

FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

DAN HUGHES, ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

September 18, 2012

In the past year there has been a request by Ron Thomas to clear the name of his son, Kelly Thomas. The Mayor and city council have asked me to work with Mr. Thomas in an effort to understand what that exactly means and, working with him, we have jointly agreed on the following:

On the night of July 5, 2011, Kelly Thomas was in possession of a backpack. Inside the backpack was a passport, a computer tablet, mail addressed to an attorney, and keys to a Lexus. None of these items belonged to Kelly Thomas. It was later learned, after the date of the incident, that the owner of the backpack inadvertently left his backpack in a public place, and that the keys, passport, and computer tablet belonged to the owner of the backpack. It was also later determined the attorney to whom the mail in the backpack was addressed had thrown the mail away in a public trash can. There is no evidence of which the Police Department is now aware that Kelly Thomas stole the backpack and its contents.

None of the officers involved in the Kelly Thomas incident suffered any broken bones, as was initially reported by the hospital. On the night of the incident, hospital officials provided a Doctor's First Report form indicating a diagnosis of fractured ribs involving one of the officers and another officer required minor surgery but subsequent doctor visits revealed the ribs were strained, not fractured.

Finally, on July 5, 2011, the Fullerton Police Department received a report from a citizen who advised the Fullerton Police Department she observed Kelly Thomas attempting to break into vehicles. This was the only call received regarding such observations. With the exception of this report, there is no evidence of which the Fullerton Police Department is now aware that Kelly Thomas actually tried to steal anything from any vehicles.