTED], <b>OCEAN CITY, NJ 08226-2156</b> |                                         |                                                |                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                              |                                        | 10. Victim(s) Name<br><b>GIBSON, THOMAS R</b>                                       |                                         | 11. Home Phone / Cellular<br><b>/</b>          |                                     |
| 12. New NJS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 | 13. Date of Crime<br><b>07/16/2022 09:36</b>                 |                                        | Value of Stolen/Recovered Property                                                  | 14. Currency                            | 15A. Jewelry                                   | 16. Furs                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                              |                                        | 17. Clothing                                                                        | 18. Auto                                | 19. Miscellaneous                              |                                     |
| 20. S.C.I.C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 | 21. Additional Technical Service-Agency                      |                                        | 22. Additional Stolen Property Value                                                |                                         | 23. Add I Recovered Property Value             |                                     |
| 24. N.C.I.C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 | 25.                                                          |                                        | 26.                                                                                 |                                         | 27.                                            |                                     |
| 28. Vehicle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 29. Year                        | 30. Make                                                     | 31. Body Type                          | 32. Color                                                                           | 33. Registered Number & State           |                                                | 34. Serial Number or Identification |
| List Name Only of Previous Accused. Complete Information on New Accused; Include Additional Perpetrators: Suspects; Record all Developments Since Last Report: Explain Any Crime Change; List Additional Interviews of Victims: Persons Contacted: Witnesses: Evidence; Technical Services, Stolen Property: Recovered Property; Court Action. |                                 |                                                              |                                        |                                                                                     |                                         |                                                |                                     |
| 35. No. of Accused                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 36. New Accused                 | 37. Adult                                                    | 38. Juvenile                           | 39. Status Crime<br><b>Active</b>                                                   | 40. Status Case<br><b>Investigation</b> | 41. UCR Status Month Yr.                       | 42. Date Cleared                    |
| 43. Code                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 44. Name                        | 45. Address                                                  |                                        | 46. Age                                                                             | 47. Sex                                 | 48. Race                                       | 49. Eth                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                              |                                        | 50. DOB                                                                             |                                         |                                                |                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | [WITNESS] SHAW, RACHEL -        | - 28 - F - W - N -                                           |                                        | [REDACTED]                                                                          |                                         |                                                |                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | [WITNESS] SHAW, WILLIAM -       | [REDACTED]                                                   |                                        | GREEN CREEK, NJ 08219 -                                                             | 29 - M - W - N -                        | [REDACTED]                                     |                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | [OWNER] HUNTER, JEROMIE -       | [REDACTED]                                                   |                                        | DENNIS TWP, NJ 08210 -                                                              | 42 - M - W - N -                        | [REDACTED]                                     |                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | [NEXT OF KIN] GIBSON, HARRY W - | [REDACTED]                                                   |                                        | OCEAN CITY, NJ 08226-2156 -                                                         | 55 - M - W - N -                        | [REDACTED]                                     |                                     |

## 51. Narrative

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, at approximately 9:35 AM, the Middle Township Police Department was notified of a plane crash at the Paramount Airfield, 317 Rte 47 South, located in the Green Creek section of Middle Township. The pilot of the aircraft, identified as Thomas Gibson, 22 years of age from Ocean City, New Jersey, was pronounced deceased at the scene by paramedics. Members of the Middle Township Patrol Division secured the scene with the assistance of the Green Creek and Rio Grande Fire Departments.

I then responded to the scene and photographed it. A short time later, Detective Zach Deweese arrived from the Cape May County Prosecutors Office. Sergeant Hagan advised me that county dispatch had notified the Federal Aviation Administration as well as the National Transportation Safety Board. The NJSP ROIC was also notified of the crash.

I then took a statement from Jeromie Hunter, the owner of Paramount Aerial Advertising utilizing my body worn camera. Mr. Hunter stated that Thomas Gibson had been working for his company since May 2022. He stated that he was on the field when the accident occurred and observed that Gibson had flown in between the poles to pick up his advertising banner, but he missed it and when he went to level off, he wasn't sure what happened exactly. He stated after that, the plane spun out and came down nose to the ground. Mr. Hunter stated that he heard the engine of the plane running during the entirety of the event. The statement was concluded a short time later.

I then took statements from witnesses William and Rachel Shaw. Rachel stated she was on the field by the purple shed at the time of the accident. She stated that she watched Gibson "go for a pick" and it looked like he missed. She stated "on rotate" she looked down at her clipboard or her phone for the time, but when she looked up, the plane was traveling more towards the trees then straight like it is supposed to. That is when it came down and hit the ground.

William Shaw stated that he was seated in a plane waiting to go next to pick up a banner with the engine running. He stated that he observed the plane Gibson was piloting come down between the poles, missed the banner, and he made a really hard snap, coming up pretty much vertical. He stated it looked to him as though he "kicked rudder" at the top of his climb to see if he had picked up the banner. He stated he believed that this caused him to have his

|                                                              |                         |                           |                                  |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Print Rank/OFC Name<br><b>Det. First Class KURT SAETTLER</b> | Badge No.<br><b>105</b> | Page No.<br><b>1 Of 2</b> | Report Date<br><b>07/21/2022</b> | Reviewed By<br><b>LT TRACEY SUPER</b> |
| Signature<br>[REDACTED]                                      |                         |                           |                                  | Supervisor Signature<br>[REDACTED]    |

|                                                   |                        |                                     |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Department<br><b>MIDDLE TWP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> | ORI NO.<br><b>0506</b> | Dept. Case No.<br><b>2022-20969</b> | Incident No.<br><b>2022-84446</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

right wing come out from the slipstream, causing an aerodynamic stall (loss of airflow to one of the wings not to be confused with an engine stall).

Death Notification was made by Ptlm. Reardon and an Ocean City Officer in Ocean City to Thomas Gibson's next of kin, his father, Harry Gibson. Medical Examiner Investigator Tracy Doran arrived at the scene and her transport team took Thomas to Shore Medical Center where an autopsy would be preformed. The only article of property removed from Thomas was a chain with a cross charm on it that was turned over to me. I then spoke with Harry Gibson and advised him that I would return the necklace to him as soon as I could.

After a few hours, Federal Aviation Administration, Principal Avionics Inspectors Dennis Petry and Brad Hinderer, as well as, National Transportation Safety Board, Investigator Robert Grezt arrived on scene. The investigation of the crash was turned over jointly to the FAA and NTSB who will determine the cause of the crash.

This investigation is pending their findings.

Case No. 2022-20969

|                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                           |                                  |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Print Rank/OFC Name<br><b>Det. First Class KURT SAETTLER</b><br> | Badge No.<br><b>105</b> | Page No.<br><b>2 of 2</b> | Report Date<br><b>07/21/2022</b> | Reviewed By:<br><b>LT TRACEY SUPER</b><br> |
| Signature                                                                                                                                           |                         |                           |                                  | Supervisor Signature                                                                                                            |