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Witness Statement

TT – Sgt. Tom Tatum GB - Inv. Glen Bennett TS – Dep. Taylor Sierstorppff

TT The recorder is on. This will be a taped interview reference to Internal Affairs case number 11-017. Today's date is April 20th and the time is currently 1347 hours. The location of this interview is Sheriff's Office Administrative Offices in Deland. Presently being interviewed is Dep. Taylor Sierstorppff, also present is Inv. Bennett with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Unit. I'm Sgt Tom Tatum with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit? Dep. Sierstorppff, are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

TS I am aware that this interview is being recorded.

TT Ok, as a law enforcement officer and a Notary Public of the state of Florida I am empowered to take sworn statements. At this time I would ask you to raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear and affirm that the statement you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

TS I do.

TT Alright, we are here to talk about an incident that took place on December 14th 2001 ok? And the way I understand it you and Dep. Whitener were dispatched to 1878 Holly Blvd in Deland. Do you recall that?

TS Yes I do.

TT Ok and here's the incident report just to refresh your memory.

TS Thank you.

32

33 TT So you recall...

34

35 TS The incident?

36

37 TT Going to that residence?

38

39 TS Yes I do sir.

40

41 TT Ok do you know who sent you to that residence?

42

43 TS Initially it was Travis Deane, Dep. Deane. He wanted me to go check out the
44 residence to find out where the truck was, his truck, it's a pretty specific truck the
45 defendant in this particular case truck, it's a large...

46

47 TT Where the defendants' truck is?

48

49 TS Yes which is at his residence, I didn't find it initially but I continued on and I
50 located it, it was all the way down at the end of the road.

51

52 TT Ok so did, was this a phone call that he made to you? Or how did that happen?

53

54 TS I believe it was yes, I believe it was a phone call or text message or something
55 along those lines to go and found out where this truck was.

56

57 TT Ok so you don't recall whether it was a phone call or text message?

58

59 TS Not specifically no.

60

61 GB But it was on your personal phone?

62

63 TS Yes it was on my personal phone correct.
64
65 TT Do you remember the content of the conversation or the text? Other than you
66 know can you find this vehicle?
67
68 TS No, only to go look for the vehicle and that it was in reference to [REDACTED] and
69 the defendant in this particular case I don't even remember his name.
70
71 TT Did he give you any particulars on what transpired to lead up to the point where
72 you were looking for his vehicle?
73
74 TS He may have and forgive me I haven't gone through a lot of this stuff in my mind
75 about happened that particular day and the sequence of things. It's quite possible
76 that he told me the specifics of you know the defendant pushed or touched [REDACTED]
77 in you know, against her will or whatever.
78
79 TT Ok so do you remember a specific conversation that you had with him about that?
80
81 TS Yes I do.
82
83 TT And you just don't remember the details of that conversation?
84
85 TS Correct.
86
87 TT Ok alright did anybody else have contact with you to go by the residence? Was
88 there a Sergeant involved?
89
90 TS Not that went to the residence initially, it was me to look for the car and I did find
91 the vehicle and I think the defendant actually saw me at that time and I just
92 continued by, I left and I notified Travis that I did find the vehicle and yes the
93 vehicle's there. And however period of time later there was a Sergeant up there

94 that I guess was dealing with Travis at the time and then eventually we came back
95 and arrested the defendant.
96
97 TT Do you remember who the Sergeant was?
98
99 TS Is might have been Sgt McGuire if I remember right because I was Delta shift.
100
101 TT Now is Delta shift your regular assignment or were you working overtime?
102
103 TS At that time, no at that time it was my regular shift.
104
105 TT Ok Sgt McGuire would be your sergeant on Delta shift?
106
107 TS Yes, yes he hadn't been there for very long at the time I don't believe.
108
109 TT Ok did he ever give you an I-call to go by the residence?
110
111 TS I don't want to lie but I don't, he could have, I don't remember.
112
113 TT So you don't remember an I-call from him or a phone call or an MDC message?
114
115 TS I'd like to say if I did, I'd like to say, I mean to, I don't recall.
116
117 TT Ok alright let me just show you something here. Lets see, do you know what your
118 terminal number is for your MDC?
119
120 TS Uh no, but I assume you're going to show me.
121
122 TT This M...
123
124 TS M236?

125

126 TT ...236

127

128 TS Ok

129

130 TT That appears to be yours because this is Chuck Whitener's...

131

132 TS Ok

133

134 TT Do you recall getting this MDC message from Dep. Deane that evening?

135

136 TS Yes, yes, I will read it, yes, I do remember getting messages yes.

137

138 TT Ok so when you respond to it via MDC or was that something that you responded
139 to over the phone or?

140

141 TS I probably responded via the MDC if he sent me a message there. I mean I could
142 continue reading if you'd like me to.

143

144 TT That's ok.

145

146 TS Ok

147

148 TT Alright so not only did he make contact with you by the phone wheter it be by cell
149 phone or via text he also sent you an MDC message go by the house...

150

151 TS Yes.

152

153 TT ...and check on Steven DeHut...

154

155 TS Yes

156 TT Ok alright so you and Dep. Whitener arrive at the residence?

157

158 TS Yes.

159

160 TT Kinda tell me about that.

161

162 TS We parked down the, maybe a house or two down, approached the residence on
163 foot, knocked on the door. And Dehut was the only one in the residence, he
164 answered the door and we kinds gave him the run down about what was going on.
165 I don't remember if Chuck or I placed him in handcuffs, it was probably Chuck,
166 but we, I told him about you know why he was being arrested because Dep.
167 Deane had a charging affidavit. And we didn't ask him specifics about what
168 happened but we placed him into custody.

169

170 TT So did he give you a statement as to what took place?

171

172 TS Yeah if I remember right a vague statement. I remember him saying specifically
173 as he was sitting down in the chair and his kind of living room here, as he was
174 sitting down, "I know what this is all about" he says. And then Chuck asked him
175 "you do" or something along those lines. And he said "yeah it's about Travis
176 Deane" etcetera I don't remember specific sorry.

177

178 TT De he anything in particular about the reason why you guys were there arresting
179 him? Did he make any kind of a statement?

180

181 TS Probably but I don't remember specifically what it was.

182

183 TT So you think he may have made some kind of a statement as to what took place
184 with he and [REDACTED]?

185

186 TS Right.

187

188 TT But you don't recall?

189

190 TS Correct, I'm sorry.

191

192 TT Ok did you notice anything about the house? Did you notice any damage inside
193 of the house?

194

195 TS None, nothing that I saw that was like blatantly obvious no I did not.

196

197 TT In your conversations with Dep. Deane did he ask you to do any follow up
198 investigation for the domestic violence incident that he was investigating? I mean
199 like did he ask you to take picture of any damage? Did he ask you to take...

200

201 TS No.

202

203 TT ...statements or anything like that?

204

205 TS I'm wavering on the statement I don't remember if he told me to get a statement
206 but I don't believe he did because I would have gotten a statement if he had
207 asked. I think he had the charging affidavit and Dep. Whitener excuse me Sgt
208 Whitener and I were there just to follow up on the 707 and go from there. I don't
209 believe he asked me to do any follow up.

210

211 TT Did you go inside the residence?

212

213 TS Yes.

214

215 TT Did you see any like holes in the walls or anything like that, that you recall?

216

217 TS Not that I recall, no Sarge.

218

219 TT Ok did you have the affidavit at that point or were you still waiting on it?

220

221 TS It was probably in route, because I know it was finished because we wouldn't
222 have gone there unless it was finished because he was already wrapping things up.
223 I don't remember if it was in my hands or not. But I know that it was done.

224

225 TT Do you know who dropped it off to you? I realize it was December and it was
226 several months ago if you can remember.

227

228 TS And I'm really sorry. It was probably gone through like a hand to hand kind of
229 thing from up there, it might have been, I was thinking it was maybe the Sergeant
230 but I don't, it could have been handed to me I mean just because Pierson is such a
231 long ways away from 24 zone.

232

233 TT Right.

234

235 TS And I don't even remember who transported him to be completely honest.

236

237 TT That was going to be my other question.

238

239 TS Sorry.

240

241 TT But you don't recall if you transported him? Because I believe it was Dep.
242 Whitener?

243

244 TS It could have been...

245

246 TT Who took him to the PT unit for transport?

247

248 TS I do remember that because he got a, he had an SUV if I'm not mistaken.

249

250 TT Yeah I think he did at the time.

251

252 TS I think he had and SUV and I remember him getting in the, yes, I remember
253 Chuck transporting him vaguely.

254

255 TT Do you anything about Dep. Deane's personal relationship with [REDACTED]?

256

257 TS Not personal relationship, I mean I'm not really, Deane and I are friends but I
258 mean we bullshit back, excuse my language, BS back and forth but I don't
259 know about his personal relationship with [REDACTED].

260

261 TT So you don't you know what kind of relationship he has with [REDACTED]?

262

263 TS Had with [REDACTED] no, I'm pretty sure that they have no contact whatsoever anymore
264 but I know before that they were pretty friendly. I mean they were friends on
265 facebook and they'd text back and forth on the phone and you know, he's kind of
266 like an extravert fun guy or whatever. I guess they liked each other as friends. I
267 don't know if there was anything beyond that.

268

269 TT So you don't know if they were romantically involved or anything?

270

271 TS I do not.

272

273 TT Ok did you ever hear or see them converse whether it be in person or in text form
274 and exchange like nick names or anything? Did they have nick names for each
275 other?

276

277 TS No that I'm aware of.

278

279 TT Like "wifey" or "hubby" or anything like that?

280
281 TS No I'm not aware of anything like that. Deane and I were on, he was a Yankee
282 unit at the time and him and I were opposite, he was Yankee 22 and I was Yankee
283 21 and I never, I mean I was friends with him but I never saw him because we
284 were on opposite shifts.
285
286 TT Right he wasn't a regular shift mate of yours?
287
288 TS Correct.
289
290 TT Ok, do you have anything?
291
292 GB You had mentioned facebook. How did you hear that they were facebook friends
293 and how did you know that they actually texted back and forth and stuff like that.
294
295 TS I' friends with [REDACTED] as well, I'm not friends with her on facebook, I'm not, I don't
296 have her phone number or anything like that but I'm friends with her and she
297 works at like the only restaurant in Pierson and just from conversation that's how
298 I know and from Deane as well. He had mentioned that they are facebook
299 friends, were facebook friends. And he'd chat back and forth and I'd give [REDACTED] a
300 hard time about it you know whatever but.
301
302 GB You are still presently assigned up in Pierson correct?
303
304 TS I am.
305
306 GB You still go to the Pierson Family Restaurant?
307
308 TS I do.
309
310 GB Is [REDACTED] still a waitress there?

311

312 TS Yes.

313

314 GB Have you spoken to her in reference to anything that has transpired in December?
315 Did she make any comments to you while you were there about the incident
316 between her and Travis or anything like that?

317

318 TS No and I've gone out my way to not discuss the whole incident.

319

320 GB Ok is she the one that made reference that they're friends on facebook and stuff
321 like that? Or was it Travis that told you?

322

323 TS Travis?

324

325 GB No that's fine.

326

327 TS Travis I guess.

328

329 GB Travis, so I assume I know your opposite and you say you're friends with him but
330 there was no other conversation related to [REDACTED] at all that you can remember that
331 you know we went to dinner her, we did this together, or did that together?

332

333 TS I don't recall any.

334

335 GB Is there anything...

336

337 TS I don't recall any, them ever hanging out after or outside of work or anything like
338 that beyond the party that I'm aware of.

339

340 GB Ok and what's that party you speak of?

341 TS He had a Halloween party I think it was? Right around there at his house.

342

343 GB Ok and did she tell you about, that she went to the party?

344

345 TS No I'm pretty sure it was Deane that told me about the party if I remember
346 correctly.

347

348 GB And what did he tell you? That [REDACTED] had come to the party?

349

350 TS Yeah and well one or two other people, [REDACTED] had shown up with
351 a...unintelligible...outfit or something like that I don't remember what it was but
352 apparently it was a provocative outfit and another girl [REDACTED] had shown up
353 there as well. But I don't know the specifics, I never saw any picture, I don't, I
354 wasn't there.

355

356 GB Did you know [REDACTED]?

357

358 TS Yes I do.

359

360 GB You know [REDACTED]?

361

362 TS Yes I do.

363

364 GB Do you know if Travis Deane knew [REDACTED] prior to them coming down there?

365

366 TS I don't know that.

367

368 GB Do you know if they're facebook friends or were facebook friends?

369

370 TS I don't know, it's possible but I don't know.

371

372 GB Have you ever talked to Travis about [REDACTED]?

373

374 TS No [REDACTED] no, it was more [REDACTED] than [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]'s a little bi younger that
375 [REDACTED] is.

376

377 GB She is? How do you know she's younger?

378

379 TS Because I know [REDACTED] and I know [REDACTED].

380

381 GB Oh ok, alright.

382

383 TT The conversation you had with Dep. Deane about the party and [REDACTED] was there in
384 some kind of an outfit. Was that like shortly after the party?

385

386 TS I believe so.

387

388 TT Did he say anything else about you know [REDACTED] or what was going on there?

389

390 TS Well that there was, I don't know, you know I'd like to say that he said they were
391 underage drinking at that time but I can't swear to that he told me that time. It
392 became apparent afterwards that there were some pictures that were taken of a
393 patrol car and some, that kind of stuff, I became aware of that. [REDACTED] became very
394 upset with Travis about the whole arresting her boyfriend kind of thing which is
395 understandable. And I remember [REDACTED] sending Travis pictures of the beer pong
396 on his car. I'm not sure what the text messages back and forth were but I
397 remember Travis getting kind of upset about, you know I'm not sure what this is
398 supposed to mean kind of thing. Like is she going to go to the Sheriff about it, I
399 don't see my patrol car number on here you know those types of things are
400 whatever how are they gonna get me for any of this. I'm like that's your car kind
401 of thing I said but.

402

403 TT Going back to what you just said when you had the conversation and that was I'm
404 assuming before the internal investigation was launched it was like shortly like
405 after...inaudible...
406

407 GB Sure
408

409 TT ...and he made the, we don't wanna put words in your mouth but if you can recall
410 what he said about underage drinking you know, did he make mention of that? Or
411 he had knowledge of it?
412

413 TS I can't swear that he mentioned it, yeah [REDACTED] was drinking a whole bunch of beer,
414 or [REDACTED] was drinking a whole bunch of beer I don't recall that. But it became
415 pretty apparent that everyone there was drinking. Its just like he never said yes
416 [REDACTED] was drinking and those particular words never came out of his mouth that I
417 can recall or [REDACTED] for that matter.
418

419 TT But did he mention anything about underage drinking? Because you had just said
420 that and I wanna get a clarification if you know if this is what he said.
421

422 TS Yeah I know, I think what I meant it, because this story and this incident has been
423 going on for so long I may have misspoken. It became apparent afterwards, after
424 everything that was going on with what had occurred and the IA started and
425 everything and I may have learned that this stuff happened as far as underage
426 drinking. He may have sent, maybe he's like, maybe the IA is about underage
427 drinking or something, I'm not, I may have misspoke.
428

429 TT But you remember there was a reference made to underage drinking in reference
430 to the party he had, whether it be...
431

432 TS I'd like to solve the case for you and say that that happened but I can't. if it had
433 happened that he said underage drinking to me I'd say that he did but I don't

434 believe he, I don't remember if he did or not. I doubt he did say those specific
435 words.
436

437 GB But to your understanding he would know how old [REDACTED] was?
438

439 TS Yeah I would assume. I mean I don't want to speak for him but I mean she's in
440 high school.
441

442 GB And I understand, is it, I mean is [REDACTED] a popular, not popular but it she I mean
443 that's the word I'm looking for. Is she often at the Pierson restaurant with [REDACTED]?
444 I mean they're friends so I assume they're together quite a bit?
445

446 TS Yeah, they're all friends it's a pretty close knit...
447

448 GB Do you know if Travis Deane ever spoke to or was on facebook with [REDACTED]?
449

450 TS I don't know, I'm friends with Travis on facebook but I'm not friends with [REDACTED]
451 or [REDACTED] on facebook. I don't look through whose friends are around. It's just
452 kind of like one of those things like he's a friend but I don't like stalk him.
453

454 GB No I understand.
455

456 TS Checking out what he's posting and whatever.
457

458 GB Ok so just to clarify he had been sent, to your knowledge, he had been sent text
459 messages or photos of a patrol car with the cups on it...
460

461 TS I did not get sent them, he got sent those messages.
462

463 GB He got sent them.
464

465 TS Yeah
466
467 GB And he was asking or talking to you about am I, do you think I'm in trouble that
468 type of thing, I mean do you think this is gonna go south for me, I mean...
469
470 TS I don't know if he was asking advice it was more like, because [REDACTED] wasn't
471 working that day she was still pissed about the arrest.
472
473 GB Sure.
474
475 TS And she sent the text messages and she came to me in the restaurant if I remember
476 correctly...
477
478 GB Was he off duty or on duty? Well if you're both opposite shifts right?
479
480 TS Yeah I'm sure if I was working, I'm not sure how that worked out to be
481 completely honest but we were both up there at the same time, he might've been
482 working 21 zone or I might have been working overtime. I was working a bunch
483 of overtime at the time.
484
485 GB Sure.
486
487 TS I'd have to look, but we were both there at the same time and he had the pictures
488 on his phone and he didn't know what [REDACTED] was going to do with them as far as
489 like evidence or what he believed to be possibly evidence or whatever.
490
491 GB And you think that when he, you think the day that he showed you his photos was
492 after the internal affairs investigation began or closer to the arrest time?
493

494 TS I'm not sure, I think it more closer to the arrest time because she was upset with
495 him. I mean shortly after but I think it was before the IA started. I'm just ball
496 parking here but...
497

498 GB Oh I understand...
499

500 TT Yeah we don't want to put words in your mouth Taylor I mean we just want you
501 to tell us what you know...
502

503 GB Yeah we're not...
504

505 TT ...and if you don't know, you don't know.
506

507 TS I understand.
508

509 TT Now going back to that picture like you were saying
510

511 TS Uh huh.
512

513 TT Did Travis say anything as far as you know he was there when the picture was
514 taken or did he say anything about the cups on the car other than you know
515 they're not going to be able to tell whose car this is because there's no numbers
516 on it.
517

518 TS I don't know, I do know that there was a short conversation about it because I
519 didn't look at the pictures for very long. And I think he immediately came into a
520 defensive mindset like holy shit I didn't even these pictures were, I'm not sure if
521 he knew prior to [REDACTED] sending them to him if his mindset changed to "oh my
522 fucking God" kind of thing? I'm kind of up the creek here but then he started
523 thinking offensively like ok were my, the vehicles, I know its my vehicle but the
524 vehicle numbers not on there and how can they prove that it's mine. I mean that's

525 logical I would assume that he would go through those thought processes but at
526 the same time.
527
528 TT But did he actually say those things or was that something that you think he might
529 have been thinking?
530
531 TS He probably said it...I'd like to be able to swear to that, it was probably part of
532 the conversation at the time, but...
533
534 GB When you saw those cups on there and you were aware of the party and he's
535 sitting there with you in the restaurant I mean was your response to him like Jesus
536 dude, what are you thinking? You knew that these girls were...
537
538 TS I didn't focus on [REDACTED] and actually I didn't know [REDACTED] was there at the time, I
539 didn't focus on it, it was kinda like a laugh, like dumbass like what the fuck kinda
540 thing.
541
542 GB Yeah.
543
544 TS I didn't completely become like mister whatever and be like you're a bad deputy,
545 it wasn't any of that it was just like...
546
547 GB Dude?
548
549 TT Really? I mean you're just kinda like really?
550
551 TS Yeah, yeah.
552
553 TT Yeah.
554

555 GB So he had the sense, he, in your opinion he had the sense that he knew that
556 something was wrong? I mean...
557
558 TS Well sure...
559
560 GB ...at that point looking at photos...
561
562 TS ...something was wrong.
563
564 GB ...he said oh boy?
565
566 TS Right and I think at that time, he also knew, well he knew way before that but that
567 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were under 21.
568
569 GB But you didn't know that they were there at that time?
570
571 TS No I didn't go to the party, I didn't, he initially asked me to go to the party and
572 another friend of his up there asked me to go to the party and I guess said you
573 guess are too big of party animals for me. I got a wife and kids, I can't do that
574 stuff anymore.
575
576 GB Is there anything else that you can remember, whether it's the going to Steven's
577 house or the reference to the conversation in the family restaurant about anything
578 related to the case?
579
580 TS Not that I can recall. I mean if I do remember anything specific I'd be happy to
581 let you know but y'all have done a good job of squeezing everything out of me. I
582 just don't, I don't remember anything else I don't believe, if I do I'll let you
583 know. is there any conversation up there at the Pierson Family Restaurant going
584 on around this hub bub of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and...
585

586 TS Well people know about it from the owner of PFR, is aware of the whole thing, I
587 think everyone is aware that there was a situation but people up there because it is
588 a close knit kind of family or whatever, there are people that go to PFR everyday
589 and like stay there all day long. You know? and they're kinda like, they know
590 that this, the defendant in this case they would call him a piece of crap or
591 whatever because he had hit her before in the past I believe is what I heard.

592

593 TT Oh you're talking about the boyfriend Steven Dehut?

594

595 TS Yes, he's apparently they've seen him push her or whatever in the past but this is
596 all prior to me getting up there. I don't, so people are aware that first of all
597 apparently he is a bad guy and beats on [REDACTED] or had beat on [REDACTED] or whatever.
598 Their relationship is kind of well not very good. I don't believe that she's seeing
599 him anymore, Steven Dehut, from what I gather. But I guess to answer your
600 question people are aware of the whole thing. They don't, they're more whispers
601 you know than open talk about it whenever [REDACTED] comes around people kind of zip
602 their mouths or kind of thing because they don't want to talk about it too much.

603

604 TT Anything else Taylor?

605

606 TS No.

607

608 TT Anything you wanna add or delete from your statement?

609

610 TS No.

611

612 TT Ok the time is now 1413 hours, this concludes the interview with Dep. Taylor
613 Sierstorpff.

614

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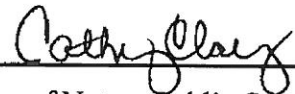
I, Sgt. Tom Tatum, swear that the forgoing
is an accurate transcription of the sworn
recorded statement of Dep. Taylor
Sierstorff taken by me on April 20, 2012.

(Signed)



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 03

Day of May, 2012.



Signature of Notary Public-State of Florida



(Print, type or Stamp Commissioned Name
of Notary Public)

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Number is:

Personally Known

Produced identification

Type of Identification Produced