On August 10, 2016, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement took a sworn recorded statement from Jason Ciaschini, a Captain of the Punta Gorda Police Department regarding the investigation into the accidental death of Mary Knowlton. A review of that statement reveals that Captain Jason Ciaschini was intentionally untruthful. A brief summary of different issues within his statement are as follows:

1. Captain Jason Ciaschini attempts to convince the FDLE agent that his role was “limited” in an effort to minimize his involvement in the planning, coordinating and overseeing of the event. Those examples are as follows (with related transcribed interview page number).
   1. “Uh, my role tonight was relatively limited.” – Page 2
   2. “I don’t have any details of who specifically for the different portions of the evening did what.” – Page 7
   3. “Yeah, but, yeah, I have no information on who was supposed to do what or how the scenarios were even supposed to play out” – Page 8
   4. “I almost didn’t even stay there because my role for the evening was so limited.”
   5. “My primary…role has always been tour guide.” – Page 16
   6. “I’ve never really paid much attention to who was fulfilling what role.” – Page 18
   7. “I’ve never really looked into who was this role, who was that role.” – Page 19

Captain Jason Ciaschini is the longest-standing, most experienced command officer at the agency (at that time and currently). A check of Captain Ciaschini’s electronic Outlook calendar would not only reveal that he was invited to and attended numerous planning meetings for prior events, but that he also attended planning meetings for the event on August 9th. Not only did he attend the meetings, but each of the electronic Outlook calendar invites were accompanied by a draft event itinerary detailing which officer was doing what. Those draft itineraries were review with Jason at the planning meetings with no input from Captain Ciaschini about the lack of a safety officer or any safety issue at all.

Captain Ciaschini’s attendance at these meetings and the fact that he was supplied with itineraries detailing officers’ roles is in direct conflict with his testimony, detailed above specifically in b, e, f and g.

Also, Captain Ciaschini has attended almost every or every previous community demonstration of this type as evident by his statement “No, it looked very routine, like the same scenarios I’ve seen dozens, and dozens, and dozens of times.” These scenarios are not used in officer training as most all Punta Gorda Police Officers have seen them through community demonstrations. The only way Jason could have seen them is at these same type community demonstrations. His statement is directly contradictory to c. above, “I have no information on …how the scenarios were even supposed to play out.” The fact of the matter is, the scenarios have never changed and that was always discussed in the planning meetings with Captain Ciaschini present.

Aside from the electronic evidence that you will find within the Outlook calendar of Captain Jason Ciaschini, an interview of the command officers that were employed with the Punta Gorda Police Department at the time, will supply you with the proof you need to prove that Captain Jason Ciaschini was a major role in the planning and coordinating of these events to include the event on August 9th.

1. Captain Jason Ciaschini has a number of years of experience in Firearms and Simunitions and is aware of the rules and safety precautions that must be followed. Consider the following statements made by Captain Ciaschini during his sworn FDLE interview on August 10th:
   1. “I’ve been through lots and lots of Simunitions-related training over the years” – Page 18
   2. “like the same scenarios I’ve seen dozens, and dozens, and dozens of times.” – Page 22

Captain Jason Ciaschini, with almost two decades of police training at this point, claiming to have lots and lots of Simunitions-related training and claiming to have a very limited role (that of only a tour guide), admits to giving Captain Woodard and Mary Knowlton the go-ahead nod to start the scenario after seeing Lee Coel leave the safe zone, dressed for the scenario, before ensuring that a safety officer had checked Lee Coel back in. Those statements are reflected as follows:

* 1. “The only time that I actually had interaction with him (Lee Coel) was prior to the scenario I saw him walking to his vehicle. He was kind of already suited-up for the scenario.” – Page 23
  2. “I… kind of at one point motioned for him (Captain Woodard who was with Mary Knowlton) to come outside.”

Why would Captain Ciaschini, with a self-described limited role who knows nothing about the scenario set-up, give a nod to start the scenario without checking to ensure everyone was ready, especially after seeing Lee Coel outside of the safe zone, a violation he is keenly aware of with his “lots and lots of Simunitions training”. If you view the building surveillance video from that night, you can clearly see Captain Woodard with Mary Knowlton outside by the Punta Gorda Police Department Training Room door. They (Captain Woodard and Mary Knowlton) begin to enter the scenario after being nodded to by Captain Jason Ciaschini. The fact, which is clearly seen on the video, is that Jason Ciaschini started the scenario without making sure everything was safe.

1. Captain Jason Ciaschini abandons his oath to protect and assist the public directly following the shots being fired. If you review the video from that night, you will note that Captain Jason Ciaschini is the only officer that does nothing to assist Mary Knowlton. He is not responding to her location, he is not getting on a two-way radio that is on his belt to summon help (even though numerous officers are screaming for help), he is not getting on his cell phone to summon help, or any other measure of assistance that he took a sworn oath to do. To cover for his inaction, he offered the following to the FDLE agent taking his statement:
   1. When asked who ushered the witnesses back into the building following the shooting, Captain Jason Ciaschini told the FDLE agent, under oath, “I did.” – Page 20
   2. And Captain Ciaschini goes on to add, “I know that I asked some people to go inside.”

A review of the Punta Gorda Police Department building surveillance video, proves those statements to be lies amounting to Perjury, a criminal offense in the State of Florida. These statements were made in desperation to cover for his inaction as a police officer, the only officer not to assist Mary Knowlton.