

Witness Statement

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

TT The recorder is on. This will be a taped interview reference to Internal Affairs case number 11-017. Today's date is May 1, 2012 and the time is 1410 hours. The location of this interview is Sheriff's Office Administrative Offices in Deland. Presently being interviewed is Dep. Taylor Sierstorpf, also present is Inv. Glen 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. Sierstorpf, 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 swear.

TT Alright, Taylor we did the interview April 20th with you, the first interview that we did.

TS Yes

TT And Glen and I were going over the transcripts and there's some things that we need to have clarified as we were going through there.

TS Ok

32

33 TT Just some things that I don't know if they weren't answered directly or if they
34 were kind of vague in answers and we just need to narrow this down.

35

36 TS Ok

37

38 TT Ok, so go back to the night of the arrest, I think you were working overtime,
39 right? Because you were assigned to Pierson back in September of last year?

40

41 TS Correct

42

43 TT So this was in December when the arrest was made on Stephen DeHut.

44

45 TS I was probably working overtime because Chuck and I had swapped, he used to
46 be the Yankee unit which I am now.

47

48 TT Uh huh

49

50 TS He was working Delta 24 so I was probably working 26 zone I assume, I'm not
51 100% sure, I was working overtime.

52

53 TT Ok alright so when Dep. Deane called you on the phone, what exactly did he say
54 about Stephen DeHut?

55

56 TS Only that and again I don't want to make anything up but he had told me about
57 the battery I guess that occurred between Stephen DeHut and [REDACTED] and
58 that he wanted me to go to the house to find it. I think that was part of the
59 telephone call because we didn't know which house it was, we were looking for
60 the big truck. I only know, I didn't know Stephen that well I still don't know him
61 that well, I only know [REDACTED] because she works at Pierson Family Restaurant. But
62 I drove by, I found the truck and that was, well sorry to continue on but to answer

63 your question I think that was to go find the truck, to find out where the incident
64 took place.

65

66 TT Did Dep. Deane make any comments as what his personal opinion was on
67 Stephen DeHut?

68

69 TS He may have. He said something I don't want to make anything up but I know
70 that they don't...

71

72 TT No we don't want you to make anything up Taylor but if he said something in
73 regards to what his personal opinion was you need to tell us.

74

75 TS I know he didn't like him but if I was to quote what he said I don't know what it
76 would be. Maybe, I don't know if he called him a piece of shit or not. I don't...

77

78 GB That's a pretty significant statement, to call someone a piece of shit would be
79 something that would get your memory kicked in. did he call him a piece of shit?

80

81 TS I can't, I don't know, if I would, if I quoted myself on that I'd be lying to you I
82 know that they didn't like each other.

83

84 GB Did he use any derogatory terms towards Stephen DeHut while he was on the
85 phone with you?

86

87 TS It's possible, I'm sorry I don't remember if he did, it's quite possible, I just...

88

89 TT He did voice his opinion on Stephen DeHut?

90

91 TS Well sure yeah.

92

93 TT And what he thought?

94
95 TS But I don't remember exactly what he said. But yeah I would assume that he did
96 yeah.
97
98 GB So he made, is it fair to say that he made negative comments towards Stephen
99 DeHut?
100
101 TS Sure
102
103 GB What those comments are, you don't recall?
104
105 TS Correct
106
107 TT Alright like I said you worked in Pierson since September 2011 is when you were
108 reassigned to Pierson.
109
110 TS Is that what it was? That sounds about right.
111
112 TT Yeah
113
114 TS Ok sounds about right.
115
116 TT And did you know [REDACTED] before you started working in Pierson?
117
118 TS No not even remotely, never even heard of her.
119
120 TT Did you meet her when you were up there?
121
122 TS Yeah working at the restaurant.
123
124 TT That's where you got to know her from going in the restaurant?

125
126 TS Only the restaurant.
127
128 TT Did you ever see Stephen DeHut come in there when she was working?
129
130 TS Maybe once, maybe once.
131
132 GB But you would recognize him if he walked in?
133
134 TS Now I would because I've seen him maybe four five times but, I mean if I saw
135 somebody, I might have but now I'd recognize him.
136
137 GB Was it carnal knowledge that Stephen was dating [REDACTED]?
138
139 TS I didn't, I wasn't that close or I mean I assume yeah I, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], I was there to
140 eat really I mean I didn't say hey what are you doing later. I never really got
141 involved in her personal life that much. The only reason I knew about Stephen is
142 some of the other patrons who live their lives at Pierson Family Restaurant and
143 don't go anywhere else but there really know the two and the fact that apparently
144 he had done some bad things to her in the past, whether it's hot her or push her or
145 call her names or whatever because that's their bubble. That's their life.
146
147 TT All that came out after he was arrested though right? or was that before?
148
149 TS Um after
150
151 TT Are you certain or are you just throwing that out there?
152
153 TS No I'm not certain, I'm not certain, I'm not certain, I'm assuming after only
154 because the conversations leading up to it, they were having issues you know?
155 and apparently nobody thought that [REDACTED] should be with this kid because of the

156 kind of kid that he was and the history that they had of this DV kind of stuff. But
157 they had lived together in the past and uh I guess nobody liked the kid. But I
158 didn't know him from Adam at the time I mean because he never came into the
159 restaurant. He did maybe once possibly twice but maybe once.
160
161 TT In your first statement you said that you didn't know the defendants name when
162 we were asking you about what Dep. Dean had said on the phone when he asked
163 you to go down and check for the vehicle. Did you know his name at the time?
164
165 TS If, uh , probably yeah, if I said I didn't that wasn't intentional. I mean I know
166 Stephen DeHut, I know of him.
167
168 TT We'll show you the transcript real quick, it should be towards the front.
169
170 GB Yeah, you were asked by Sgt Tatum do you remember the content of the
171 conversation or text other than you know, can you find this vehicle. You replied
172 no only to go look for the vehicle and that it was in reference to [REDACTED] and
173 the defendant. In this particular case I don't even remember his name.
174
175 TS Um, I was probably just, the way I was talking I didn't remember, I don't study, I
176 probably didn't remember his name off the top of my head.
177
178 TT Didn't study?
179
180 TS Forgive me, whenever you have a depo or something...
181
182 TT I mean either you...
183
184 TS ...like that and I'm not calling this a depo but you look over and remember the
185 defendants names any witnesses or whatever and I'm coming in here with
186 nothing. And really I mean the guy doesn't mean anything to me. I'm involved

187 in this completely of somebody else's volition but I know [REDACTED]. I didn't
188 remember Stephen's name at the time I truly didn't but I do know.
189
190 TT Right I mean it was a pretty forward question. It was pretty, I mean either you
191 know or you don't. I mean he's calling you...
192
193 TS Yes to answer your question.
194
195 TT ...saying hey you know what [REDACTED] and Stephen got into a huge fight you know
196 can you go down and look for him. I mean I just don't know why you'd answer it
197 that way if you knew him.
198
199 TS Did you guys listen to, I assume you listened to the tape during that particular part
200 and somebody else dictated it?
201
202 TT What are you...
203
204 TS I assume that you guys didn't type this?
205
206 TT Well no.
207
208 TS Did you guys listen to that portion of the tape? Because if I said that like that like
209 I don't know this guy at all, I don't think that's the way I said it. At least that's
210 not the way that I meant it if you forgive me. I don't...
211
212 TT Well it's the way it came out. That's what's in writing.
213
214 TS Ok
215
216 TT And we were trying to get clarification on that.
217

218 TS Yes I know Stephen DeHut.
219
220 TT You know do you know him and why you didn't say, that's why it's so important
221 for you to think about your answers before you give them. Because like I said
222 this is you know, this is somebody's career we're talking about and we want to
223 get all the details and we don't want to have misstatements or anything put in
224 here.
225
226 TS I understand.
227
228 TT So we're trying to get a clarification on this stuff.
229
230 GB We kind of got the impression that you didn't seem to take this interview as
231 serious as it needed to be taken.
232
233 TS I don't know how you guys got that forgive me.
234
235 GB Well I can go by going over the transcripts with the responses and well you, the
236 ands and the buts, you're asked pretty direct questions and normally with direct
237 questions we get direct answers. So we got the interpretation that maybe there
238 was some information that you weren't giving us and that's why we're going to
239 clarify some things.
240
241 TS Whatever you need to clarify I'll clarify, I apologize I wasn't being direct. I will
242 apologize and I will try to be more direct.
243
244 TT Alright Taylor in your previous statement on line 372, Inv. Bennett asked have
245 you ever talked to Travis about [REDACTED] and you responded no, [REDACTED] no, it was
246 more [REDACTED] than [REDACTED]. So if you want to take a look at this, sorry. Have you
247 ever talked to Travis about [REDACTED].
248

249 TS The answer would be no.
250
251 TT And then no you didn't talk to him about [REDACTED] it was more about [REDACTED]. So
252 with that being said, what exactly did he tell you about [REDACTED]. I mean his personal
253 feelings?
254
255 TS No
256
257 TT He didn't tell you any personal feelings about [REDACTED]? What he thought?
258
259 TS Only that they were friends.
260
261 TT And he didn't say at any point she's hot or I wanna date her...
262
263 TS No
264
265 TT Anything like that?
266
267 TS No
268
269 GB How did you know that they were Facebook friends?
270
271 TS He told me.
272
273 GB He did tell you, in that conversation about Facebook did anything else elaborate
274 on to why they're Facebook friends?
275
276 TS No
277
278 GB Why a deputy at 29 years of age would be Facebook friends with an 18 year old
279 girl?

280

281 TS No

282

283 TT So when you had the conversation with Dep. Deane about [REDACTED] being at his party
284 did he tell you anything about the party?

285

286 TS No not specifically. He had invited me to go way before the party and I said no.
287 nothing about the party that I can recall, nothing about the party.

288

289 TT So when you started talking last time about the underage drinking, when you had
290 mentioned that. You were saying that he didn't specifically tell you that [REDACTED]
291 was drinking at that party?

292

293 TS No

294

295 TT And on line 422 on your transcripts you responded to a question when asked in
296 reference to underage drinking on line 426, you responded he may have sent and
297 then you changed direction of what you were gonna say there.

298

299 TS 422 would like me to read the question prior to that?

300

301 TT Sure you can.

302

303 TS I get confused about that too, ok.

304

305 TT Can you see why we're going over this and we need to get clarification?

306

307 TS Yes because I wasn't being direct I was speaking...

308

309 GB Ok and I mean we're not trying to be evil here...

310

311 TS I know you're not trying.
312
313 GB We have questions that come to us that need be answered so you understand why
314 we're trying to clarify them?
315
316 TS Yeah I understand why you're trying to clarify.
317
318 GB Ok
319
320 TT So when you hesitated right there Taylor, do you remember what you were going
321 to say?
322
323 TS I don't, if you ask me the question that you need answered again I will be as direct
324 as I can, sorry.
325
326 TT The question that was asked was Did he mention anything about underage
327 drinking because you had just said that, and I wanna, and I said I wanna get a
328 clarification of what he said.
329
330 TS No he did not mention anything about underage drinking.
331
332 TT So you don't know why this he may have sent, like did he send you a text email
333 Facebook anything like that?
334
335 TS No, no, nope I saw a picture that [REDACTED] had forwarded him afterwards about the
336 vehicle with the ping pong set up.
337
338 TT So at no point did Travis send you anything in text or personal email that would
339 indicate...
340

341 TS He doesn't send me personal emails, if he did send a text I don't recall what it
342 was. The only thing I do recall is seeing that picture about the, he wouldn't have
343 mentioned anything about underage drinking to me specifically underage
344 drinking.
345

346 TT Ok and the picture that you're referring to, the picture that you saw, that was
347 when you and Dep. Deane were together at some point in Pierson?
348

349 TS I had to have been working overtime or he was working, one of us was working
350 overtime because we work opposite shifts.
351

352 TT Ok and you said that was after Stephen gotten arrested when you guys had met
353 and he got the picture and he like Oh my God, you know, one of those deals? So
354 we narrowed it down to December 16th. You were working as the Yankee 21 unit
355 and...
356

357 TS Ok
358

359 TT ...and Travis must've been working overtime because he was Bravo 21.
360

361 TS Ok
362

363 TT Do you remember where you guys met when you were having that conversation
364 and he showed you the text?
365

366 TS Probably the Pierson Family Restaurant.
367

368 TT And you said that [REDACTED] wasn't working that day right?
369

370 TS No she was not I don't think he would have been up there at that point, I think he
371 knew he was in a bit of trouble but he didn't know how much. No forgive me I

372 retract that, I don't know we were probably at Pierson Family Restaurant and no
373 he was, she was not working there at the time.
374
375 TT Why would you say he was thinking that he might be in trouble?
376
377 TS Because of the picture she sent and I remember him being oh my gosh!
378
379 GB How long did y'all talk that day in reference to the meeting behind PFR do you
380 remember?
381
382 TS We were in the restaurant.
383
384 GB Oh ok
385
386 TS Uh I'd be ball parking less than an hour.
387
388 GB 10-10, it was 10-10?
389
390 TS Yes
391
392 TT There's nothing wrong with that. I mean...
393
394 GB Yeah
395
396 TT ...you guys are eating so it's no big deal. So he showed you the picture on his
397 cell phone?
398
399 TS Yes
400
401 TT And that was sent from [REDACTED] ?
402

403 TS I assumed
404
405 TT You assume that it was sent from [REDACTED].
406
407 TS He told me that there was no direct verbiage that it was just a picture and he
408 didn't know, like what the hell's this supposed to be? Excuse my language
409
410 TT So she just sent the picture with no text or anything that you're aware of?
411
412 TS That I'm aware of correct.
413
414 TT Ok so you didn't see any text when you looked at the picture?
415
416 TS I did not.
417
418 TT Ok so did, you had a conversation with Travis obviously and he's showing you
419 these pictures and he's kinda wondering what's going on and what she's gonna do
420 with the pictures. Did he ever say that he was present when the photograph was
421 taken?
422
423 TS No
424
425 TT Did he ever say anything in the context of you know [REDACTED] was taking a picture
426 or Wade was taking a picture and I can't believe they sent this to me, anything like
427 that?
428
429 TS No the conversation that we had was you know what does this kind of mean, like
430 this was a picture that was at my party you know, and I I think he was discussing,
431 it doesn't show anything about my vehicle you know it's, like vehicle number or
432 whatever but there was no, nothing about who was taking the picture or anything
433 like that. That wasn't discussed.

434
435 GB Did he say I can't believe they took a photo of this?
436
437 TS I don't recall.
438
439 TT Alright during that conversation you were saying that he was looking at the car
440 saying ok you can't see the car numbers, did he say they can't prove it's my car or
441 anything like that?
442
443 TS Sure, yes
444
445 TT Ok so he was kind of thinking this through?
446
447 TS Defensively I mean I would assume he would, oh my gosh, I assume he said it,
448 yes he said it. I wanted to be clarify, yes he said it.
449
450 TT So yeas he said it?
451
452 TS Yes
453
454 TT Ok alright you already answered that one, alright have you ever been to Dep.
455 Deans house?
456
457 TS No
458
459 TT You've never been there?
460
461 TS No ever.
462
463 TT Never ever, ok. Did you talk with Dep. Deane after you were interviewed on the
464 20th?

465
466 TS Yes not about this but...
467
468 TT So you guys had met but you didn't discuss this at all?
469
470 TS Correct
471
472 TT Ok because we pulled some MDC messages on the 22nd, he was asking to meet
473 with you. It looks like you guys were meeting quite a bit, you know not there's
474 anything wrong with that but going back to earlier when you guys, when you said
475 you were working opposite shifts and you didn't really know each other too well,
476 and we were looking at some of the MDC messages that were going back and
477 forth...
478
479 TS Uh huh
480
481 TT And it just seemed to us that you guys were a little bit closed than what you
482 initially had told us.
483
484 TS Ok
485
486 TT I mean do you hang out with him outside of work?
487
488 TS I've never hung out with him outside of work, he asked me to, he has asked me to
489 hang out with him in the past but he's, I can't do that.
490
491 TT Did he ask you kind of recently to go out and do something?
492
493 TS Yes he did.
494
495 TT What was that about?

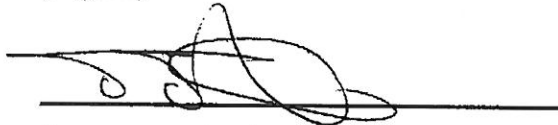
496
497 TS A baseball game.
498
499 TT A baseball game?
500
501 TS Uh huh
502
503 TT Ok and that's when you responded that your kids have swimming lessons and you
504 couldn't attend?
505
506 TS Right, correct
507
508 TT Ok
509
510 TS Him and actually a whole bunch of other guys I think went that day but I did not
511 go.
512
513 TT What, did they go to a Cubs game?
514
515 TS Yes
516
517 TT Daytona Cubs?
518
519 TS Uh huh
520
521 TT Alright did you, so just to clarify Taylor, you only saw the one picture. Did you
522 see any other pictures from the party?
523
524 TS If I do, I don't remember that was the only one that does stick out in my mind. I
525 remember seeing the front of the hood kind of slanting this way, I assumed it was
526 the drivers side of the vehicle.

527
528 TT So did you ever see a picture of [REDACTED] holding a cup or anything like that?
529
530 TS Not that I recall no.
531
532 TT Glen?
533
534 GB Dep. Deane never, did he ever indicate to you that he served alcohol to [REDACTED] or
535 [REDACTED]?
536
537 TS No
538
539 GB Did Dep. Deane ever tell you or lead you to believe that he was aware that beer
540 pong was being played on the hood of his car?
541
542 TS No
543
544 GB Alright
545
546 TT Is there anything else that you want to add or delete from your statement today?
547
548 TS Nope
549
550 TT Ok the time is now 1435, this concludes the interview with Dep. Sierstorpf .
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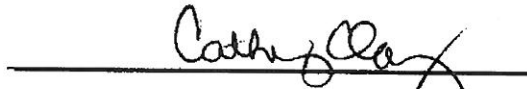
I, Sgt. Tom Tatum, swear that the forgoing
is an accurate transcription of the sworn
recorded statement of Dep. Taylor
Sierstorpf taken by me on May 1, 2012.

(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