

JEROID PRICE SCDC PRISON RECORD DISCORD

DISCUSSION WITH MANDY AND BETH

Beth Braden 00:00

We asked for those on April 27. And they acknowledged my request on April 27. But by law in South Carolina, they had another 30 days to even say if they could produce any records. So that came in May 25. And on June 28, they finally gave us our records. No, no, you're fine. So what they dropped us was 507 pages last Wednesday, we've got our records. It's two o'clock. And we all think we're going to take an early day. No, we're not. So we started poring through the records. And we knew that there were some exemptions. There are some exemptions to open records laws. But still, I've 100 pages, me, Mandy, and Liz, all trying to get through it. And we realize we've got the three personnel files. And then we've got the inmate record. So that first personnel file was just Ali Fowler's who supposedly had her life saved by Jeroid Price at some point, I think it was 22. And I'd have to flip back through, we've got the personnel file for an officer Miller. And he did nothing really remarkable there. We've got Agent Loves' corrections officer who came to bat for Jeroid Price, nothing really important in there. But then the last 150 ish pages of that document are just Jeroid Price's disciplinary reports, from all of the things he did in prison that were against the prison rules.

Mandy Matney 02:18

Right, and so basically, when we got this document, our task was just okay, let's find these incident reports where this alleged incident happened, where he was the incidents happen, where Jeroid was the hero, and as his lawyer claims, save the day, and in that was the reasoning for him to be let out of prison early. You look at all three of us separately as quickly as we can. Then nothing. There's no, there's no incident reports of this tale of Jeroid Price being a superhero. So the next thing that we do from now - what's it what's in here, and my biggest takeaway, and we're all texting each other as we're going through, we're circling. We're screenshotting. And my first takeaway, probably like an hour into reading it half hour was like, this is really something this is instead of, we were, we were trying to find the truth. We were trying to get them to give the government the benefit of the doubt here. Okay, guys, you say that this game was a hero of all then we need you to cough up records that show this alleged, but looks real sketchy. Alright. And what they come back with is not only that this incident did not occur, according to their records. There's no record of it. It looks like he has been in trouble nonstop. I probably can't technically say that he was a prison terrorist. But he was terrorizing the prison. The other inmates are constantly starting trouble. Anything from collard greens to he did everything wrong the entire time.

Beth Braden 04:24

Yeah, he had like, we still can't figure this one out. Like he had it. He was once found where they six pounds can have collard greens in his cells. And I assume he stole them from the kitchen. I don't know how you sneak that in his contraband. I don't even want to consider it. But he sneaks like he has these collard greens in his cell. And I can't figure out like was he using them to make alcohol because he was also caught with like prison wine more than once? Or like, was he planning on throwing them at somebody? Or did he just like them? And then how was he going to get them open?

Mandy Matney 05:00

Right. And that brings up a side note definitely had a or you came up with it Beth, the idea to start doing members - we watch shows together and comment on what we're watching and I think Jailbirds should be a part of that. Jailbirds is a fascinating show on Netflix. And it is about like what all inmates do, to survive and to communicate with each other in jail, and it is wild. And we both learned. What was the term about drinking alcohol in prison?

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Beth Braden 05:35

I think they called it Pruno.

Mandy Matney 05:38

Yeah.

Beth Braden 05:41

And then but we learned that at least in that show, like, they were like, bailing all the water out of their toilets and like yelling through the pipes.

Mandy Matney 05:54

And like, right, and guys, were meeting girls that way. It was like literally a dating website.

Beth Braden 06:02

But they're just like, yeah, they call it talking on the bowl. Like I remember in that show, I like specifically interview that one inmate and she's like "yeah, I met him on the bowl."

Mandy Matney 06:13

I don't I don't know about you all. But this all of this just fascinates me. And it fascinates me like how smart a lot of these people are and how they're very, very misunderstood. They're not in jail because they're stupid. A lot of them are not in jail because they're stupid. And price is one of those. He is smart. He unlike our buddy Alex Murdaugh. I don't know if we made this joke during the podcast. I can't remember. But he knows what habeas corpus is. The sued the prison a couple times, right? That sound was a part of a lawsuit.

Beth Braden 06:53

Yeah. So I feel like he's been all the way through the appeals process. The best I can tell. He's filed appeals. He's filed appeals of appeals He's filed. I think that he did file a PCR which is a Post Conviction Relief. I think that that's like their last ditch effort to try to get out of prison. Yeah.

Mandy Matney 07:15

He was a part of lawsuits as well. And lawsuits, this is a fun little tidbit for you guys. In South Carolina, if you just search with different counties of the Public Index and search, or if you search pacer.gov, the federal website they for SCDC for the ending cases involving SCDC or Brian Sterling's, lots of prisoners, lots of prisoners file their own lawsuits against SCDC all the time. And it is fascinating to see the stuff that goes down and the from the prisoner side, not that it's who knows what actually happened. But that's another good way of kind of figuring out what's going on, literally behind the bars.

Beth Braden 08:08

You don't have to talk on a contraband cell phone to do it. You can just look in the public.

Mandy Matney 08:16

Public Record, and a lot of them are handwritten. And it's amazing that prisoners are able to figure out how to sue the government from behind bars and expecting several of those from you know who, in the next few years.

Beth Braden 08:29

You know, I was shocked when I was looking through Jeroid Price's stuff in federal court filings like he has really nice handwriting. Like he honestly like he spells pretty well like he punctuate I appreciate punctuation. Like, the man is not a moron. If he had like, put some effort into like, active rights. This would all be a non issue and like there wouldn't be he wouldn't have killed anybody. That's what sad is like it's a waste.

Mandy Matney 09:01

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Right? He seems extremely smart and extremely resourceful. Like can figure out like, the man went to prison, basically before cellphones before there was iPhone before there was like a lot of working internet. What year was it 2001? There was no smartphones. Let's put it that. Yeah.

Beth Braden 09:28

So he got he got to Kirkland as a newly admitted prisoner because I processed them in at Parkland. He got there. December 23 2003. So like, let's think about 2003. There were no smartphones. There wasn't any social media. Like everybody still has like a flip cell phone. So right like the world, the world has changed while he's been behind bars, and he's figured out how to navigate it and have contraband cell phone. And it's pretty obvious like looking through his disciplinary records like he immediately was running some kind of financial scheme in jail because remember, they kept finding like account numbers and social security numbers. And like all this random stuff that he shouldn't have that he's cataloging in his cell, basically right after he gets the prison.

Mandy Matney 10:30

Right. And I didn't really understand this SCDC has really been trying to they, a couple of years ago, they - I think they had a press conference about how bad is compensated cell phones are, and I didn't really get it until in the last year. I'm like putting it together. These prisoners like Jeroid Price are literally running entire operations and businesses from behind bars to the cell phones. And if they can figure out a way to cut the cell phone, I think they were trying to figure out a way to like disable the service of them in prisons. But yeah, it's really bad. Yeah, like

Beth Braden 11:23

I mentioned, like that one YouTube channels that have to do with contraband, or no. Is that okay? okay, okay. Yeah. So like, I don't know if you guys have seen the link yet. It pops up from time to time, but there's actually a guy. It's like, I think he's Jumpsuit Pablo. Like Jumpsuit Pablo interviews, prisoners who have contraband cell phones and want to talk about what's going on behind bars. And then Pablo jumps on YouTube to talk about all the stuff that he learned. I say learn, like, quote, unquote, learned, because can you really believe of criminals? Who is still breaking the rules, because he has the cell phone? But yeah, I'm fascinated by Jumpsuit Pablo, and he really was in SCDC. It was that he was in custody there. Like I confirmed that, like Jumpsuit Pablo really was in prison in South Carolina. So it's fascinating to me.

Mandy Matney 12:19

Right? It is, I mean, again, how savvy and resourceful a lot of these people blows my mind. But yeah, so we basically got these 500 pages, and quickly figured out that it was worse than we thought it would be, his record. Beth do you want to talk about how different it was from his SCDC Record? And but how we got the SCDC record to begin with, and the difference between this?

Beth Braden 12:54

Yeah, so are you specifically talking about like, the inmate search report? That's just kind of really, over the top? Yeah, bare bones like, yeah, so. So when you request like an inmate detail report you get, and those are public records so I can see his height, his age, weight, citizenships, race, that kind of thing. I can see a projected release date, I can see. You know, like he's he had any escapes during his incarceration. And then you what you see is the disciplinary sanctions, but they're vague on the overview sheet. So we've got possession of a negotiable instrument is the description on the overview sheet. And I'm fairly certain that in the records, we got in our 500 page dump, I'm pretty sure that he had, he had some kind of implements that they believed could be used to unlock handcuffs. So you don't get the full picture from the brief report. Like we can also see in his,

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in the very brief report that he was moved in an hour like he had dozens of moves between prisons in South Carolina, and oh, you know what, maybe one of the things we should look and see is how many of these moves correspond to shenanigans behind bars? Like where are they moving him every time he did something ridiculous.

Mandy Matney 14:33

Right? And that's kind of what it seems like and then also kind of seems like they got so tired of and causing trouble that they shipped him off to New Mexico. And I still don't understand that and then I met the crazy thing that we found was, not only was this guy on death row for some reason, but he was causing all sorts of problems on death row. And how does that work?

Beth Braden 15:07

You're supposed to be locked down on death row. I thought like, those aren't the guys you let out for, you know, a couple hours of yard time so they can lift weights like aren't they? 23 hour a day lockdown.

Mandy Matney 15:19

Right? I thought so. I mean, I'll be honest, I don't have a lot of death row experience, except for beyond television.

Beth Braden 15:30

Maybe we can ask Jumpsuit Pablo, if he can check into it for us.

Mandy Matney 15:34

while that I don't know. Also, like maybe it seemed to me like my, when I was reading it, I was like, looks like they just got so sick of them that they just put them on death row. He was causing so many problems. And another thing that they saw another thing that I noticed over and over in all of his appeals cases, he really wanted to not be affiliated with the Bloods. He claimed that it was... wasn't that a thing? I'm getting that right, right? He was arguing that..

Beth Braden 16:08

I don't know for sure. That sounds familiar, but I'm like I wouldn't testify to it in court. So I would have to like re-look at this document to know for sure. But he really did present himself as a fine upstanding model citizen and his appeal documents

Mandy Matney 16:26

Right? I'm pretty sure his lawyers were arguing against the gang affiliated I think I don't know but anyways, I would I would testify in court to in court to is the guy definitely is affiliated. And that's very evident in these documents it was these documents basically backed up what our sources ago which was this guy was the godfather of the South Carolina prison system. He was running everything.

Beth Braden 16:59

Oh, go ahead. Sorry.

Mandy Matney 17:03

And like he was constantly in trouble and he was constantly he was the opposite of a good inmate.

Beth Braden 17:10

Yeah well remember, he even like would threaten the inmates and say, "Don't you know who I am?" Like that's and at least one of the reports or I'm the effing real deal like it nice to be yelled out at one of them. Because all I could think of was the Chappelle sketch about Rick James.

Mandy Matney 17:32

Well, I like I was reading it. And initially when we heard of this guy, the first like phone call that we got, and the way that lives described him to me, was he the Avon Barksdale of South Carolina?

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Avon Barksdale is a character in The Wire and that got me curious and that's what made me start to watch the wider and he liked everything. This guy said the "I'm the real deal motherfuckers" totally seems like something like the leader of the gangs, but he's also in The Wire, but he's super smart. And Avon, like Price like doesn't necessarily get his hands dirty. And a lot of these, like if you notice a lot of the fights you can he's charged with basically telling people not to do he's not usually the one throwing punches.

Beth Braden 18:32

Right? Yeah, like, I've not seen The Wire. It's on my list. I've not watched it yet. But that reminds you remember the Gangland reference. And this file is because like Jeroid had written a letter, I think to this, he'd written a letter to somebody and was like, I need to talk because I'm gonna sue the producers of gang land for using my story.

Mandy Matney 18:58

Yeah, which by the way, I highly suggest watching them I don't remember what channel it we just found it on YouTube. We'll put the link in the on Discord later today. Because it's this Gangland episode is crazy. Not only feels like super old. The graphics are very bad. Like it's like watching an old episode of cops or you know, but it's, it's, it's, it portrays Colombia like center of the gang universe. Really, really? And then they talk about drug prices crazy.

Beth Braden 19:41

Right, you know, and I feel like in his appellate documents, the guy who like appeared in Gangland like I think signed an affidavit in his appellate documents.

Mandy Matney 19:53

He did and not like that was a whole thing. Yeah, we had we texted Eric Bland that we were watching it and Eric watched that episode of Gangland. And he was like, this is scary shit. He was terrified. I was like, I don't like this at all this makes Columbia look awful.

Beth Braden 20:19

I've got to watch. Like that's on my immediate, you know, at the end of the day, like, I think when we scroll to the bottom of the 500 pages, what we had was like, none of this backs up what the, you know, public story was about him instead, it's just like, other proof of why this guy should still be behind bars.

Mandy Matney 20:43

Which is crazy that link even I know we always get an I don't want to mention haters. But I can see criticism of myself online. A lot of a lot of times, and a lot of people say over and over, like one of their biggest criticisms of our work here is that we have tunnel vision and what we don't like get the whole story. Well, this is a perfect example of are trying to get the whole story where you're trying I have, I've texted Rutherford, I've called him, like we have tried to get the full story with. And several journalists have tried to contact Manning. And we're trying to get the full story through records. So like, Okay, if y'all are saying that this guy deserves to be let out of prison because he was a miracle worker and savior for these guards in that you're trying to incentivize other other inmates to like, good and mates and step up for the guards, then that should be pretty easy to back up with records. And what makes me the most mad is that it seems like none of the men who participated in the signing of these documents in the allowing of Jeroid Price to be released early, it seemed like none of them bothered to do what we did, which is okay, let's make sure that he did once there should be incident, this is all very basic, common sense. And it's really frustrating when our government officials do not care to it, especially when they are dealing with a convicted murderer, for the love of everything. Oh my god, please do your homework. If you're releasing a

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guy who is a murderer, then you should make sure that he is done somebody you should make sure that like what they're saying. Like it's, I don't know, if they got played, I don't know what went on, but it's really, really, really deeply, deeply concerning going through these documents.

Beth Braden 22:53

Right. Well, and, you know, we were talking about it a little bit earlier, like everybody's entitled to a defense you're, you're entitled to go through the appellate process and to fight like exhaust all your legal options. Absolutely. That is you're right. But at some point like Rutherford like has to know that what he was saying wasn't quite right. You know, like is like where to slip and Eric Bland question like is there liability there if the defense attorney is being less than genuine?

Mandy Matney 23:28

Right and I've asked that question many times and one of the the answers that I've gotten is like they have a lot of wiggle room defense attorneys, but they're not they're not supposed to lie. or embellish or look the other way. I think they have a lot more wiggle room. The average person when it comes to healing carries things like this and

Beth Braden 23:58

and that should be when the judge Oh, sorry. Go ahead. I'm gonna say like that should be the judge should be the accountability to that and do his or her homework so the defense attorneys can't wander in and slide one over on you.

Mandy Matney 24:19

Right And again, that's a judge not It reminds me of years ago, I was writing a story about a convicted killer and rapist on Hilton Head was getting I want to say he was getting out early but it wasn't through this or something else. He got a bunch of shit. He got a bunch of like light sensors. Excellent treasure. What's his name? And I'm pleasures Akron, Frasier. Anyways, this guy, he wrote on Get me out of jail. Get me out of prison. Hey, for work that for his parolees is going to be staying at this address. Like there would be a family to, you know, look over him and take care of it. And Carmen Mullins signed away. And was like, Okay, that sounds great. And without checking with the man who lived at that address, and that guy was like, I have no idea that this ex prisoners coming to live with me, excuse me. That was, yeah, that whole thing. I should probably do a podcast about that. I forgot that story. But yeah, that was Carmen Mullen. And she didn't do her homework. Instead, this is Carmen Boland, and Carmen Mullin, is this just named judge Manning's protegees. And it seems like they just don't, but there's no accountability. So why would they do their homework? It never mattered to them. It seems like

Beth Braden 25:58

Right. Well, I mean, like he was on his way out the door to retire like I'm pretty sure the party that already happened when he was signing, drop prices order. Like he had his Palmetto. He had, you know, fancy plaque or whatever they give you like, I don't know, he'd ironed his robes for the last time like he was done.

Mandy Matney 26:18

It's completely bizarre. Shouldn't we go on to question what do you think?

Beth Braden 26:29

Yeah, I think like, I feel like we've talked about is collard greens. And it's contraband cell phones, and oh, the mail, he tried to disguise his legal mail, so the guards wouldn't look at it. And you have to sister send him a photos of those women. But yeah, like, I think that it's a great time for questions, because we've been at it for a while it's somebody else's turn.

Mandy Matney 26:52

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Yeah, and I'm also not even questions, the comments if anybody found something super interesting. Yeah. Anything you got, and it doesn't have to be on this. We can talk about anything. Within reason. Within Reach. 10 point it's in like request to speak and we can confirm and like accept it. And you can answer our audio or if you want to put anything in the chat. We're also monitoring.

Beth Braden 27:34

Bueller Bueller?

27:47

Hi, everyone. I just wanted to say thank you for doing this. The first time I've been able to touch the touch a live chat. I don't really have a question. I just really love the podcast. I started in the middle of days of trial and binge the whole thing all the way through. And I love to some sunlight. The fact that you are able to research the stuff and I wouldn't say I feel bad for you live in South Carolina with the justice system there. But I have JD Vance per senator. So I don't know how how all that works. So. But I do appreciate all the work that you're doing. The frustration of what must be in those 500 pages. So I just want to say thank you for what you're doing. I love you know, cup of Justice, the whole nine yards. Sandy Smith is awesome. You guys are all everything you do is wonderful. So maybe your vocal fry was was was back in the day. You're doing awesome. So I love your vocal fry. So

Mandy Matney 29:07

thank you. That was so sweet. We really appreciate that. And yeah, my vocal. First of all, I had no idea how to talk on a podcast. And second of all, I was just really tired and I my voice just just exhausted in the early days. And we were using bad microphones we were the cheap microphones like enhanced the vocal frame. We figured that one out. But we're so we're very, I look back on those early episodes and I'm like I am proud of them. But at the same time I'm like, Oh my gosh. And so thank you to our listeners who stuck with it. We're like this doesn't sound like the best thing I've ever heard but stick with them. Yeah, I really appreciate that. Because sometimes I live in a document folder. Like, oh, it's horrible. But everyone's self critical. So thank you guys. I really appreciate it. Any other questions? concerns? pesky? Little? Did you find anything interesting in these documents? Are the Guardian chat maybe? Do you want to just say them? Is there any recourse if there is no legitimacy to draw? significant assistance? QUESTION And I'm trying to think of maybe best we could put our heads together. And I think that's a question that we should have Alan Wilson answer, honestly. Yeah. Well,

Beth Braden 30:59

I guess like there is the warrant out for gerada rest, but the recourse here would be against probably like Rutherford and or Manning. So that would seem to be like an OTC thing that right, and we know how that's going.

Mandy Matney 31:16

It's not going. It's non existent. And not a lot of another big problem that we run into over and over again, is qualified immunity, like a lot of and not a lot of states have that. And I feel like the last time we asked Eric about it, he was like, almost impossible to get a judge in trouble. Either charged them with anything or to sue them for I don't think you can sue a judge because I think they have in South Carolina, I think for the most part, they have qualified immunity. There might there's probably people involved, that are listening, no more.

Beth Braden 32:09

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And honestly, I think that, you know, and that was it. Like all the old ladies who taught us things in school, we're constantly harping on it, but like really, like, vote and be active civically? Because it's not. We can't do much about what has happened in the past. But moving forward, when people are engaged civically, in their communities that are keeping an eye and helping hold the government accountable, like maybe we can prevent these kinds of things from happening going forward.

Mandy Matney 32:40

Right. I mean, there's always something that can be done being pesky with your state senators, or any state senators, any state lawmakers in any sort of letters, emails that you could write on and say that I judges need to be able to be held accountable. And you guys need to do something about this. The our South Carolina legislator is just acting like their hands are tied, knot, this system all restaurant, it begins and ends with them. And if they would just let go of this idea of the way that it just cannot let go of this idea that the way that we elect judges is the best way. And it clearly isn't because look at everything that we've found so far. And I'm tired of people saying that. And I know that no system is perfect. And I know that electing judges by a popular vote is has its fair share of problems. But what we are doing here in South Carolina is not good. And it just keeps getting worse. And I am deeply, deeply, deeply concerned after everything that we have found out not only through the Satterfield case and the Murdoch is that this other layer that we have found recently with the drug price case and how much power judges have and how it just goes on just It's terrifying. Again, this whole mission that we've been on is okay, if I am judged me and and I was thinking of whether or not in which is, if any prisoners convinced to have a reduced and I just cannot I've yet to find a logical reason with public safety in mind as to why Manning would have said yes to this guy. And I know that there has to be other prisoners, a lot of other prisoners out there who have a better record of this guy and are still in prison and probably won't get out there. Really?

Beth Braden 35:04

Yeah, well, and think about what we were talking about earlier, like the Leo Schofield case out of Florida. Like, that's an innocent man, and they still didn't parole them.

Mandy Matney 35:14

Right. Right. Again, it's like

Beth Braden 35:20

I'm gonna say I saw a an interesting question in chat about these drop price documents. Can I read it and answer it? Yeah, go for it. Yeah. So we had somebody asked, is there any chance that price being a hero in jail by saving the guard was redacted? Which is an interesting question, like, honestly, like to just be honest, like, I hadn't considered that they would redact that since I asked specifically for it. But they did cite several exemptions. So when I assume that that's possible, what do you what do you say to me, it seems to me like they would have even redacted like, sensitive parts of it, but at least confirm, you know, what I'm saying? Like if SCDC had the ability to confirm why would.

Mandy Matney 36:10

Right, I feel like there would have been at least like there was nothing with the date. There were no reports with that, with those dates on it. Remember, we were like looking for that there was there would be a there wouldn't leave. Or there should have been at least a shell of a report and incident happened on blog day. And I could see the victims names being blacked out and redacted. But I mean, in a lot of these cases, the guards who were victims, their names were not redacted. They

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didn't really go light on when you get a FOIA, but you can kind of tell if a person that was overlooking it had a heavy hand and redacting, I've gotten police reports back from our chairs office and help men that they they redacted the city of where the incident took place. And I was like, Excuse me. Sometimes they get really heavy handed, and you have to argue with them and tell them insanity. But in this case, we mean, we found no trace, and if anybody else, if I'm wrong, please let me know. That's why we sent the documents to you guys. 500 pages. And again, every time I look at this, I find new things that I didn't see anything that was close to an incident report like that can backup anything? That's a great question. Anything to add to that?

Beth Braden 37:59

Note, like, that pretty much covers it. Like I like I said, I assume it's possible, it doesn't seem probable.

Mandy Matney 38:05

Right, exactly. And I feel like in this case, would have been the first thing that they would have been able to produce because SCDC does not look great in this entire scenario. SCDC, it just looks like things are in I know that this all isn't their fault, but it just looks was out of control and all of a sudden. And I can't blame this on the SCDC. But anyways, I would think that at SCDC, if there was any record of this existing, I would think that they cost.

Beth Braden 38:57

Right. Right, because like they get enough negative press. So it seems to me they would want to like show us something positive or show, you know, any of the journalists requesting this information, something positive if there was something positive to tell about them.

Mandy Matney 39:24

What other questions do we have? Yeah. I mean, these scenarios in your thinking, if you're every time you FOIA to and you get records back, you think of the person who is in charge of the FOIA and usually they want their department to look good. And that's just kind of a natural instinct, or sometimes they want to expose them you never know. But in this case, the SCDC I would think that they would want to trust the system more. And I feel like if they had any evidence of this superhero act occurring, then they would have gone forward with it they would have been able to produce. And I think that it's very telling that not only they, they weren't able to produce that. Apparently they were able, they, they were able to produce a lot of evidence to the contrary that he should not have been deeply, deeply problematic.