

CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA / SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

THE DOOR. THE WARRANT. THE AFTERMATH.

Natasha Lopez, Corporal Charles Aaron Mills, and the records behind a disputed home entry



Charles Aaron Mills — supplied photograph. This image does not depict the Lopez incident.

An evidence-led, simplified master document prepared for the forthcoming Shields of Shame video investigation. The story centers on Lopez; older Mills records supply documented context, not proof of what happened at her home.

READ THE ORIGINAL REPORTING • shieldsofshame.com/natasha-lopez-v-chokeee-county-sheriffs-office-in-georgia-the-battle-of-rights/

01 / THE CASE IN ONE MINUTE

On August 30, 2025, Cherokee County Corporal Charles Aaron Mills came to Natasha Lopez's home in an investigation involving her adult son. Lopez says she demanded a warrant and called 911 when Mills entered. Home-camera footage was reported by WSB-TV and Atlanta News First to show the encounter; court records reviewed by WSB-TV show a search warrant was signed after Mills had already entered. Lopez was arrested on an obstruction charge, which was still pending in September 2026. [1][2]

The sheriff's office internally cleared the involved officers, according to the Georgia POST investigative narrative included in the supplied file. A later POST document dated May 18, 2026 proposes probation on Mills's certification, but explicitly says the recommendation is not a final decision. [D1]

On September 22, 2026, WSB-TV reported that Mills was on administrative leave amid an investigation into allegations that he operated a Facebook page targeting Lopez; the sheriff's office said it requested an independent GBI investigation. These are reported allegations and an investigation, not an adjudicated finding. [1]

02 / THE SEQUENCE THAT MATTERS

August 29–30, 2025 — The underlying motorcycle investigation leads Mills to Lopez's home. Times in different secondary accounts vary; the definitive timecoded video and warrants should control the video edit.

August 30, 2025 — Lopez asks for a warrant; she says Mills entered, interrupted her 911 call and arrested her. Independent news outlets report the warrant was signed after entry. [1][2]

September 17, 2025 — The POST investigative narrative records Lopez's complaint to Cherokee County. [D1]

September 26, 2025 — The same narrative quotes the sheriff's internal conclusion that officers acted within policy and would not face administrative action. This is the agency's finding, not a court ruling. [D1]

November 17–December 3, 2025 — The supplied POST profile lists an investigation opened November 17; the profile itself was generated December 3. [D2]

April 28–May 18, 2026 — POST probable-cause committee recommendation dated April 28 is communicated in a May 18 proposed-discipline notice: probation proposed, final Council action not established by this document. [D1]

September 22, 2026 — WSB-TV and Atlanta News First report renewed scrutiny, administrative leave and ongoing legal proceedings. [1][2]

03 / THE DOCUMENT THAT CHANGES THE FRAME



PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL Investigations Division

Deputy Mills, Charles Aaron
Administrative
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office

Juvenile Involved

Case Number: 009-320-11-25
Violations: Improper arrest or detention
False imprisonment under color of legal process
Separation Status: Still employed
Officer: Mills, Charles Aaron
O219175

Exhibits:

- A. POST documents
(investigations, basic allegations, violation details, officer profile, notice letter, investigation closed)
- B. Witness list
- C. Email correspondence
- D. Response letter, appendices, & letter of representation
- E. Complaint emails (GBI director, school board police chief, OPS, & request for DA referral to GBI) & USB drive
- F. Internal investigation report (Case #: 2025-00034) & USB drive
- G. Public written statement (Cherokee CO SO)
- H. Arrest report (SO25-012319), use of force report, & 2 supplemental reports
- I. Arrest warrants (Joseph C. Helms & Natasha L. Lopez) & uniform citation/summons (Taylor S. Zoeller)
- J. Search warrants (921 Little River Ln, Ring LLC, & Helms' iPhone)

Narrative: The following is a summary of the information provided to this investigator.

On 09/17/25, Ms. Natasha Lee Lopez filed a complaint with Cherokee CO SO stating that Deputy Mills unlawfully entered her residence without a search warrant and then shortly thereafter, unlawfully arrested her for obstruction. The complaint also included Deputy Hart, who was initially on scene with Mills, and LT Brookshire, who later arrived on scene. An internal investigation was initiated and LT Barone was the assigned investigator. All three deputies (Mills, Hart, & Brookshire) were exonerated on all accusations in the complaint. On 09/26/25, Barone emailed Lopez a letter explaining the results of the investigation. The letter stated, *"This investigation determined that Corporal Mills' action and every other law enforcement officer's action on scene were lawful and within policy and procedure of the Cherokee Sheriff's Office. The officers have been exonerated. As a result, administrative action will not be taken against the officers."* Per the IA report, the results of the internal investigation were approved and signed by the Division Commander, noting no further action was required and the evidence showed that the incident did occur and was lawful or proper. See Exhibit E for the IA report and recordings (body, vehicle, & other camera recordings).

The circumstances in this case began on 08/29/25, when Deputy Mills identified a speeding motorcycle (driver later identified as Joseph C. Helms) at 70-mph in a 40-mph zone. As the motorcycle passed Mills' patrol vehicle in the opposite direction, Mills made a U-turn in an attempt to make a traffic stop on the motorcycle. Mills radioed to other officers in the area of the situation. Other officers, with their blue lights activated, saw the speeding motorcycle but quickly lost sight of it due to the excessive speed.

ww/01/15/26

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Evidence excerpt D1: POST investigator narrative, supplied case file p. 4. Includes the complaint, agency findings and contested account.

GEORGIA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

Chris Harvey
Executive Director



Notification of Proposed P.O.S.T. Discipline

CHARLES AARON MILLS, RESPONDENT

May 18, 2026

RE: Proposed Sanction of Your P.O.S.T. Certification(s) Status

(This shall constitute Official Notice in this matter)

The Georgia P.O.S.T. Probable Cause Committee met on April 28, 2026 and proposed the sanction(s) be placed on your certification(s).

The proposed sanction(s) is not a final decision. It is a recommendation from the Probable Cause Committee (PCC) that will be presented to the Full POST Council for a vote. In response to this notification, you have two (2) options:

Option 1: If you choose to accept the proposed sanction(s) - which will become final only if the Full Council votes to approve it - take no action at this time. If you do not request a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification letter, POST Staff cannot guarantee that any additional information provided by you will be sent to the Council for their review prior to a final vote, and; the proposed sanction will be forwarded to Full Council for a final decision.

IMPORTANT: If the recommended sanction is "withhold revocation, place on probation," do not attempt to complete any of the conditions stipulated in this letter until your status reflects "On Probation" on your POST Data Gateway demographics page. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your probation shall result in the suspension of your POST certification(s) until proof of compliance is provided to POST or until the probation period ends - whichever occurs first.

Option 2: You may request a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) within thirty (30) days of the date of this Notification of Proposed POST Discipline. The PHC is voluntary and consists of a one (1) hour in-person meeting with a POST Hearings Investigator. You may use this time to discuss your case and/or present additional information for the Council to consider prior to its final vote. To submit your request for a PHC, you must complete and scan each of the requirements detailed on the Written Expression of Chosen Option page and email to POST at petitions@gapost.org with a "read receipt." You may also send originals via mail (with tracking) to: Georgia POST Council, PO Box 349, Clarkdale, Georgia 30111-0349 within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter:

If all three steps are not completed and submitted to POST within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter, the recommended sanction will go before the Full Council to be voted on and no additional information or evidence will be reviewed by the Council.

Following the Pre-Hearing Conference, you will receive a Notification of POST Discipline detailing the Full Council's decision regarding any sanction of your certification. Regardless of which option you choose, your case will ultimately go before the Full Council for a final vote.

For POST Council,
Chris Harvey, Executive Director
Cc: File

O219175 0093201125 May 18, 2026

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Evidence excerpt D1: May 18, 2026 proposed POST discipline notice, p. 1. A proposed sanction is not a final sanction.

04 / BEFORE LOPEZ: THE PAPER TRAIL

The earlier disciplinary documents matter because they show that Mills had been the subject of repeated formal reviews. Each episode is distinct from Lopez's arrest; a warning or sustained administrative allegation is not automatically a criminal conviction.



Cherokee Sheriff's Office
498 Chattin Drive
Canton, Georgia 30115
(678) 493-4200
Fax (678) 493-4149

"A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY"



Roger Garrison, Sheriff

TO: Major Cushing
FROM: Major Martin 
DATE: July 9, 2018
SUBJECT: Final Report of Internal Affairs Investigation

1. On July 9, 2018, Lt. Barone received an AIC involving Deputy Aaron Mills. On July 6, 2018, Deputy Kurtz Garfield advised Sergeant A. Azaroff that he witnessed Aaron Mills operate his personal motor vehicle with an open container of alcohol. Sergeant Azaroff instructed Deputy Garfield to complete a detailed memorandum that is attached to the AIC.
2. Lt. Barone interviewed Deputy Aaron Mills during this investigation. All video and reports pertaining to this incident were reviewed. The details of this investigation are outlined in the attached IA Case Report.
3. The findings of the investigation are as follows: Cherokee Sheriff's Office policy 01-03-02 (F) (2) states: 2. **UNBECOMING CONDUCT:** Employees shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on the agency. Conduct unbecoming shall include that which tends to discredit or cause the public to lose confidence in the agency or Cherokee County government; which is prejudicial to good order.

By Deputy A. Mills' own admission, he had consumed an open container of alcohol while he was in operation of his personal vehicle. Therefore, the allegation Deputy Mills violated the Cherokee Sheriff's Office Code of Conduct policy is **SUSTAINED**.

Cc: Sheriff Reynolds
Chief Ball

Evidence excerpt D3: July 9, 2018 internal affairs report states an unbecoming-conduct allegation was sustained after Mills admitted consuming alcohol while operating his personal vehicle.

CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM

To: D/S C. Mills
Sgt. D. Lavine
Lt. B. Anderson
Capt. J. Satterfield
Major O. Cushing

From: Chief Deputy K. Ball

Date: January 25, 2018

Subject: Accident Review Board Results

1. In accordance with the Vehicle and Personal Accident Review policy # 01-02-05, an Accident Review Board was convened on January 4, 2018. The board found **Deputy Mills** to be **AT FAULT** in his accident 17-101208 for striking a vehicle stopped in front of him while distracted (looking at his MDT).
2. The following failures of policies or procedures were noted: **N/A**
3. The following failures in training were noted: **N/A**
4. The following remedial action will be administered: **Supervisor recommendation**
5. The following disciplinary action will be administered: **Supervisor recommendation**

Evidence excerpt D4: January 25, 2018 accident-review memo finds Mills at fault for striking a stopped vehicle while distracted by his mobile data terminal.



Cherokee Sheriff's Office

498 Chattin Drive
Canton, Georgia 30115
(678) 493-4200
Fax (678) 493-4109

"AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY"



Frank Reynolds, Sheriff

TO: Lt. Colonel W. J. Smith 
FROM: Captain Kim Thompson
DATE: July 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Final Report of Internal Affairs Investigation

1. On July 14, 2023, I began an investigation on alleged misconduct against Deputy Charles Mills.
2. I completed a interview with Deputy Mills.
3. The findings of the investigation are as follows:

Cherokee Sheriff's Office Policy # 04-02-05 (D) (1) # 04-02-03 (P) (2) (b) (5) States # 01-03-02 (F) (6)

04-02-05 Traffic Enforcement

D. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS INCIDENTAL TO TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATIONS :

1. **AUTHORITY:** Deputies are authorized to stop motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, if they have reasonable articulable suspicion that a traffic violation has occurred AND to take follow-up action that is appropriate to the degree of seriousness of the violation OR as a result of information obtained after the stop. (OCGA 15-16-10)

04-02-03 Vehicle Pursuits

P. **OFFENSIVE TACTICS:** (CALEA 41 .2.3a 6th ed.) Offensive tactics can be used to stop a violator who is pursued for one of the above offenses, providing it is safe to do so and the officer has been trained in how to perform the particular tactic to be used. WHEN MAKING THE DECISION TO PERFORM ANY OFFENSIVE TACTIC, THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION AND THE RISK SURROUNDING THE PURSUIT MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST THE NEED TO CAPTURE THE VIOLATOR. DEPUTIES MUST CAREFULLY EVALUATE THE TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEFORE INITIATING ANY OFFENSIVE TACTIC. Officers do not have to use an offensive tactic, even when otherwise justified, if he or she does not want to. Deputies will receive training on the below authorized forcible stopping techniques and roadblock procedures. (CALEA 41.2.3c 6th ed.)

Evidence excerpt D5: July 25, 2023 final internal-affairs report introduces the vehicle-pursuit investigation. See the underlying report for the agency's complete findings.

Other supplied records include 2018–2023 internal-investigation warnings, a 2023 code-of-conduct inquiry, 2025 equipment/interview investigations, a Georgia POST training profile and two extensive Axon device audit trails. A warning documents a compelled administrative interview; it does not by itself establish misconduct. [D2][D5–D9]

05 / WHAT THE CAMERA AND AUDIT TRAILS CAN PROVE

The most compelling video sequence will put Lopez's interior-camera recording beside the exterior camera, dispatch/911 audio, Mills's report, the signed-warrant time and the Axon audit timestamps. Do not infer that "audio recording disabled due to video buffering default" means an officer deliberately muted a camera: it is a routine device-status description in the supplied audit data. [D10]

Video insert A: exterior view of entry; **B:** interior view and Lopez asking for a warrant; **C:** 911 call; **D:** arrest; **E:** warrant signature and service; **F:** Mills's account versus footage; **G:** subsequent complaint and POST correspondence. Exact frames require the original video files and

timestamps.

06 / THE TWO ACCOUNTS

Lopez's account: she says Mills entered without a signed warrant, detained family members and arrested her for insisting on a warrant. Her public petition also alleges harm to family members. Those claims should be attributed to Lopez until independently established. [3]

Sheriff's office account: its internal review concluded that the officers' actions were within policy, according to the POST narrative. An internal policy finding does not decide constitutional questions or the pending criminal charge. [D1]

Current reported status: WSB-TV reported administrative leave and a requested GBI investigation over the alleged Facebook activity. The solicitor general's office told WSB-TV there were no plans at that time to drop Lopez's obstruction charge. [1]

07 / NATASHA LOPEZ — SOURCE CREDIT

A major acknowledgment to **Natasha Lopez** for preserving, organizing and sharing case material, including the interior home-camera footage that places the public inside the encounter. Her persistence made it possible to compare official descriptions against contemporaneous recordings. Her allegations and conclusions remain attributed to her; the evidence deserves independent review.

FOLLOW NATASHA / NATASHA NOBLE — facebook.com/Noblesocials

Her Facebook profile photograph and post screenshots have NOT been reproduced here: they could not be independently retrieved and verified. Insert authorized, dated originals in a later edition; exclude children's identifying details and private contact information.

08 / RELATED CHEROKEE RECORDS

The supplied 2025 internal-affairs packet includes a separate allegation involving a complainant's records and agency-equipment/interview practices; the packet includes a January 24, 2025 letter saying investigators found no security violation. That conclusion belongs to that separate inquiry and should not be treated as proof for or against Lopez's claims. [D6]

The 2023 pursuit review concerns Daniel Toney and contains Mills's own account of using Flock information during the investigation. It is a separate event and should be presented as context for reviewing investigative methods, not conflated with Lopez's case. [D5]

09 / ABOUT SHIELDS OF SHAME

Shields of Shame publishes public-records-based reporting on police conduct, accountability systems, body-camera evidence and the outcomes of internal and external investigations. Its goal is to let readers inspect the underlying record and distinguish allegation, agency finding and independently corroborated fact.

Website: shieldsofshame.com | **Facebook:** facebook.com/Shieldsofshame | **Instagram:** instagram.com/shieldsofshame/ | **TikTok:** tiktok.com/@shieldsofshame | **Rumble:** rumble.com/user/Shieldofshame

YouTube: youtube.com/channel/UCM9tnaM29_jP9pUgVd49sNw

SUPPORT THE OPEN RECORDS FUND: gofund.me/8b866727 | Cash App \$madvideos | Venmo @madvideos | PayPal madvideos@gmail.com

10 / SOURCE REGISTER AND EDITORIAL NOTE

[1] WSB-TV, September 22, 2026: <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/deputy-leave-after-allegations-he-created-facebook-page-harass-woman-he-arrested/4INRIUMRZJBVDGGO7HUQNUCEOU/>

[2] Atlanta News First, September 22, 2026:
<https://www.atlantaneWSfirst.com/2026/09/22/legal-battle-between-cherokee-county-deputy-mother-arrested-reaches-yearlong-mark/>

[3] Lopez's public petition: <https://www.change.org/p/demand-an-independent-investigation-into-cherokee-county-sheriff-s-office-misconduct>

[D1] Uploaded "Mills, Charles case file_Redacted(2).pdf", pp. 1–4.

[D2] Uploaded "mills, charles.pdf", POST profile generated Dec. 3, 2025, p. 1.

[D3] Uploaded "Drinking and Driving 2018_Redacted(2).pdf", p. 1.

[D4] Uploaded "Mills, Charles-3(1).pdf", p. 1.

[D5] Uploaded "2023-00031 - Mills, Charles - Courtesy - Vehicle Pursuits_Redacted(2).pdf", pp. 1–4.

[D6] Uploaded "2025-00001(a) - Mills, Charles - Agency Equipment; Interviews and Interrogations_Redacted(2).pdf", pp. 1–4.

[D7] Uploaded "2023-00001 - Mills, Charles (Aaron) - Code of Conduct_Redacted(2).pdf".

[D8] Uploaded Garrity warning forms, 2018–2023.

[D9] Uploaded "2025-00001(b) - Mills, Charles - Agency Equipment; Interviews and Interrogations_Redacted(2).pdf".

[D10] Uploaded Axon Body 3 and Body 4 device audit reports; long-form technical records, not fully reconciled against the Lopez video.

Publication note: Compiled September 23, 2026. No finding of criminal guilt is implied. A POST proposal is not a final Council order. This is public-interest reporting, not legal advice. Screenshots are labeled evidence excerpts; original files remain unchanged. Redacted pages may still contain private information and should be reviewed before public redistribution.