Friday, November 6, 2026 at 8:35:06 AM Mountain Standard Time

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Subject:	ABC15: Buckeye Fire Cadet Harassment / Interview Requests
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 8:47:42 AM Mountain Standard Time
From:	Biscobing, David
To:	jrhoades@buckeyeaz.gov, dsandstrom@buckeyeaz.gov, abeaman@buckeyeaz.gov, mgomez@buckeyeaz.gov, jshano@buckeyeaz.gov
Attachments:	Joe Frazier Pic.jpg, Ryan CLark Pic.jpeg

Chief Jake Rhoades and Buckeye city leaders,

ABC15 has obtained records and body camera video related to the City of Buckeye's investigation into allegations involving former Fire Captain Joe Frazier, Fire Engineer Ryan Clark, and the department's cadet and rider programs. The records include a police report, the city's investigative report on the matter, and internal emails.

The records show the city substantiated allegations that sexually explicit conversations involving cadets and riders occurred on a recurring basis and found violations involving the Rider Program. Investigators also substantiated allegations involving workplace safety concerns related to Ryan Clark. The records further show the city issued a Notice of Intent to Terminate Joe Frazier, who resigned.

ABC15 is requesting sit-down interviews with: Chief Jake Rhoades and Ryan Clark.

We also have the following questions:

Leadership Response

1. On April 23, 2025, Chief Jake Rhoades stated in an email that he did not believe the matter warranted administrative leave at that time. Why not?

2. At what point was Joe Frazier placed on leave and/or removed from responsibilities involving riders, cadets, mentoring, recruiting, or the Rider/Cadet programs? Please provide the dates.

3. Did the city place any restrictions on contact between the subjects of the investigation and cadets, riders, witnesses, or potential witnesses while the investigation was ongoing?

4. What actions, if any, were taken to protect employees who reported concerns or expressed fears of retaliation?

Scope of the Investigation

5. Investigators concluded that sexually explicit conversations involving cadets and riders were substantiated and pervasive. Did investigators determine how long this conduct had been occurring and how many cadets and riders were impacted? If so, what were those determinations?

6. Did investigators determine whether supervisors or command staff had prior knowledge of concerns involving cadets or riders before the investigation began? If so, what were those determinations?

7. Did the city identify any prior complaints, reports, or concerns involving either Joe Frazier or Ryan Clark? If so, please provide specifics and dates.

Additional Cadets, Riders, and Potential Victims

8. After investigators substantiated sexual-harassment-related policy violations involving cadets and riders, did the city undertake any effort to identify additional cadets, riders, recruits, or former participants who may have been affected?

9. Did investigators review Rider Program and Cadet Program rosters to identify additional potential witnesses or affected participants?

10. How many current or former cadets and riders were contacted during that effort?

11. Did any additional cadets, riders, or former participants come forward after the investigation began?

Notification of Parents and Schools

12. Because the investigation involved a high school student participating in the Rider Program, did the city notify any parents or guardians (other than the primary student involved in the Frazier / Clark investigation) regarding concerns that arose during the investigation?

13. Did the city contact any high school, school district, career and technical education program, fire-science program, or school administrator regarding the investigation? If so, who was notified and when? What information was disclosed and shared?

14. If schools and parents were not notified, why not?

15. Did the city try to reach out to current and/or former program participants, parents, or educational partners after investigators substantiated these findings?

Questions Regarding Ryan Clark

16. What disciplinary action, if any, was ultimately imposed on Ryan Clark?

17. Is Ryan Clark currently employed by the City of Buckeye?

18. Is he currently allowed to participate in mentoring, recruiting, cadet, rider, or similar programs?

19. Does Ryan Clark dispute any of the investigative findings against him? If so, what does he dispute?

20. Will Ryan Clark agree to an interview with ABC15 regarding the investigation and findings?

Reforms and Accountability

21. What changes have been made to the Rider Program and Cadet Program since the investigation concluded?

22. Have any new policies, training requirements, reporting procedures, supervisory requirements, or youth-protection measures been adopted as a result of the investigation?

23. Has the city conducted any review to determine whether similar conduct may have occurred before this investigation or elsewhere within the department?

We would appreciate responses to these questions -- and confirmation as to whether the Chief and Clark will agree to our interview requests -- as soon as possible. **We would like to complete interviews with Chief Jake Rhoades and Ryan Clark by Friday**. We want to provide the Chief, Clark, and the city a full and meaningful opportunity to respond, and that is why we have not set a firm date for broadcast / publication.

We have also obtained public department photos of Rhoades and Clark (both attached). For Clark, we are requesting a standalone photo, if one exists. As an additional heads-up, we also plan to shoot b-roll of Buckeye fire facilities in the coming days.

Thank you,

Dave Biscobing
Chief Investigative Reporter
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KNXV-TV ABC15

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