



# Mike O'Connell

## Jefferson County Attorney

# **The Arrest and Informed Decision to Not Prosecute Scottie Scheffler:**

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## **Lessons Learned and Reminders Received**



**John Mills**

**Valhalla  
Golf Club**

**○ 5:07 a.m. • Traffic Fatality**



**John Mills**

**Accident Site**

**Gate 1**

*Shelbyville Road*

# Timeline:

Friday, May 17, 2024 - Day Two of the PGA Championship

- **5:07 a.m.** • **Traffic Fatality**
- **5:50 a.m.** • **Scottie Scheffler planned to be at Valhalla**

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- **6:02 a.m.** • **Scottie Scheffler in handcuffs**

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- **6:45 a.m.** • **Phone calls begin**

**“Who’s Scottie Scheffler?!”**



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- **6:00 a.m.** • **Traffic is backed up**
- **6:02 a.m.** • **Scottie Scheffler in handcuffs**
- **6:45 a.m.** • **Phone calls begin**
- **8:40 a.m.** • **Scottie Scheffler released**
- **10:08 a.m.** • **Scottie Scheffler tees off at Valhalla**

# The Review Begins



# Scottie Scheffler ends a chaotic day near the top of the PGA leader board

May 17, 2024 | Updated Fri., May 17, 2024 at 5:35 p.m.









# Lessons Learned:

- **Diligence in the review of the evidence can be time-consuming – and may require that you quietly sustain the slings and arrows of the public and the press who demand immediate answers and new material in our reality of the 24-hour news cycle – but it's worth it. Doing the right thing usually is.**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**UNIFORM CITATION**

OFFENDER / VIOLATOR	AGENCY <b>LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPT</b>		OR:	<b>0568000</b>	COURT
	NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL <b>SCHEFFLER, SCOTT ALEXANDER</b>		ATTN:		
	ALIAS NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL				
	ADDRESS (NUMBER, NAME, SUFFIX)				
	CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE-EXTENSION	
	ID TYPE		ID ST	S. S. NUMBER	
	OPERATOR'S LICENSE		TX		
	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL VEHICLE <input type="checkbox"/> PLACARDED HAZARDOUS VEHICLE				
	DATE OF BIRTH		SEX	RACE	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK <input type="checkbox"/> AM INDIAN OR ALASKA <input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN		
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT / OCCUPATION		CITY	STATE		
PROFESSIONAL GOLFER					
VEHICLE MAKE		VEHICLE MODEL	VEH. YEAR		
LEXUS		TX350	2024		
VEH. TYPE		REGISTRATION: STATE, YEAR, NUMBER	VEHICLE IDENTIFIERS		
			MPH		
			IN MPH ZONE		
			VIOL. KEY		

**POST-ARREST COMPLAINT**

**Charge 1: ASSAULT, 2ND DEGREE - POLICE OFFICER**

**Charge 2: CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEGREE**

**Charge 3: RECKLESS DRIVING**

**Charge 4: DISREGARD SIGNALS FROM OFFICERS DIRECTING TRAFFIC**

CHARGES AND COURT	uniform and a hi-visibility yellow reflective rain jacket. Detective Gillis stopped subject and attempted to give instructions. Subject refused to comply and accelerated forward, dragging Detective Gillis to the ground. Detective Gillis suffered pain, swelling, and abrasions to his left wrist and knee. He was transported to the hospital for further medical treatment by emergency medical personnel. Detective Gillis' uniform pants, valued at approximately \$50 were damaged beyond repair.				YEAR <b>24</b>
	COURT DATE		COURT TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PAYABLE	
	ARRESTED		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COURT	COURT LOCATION	
				Jefferson District Court - 600 West Jefferson St	
	COURT CASE NUMBER		TOTAL PREPAYABLE AMOUNT	NOT PREPAYABLE	
	WITNESS 1 NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL		STATE	ZIP CODE	
	DET. BRYAN GILLIS, LMPD TRAFFIC CODE #7720		KY	40208	
	WITNESS 1 ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET, SUFFIX)		CITY		
	2911 TAYLOR BLVD (LMPD HQ) KY		LOUISVILLE		
	WITNESS 2 NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL		STATE	ZIP CODE	
WITNESS 2 ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET, SUFFIX)		CITY			
<input type="checkbox"/> SERVING WARRANT FOR OTHER AGENCY SPECIFY: -		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VIDEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EVIDENCE HELD		
OFFICER SIGNATURE		BADGE#D. NUMBER	ASSIGNMENT		
ALLEN, J.		7652	1110		

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**UNIFORM CITATION**

OFFENDER / VIOLATOR	AGENCY <b>LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPT</b>		OR:	<b>0568000</b>	COURT			
	NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL <b>SCHEFFLER, SCOTT ALEXANDER</b>		ATTN:					
	ALIAS NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL							
	ADDRESS (NUMBER, NAME, SUFFIX)							
	CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE/EXTENSION				
	ID TYPE		ID ST	ID NUMBER				
	OPERATOR'S LICENSE		TX	S. S. NUMBER				
	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL VEHICLE <input type="checkbox"/> PLACARDED HAZARDOUS VEHICLE							
	DATE OF BIRTH		SEX	RACE				
	PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT / OCCUPATION			CITY				
VEHICLE	VEHICLE MAKE		VEHICLE MODEL	VEH. YEAR	VEHICLE COLOR			
	LEXUS		TX350	2024	BLK			
	VEH. TYPE		REGISTRATION: STATE, YEAR, NUMBER	VEHICLE IDENTIFIERS		MPH	IN MPH ZONE	VIOL. KEY
	LL		KY	2024	PGA029	PGA PLAYER VEHICLE		
	VIOLATION DATE		VIOLATION TIME	EXACT LOCATION OF VIOLATION		MILES	DIRECTION	CITY
				LOUISVILLE				
	KENTUCKY RESIDENT STATUS		<input type="checkbox"/> F. FULL-TIME <input type="checkbox"/> P. PART-TIME <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N. NON-RESIDENT		<input type="checkbox"/> VICTIM'S RELATIONSHIP TO OFFENDER SINGLE STRANGER		HAIR COLOR BROWN	
	ETHNIC ORIGIN		<input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON HISPANIC		ALCOHOL/DRUG INVOLVEMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL <input type="checkbox"/> DRUGS <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
	BREATH BLOOD URINE		B.A. RESULTS					

Detective Gillis was directing traffic into Gate 1 of the Valhalla Golf Course due to the road being closed in both directions from an earlier fatal collision. Listed subject was driving eastbound to gain access to the course. Subject pulled into the westbound lanes, where outbound traffic was flowing and to avoid backed up traffic. Detective Gillis was in the middle of the westbound lanes, in full LMPD uniform and a hi-visibility yellow reflective rain jacket. Detective Gillis stopped subject and attempted to give instructions. Subject refused to comply and accelerated forward, dragging Detective Gillis to the ground. Detective Gillis suffered pain, swelling, and abrasions to his left wrist and knee. He was transported to the hospital for further medical treatment by emergency medical personnel. Detective Gillis' uniform pants, valued at approximately \$80 were damaged beyond repair.

CHARGES	to comply and accelerated forward, dragging Detective Gillis to the ground. Detective Gillis suffered pain, swelling, and abrasions to his left wrist and knee. He was transported to the hospital for further medical treatment by emergency medical personnel. Detective Gillis' uniform pants, valued at approximately \$80 were damaged beyond repair.					
	COURT DATE		COURT TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> PAYABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COURT	COURT LOCATION	
	ARRESTED			Jefferson District Court - 600 West Jefferson St		YEAR
	COURT CASE NUMBER		TOTAL PREPAYABLE AMOUNT	NOT PREPAYABLE		24
	WITNESS 1 NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL		STATE	ZIP CODE	CONTROL NUMBER	1
	DET. BRYAN GILLIS, LMPD TRAFFIC CODE #7720		KY	40208		
	WITNESS 1 ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET, SUFFIX)		CITY		TYPE	ER02993
	2911 TAYLOR BLVD (LMPD HQ) KY		LOUISVILLE			
	WITNESS 2 NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI, FILIAL		STATE	ZIP CODE		
	WITNESS 2 ADDRESS (NUMBER, STREET, SUFFIX)		CITY			
<input type="checkbox"/> SERVING WARRANT FOR OTHER AGENCY SPECIFY: -		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VIDEO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EVIDENCE HELD				
OFFICER SIGNATURE		BADGE#D. NUMBER	ASSIGNMENT			
ALLEN, J.		7652	1110			

# Lessons Learned:

- **Policies exist for a reason, and need to be followed (and sometimes, need to be improved)**

2024-05-17 06:02:45 -0400  
AXON BODY 4 D01A14334









2024-05-17 06:05:14 -0400  
AXON BODY 4 D01A14334



2024-05-17 06:05:25 -0400  
AXON BODY 4 D01A14334



2024-05-17 06:02:49 -0400  
AXON BODY 4 D01A14334





# Lessons Learned:

- **It's elemental, my dear Watson**
  - **We all know we must have evidence to satisfy every element of an offense before we can ethically move forward with charges**
  - **Assault 2 • Serious Physical Injury? - NOPE**





**508.020 Assault in the second degree.**

- (1) A person is guilty of assault in the second degree when:
  - (a) He intentionally causes serious physical injury to another person; or
  - (b) He intentionally causes physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument; or
  - (c) He wantonly causes serious physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument.
- (2) Assault in the second degree is a Class C felony.

**Effective:** January 1, 1975

**History:** Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 66, effective January 1, 1975.

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(2) Assault in the second degree is a Class C felony.

**Effective:** January 1, 1975

**History:** Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 66, effective January 1, 1975.

### **189.393 Complying with traffic officer's signal.**

No operator of a vehicle, after having received a visual or audible signal from an officer directing traffic shall knowingly or wantonly disregard the signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of the traffic officer or other vehicles or pedestrians.

**Effective:** July 15, 1998

**History:** Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 606, sec. 160, effective July 15, 1998. -- Created 1972 Ky. Acts ch. 128, sec. 1

2024-05-17 06:02:49 -0400  
AXON BODY 4 D01A14334







	X Failure to Activate	Equipment Malfunction	Accidental Interruption
	X BWC		MVS
Name:	Kelvin watkins	Code #:	2142
Division:	Traffic Unit	Run Type:	FATAL COLLISION
Incident Date:	05/17/2024	Incident Location:	SHELBYVILLE RD/ GATE 1
Incident Time:	06:16	CAD Run #:	LMPD240161362
Report #:	LMPD24056805	Defendant:	SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

**Reason/Explanation for Not Recording:**

My bodycam was activated after I realized that this was a potential problem, I didn't catch the initial confrontation with Detective Gillis and Mr. Scheffler. My view was blocked by a bus. I noticed a problem only after walking up to the vehicle

**Explanation of What Would Have Been Captured:**

When I approached the vehicle Detective Gillis was trying to speak to Mr. Scheffler about getting out of the vehicle. After several attempts, Mr. Scheffler turned toward me and asked, "Are you a Police Officer". I stated, yes sir I am a Police Officer. At that point he opened the vehicle door and was placed under arrest by Detective Gillis.

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# From the PSU Report:

I believe there are a few issues that need to be noted regarding this incident:

1. Not a violation of policy, but tactically poor decision making by Det. Gillis regarding reaching into a vehicle that is running, is in drive, and the operator has the ability to pull away/accelerate. Whether Gillis grabbed Mr. Scheffler's arm, or Mr. Scheffler "pinned" Gillis's arm with his knee is immaterial had Gillis not crossed the plain into the vehicle's passenger compartment. In addition, the charges (at the time) were only traffic offenses (per KRS "Disregarding Signals From Officers Directing Traffic" is an arrestable B Misdemeanor). Det. Gillis has been verbally counseled regarding risk versus reward in response to this incident.



# Lessons Learned:

- **The *totality* of circumstances matters – and is worth the wait**
  - **In fairness to Gillis – it was a stressful situation, and they were there because of a tragic accident that resulted in a fatality. What Gillis saw was a bus that was stopped to let volunteers and workers out – they needed to cross the street to enter into Gate 1. He sees a car that pulls around traffic, starts going the wrong way in the opposite lane to get in – Gillis doesn't want another tragedy.**

# From the PSU Report:

2. Every other vehicle operating in the area obeyed all commands and followed instructions. That morning was hectic and stressful for all involved. When fatigue is added as a human factor, mistakes can occur. Yet, and this supports Det. Gillis's actions/determinations, every other driver did as directed throughout the abnormal operations outside Valhalla.

3. In addition to the second point, there is discussion about differing orders from one intersection to the next. Investigation has found no recorded instructions given to Mr. Scheffler approving him to bypass traffic by driving wrong way on Shelbyville Road. Given the distance between Beckley Station Road and Valhalla Gate 1 it is unreasonable to believe that directions or orders may change due to location specifics. Had Mr. Scheffler been given directions to drive straight through at Beckley Station Road by a member working the detail, that does not alleviate his requirement to follow directions at the next encounter/location/checkpoint.

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- **Witnesses Interviewed**
- **Marsy's Law Obligations**



# Mike's Closing Thoughts

- **Ethical obligations are your guiding light**
- **It is imperative to ensure ALL defendants receive procedural justice**
- **Seize your moment ethically**



