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– 9900 Park Ave. • Firestone, CO 80504 –

Official Interview Transcript

Interviewer: James Stroud

Date: October 6, 2021

RE: IA 2021 – 12

11:15 AM / 00:02

Okay, so I'm Sergeant Jim Stroud with the Firestone Police Department. Uh, I'm investigating internal affairs, uh, number 2, 2021-12. Today's date is October 6th, 2021, just after 2:00 PM about 2:07 PM I am meeting with [REDACTED], um, who was witness to an incident involving Justin Ellis, officer Justin Ellis. Um, [REDACTED], if you can please state your name and your job title please.

11:16 AM / 00:34

Um, [REDACTED]. I'm [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

11:16 AM / 00:38

Okay. And I understand that there was an incident that took place that you were witness to on uh, September 24th, 2021, just after 5:00 PM Is that correct?

Yes.

Okay.

Yep.

If you wanna go ahead and just tell me what, what you witnessed and kind of went, what went on and, yep.

11:16 AM / 00:55

Questions.

Um, I was wrapping up trying to get out of work for the day. It was after five, so doors lock the vestibule at five and then if anyone wants in, they have to push the call button. And because I was still trying to finish stuff up, I saw the gentleman come in, so he hit the call button and I answered and was trying to, you know, decipher, you know, what he needed, if he needed help. He said he needed to talk to an officer, so he was, he was talking a lot, but I couldn't really hear him. So I went out to meet him at the door, not to let him in the building knowing I was leaving and I didn't want him to be in there, you know, by himself. And he told me someone had hit him at King Soopers and the guy, he said the guy got a little weird and left kind of like in a hurry. So he came here to talk to an officer to see if he needs to report it. He just needed some advice. So I told him to hit the call button, thinking that maybe one of the officers from the back were gonna come up. And it rang and rang and rang. So I was like, you know what, let me just walk to the back, see if anyone's available.

Okay.

Um, to come up and help you knowing it's after five, like I have to go get my kids. I don't get overtime.

Like,

11:17 AM / 02:14

You're here till five.

Yeah. And then you're outta here and that's why the door's locked.

11:17 AM / 02:18

Right. So I walked to the back and initially, you know, I'm back in the, I walked to the report writing area and I see [REDACTED] first and I knew [REDACTED] was, you're talking about [REDACTED], Okay.

Yep. I knew [REDACTED] was there early on and I was, knew he was leaving at six. So jokingly I was like, [REDACTED], I need you to help this guy. And he was like, no way. Like I'm, and I laughed cuz I knew, like I knew he wasn't gonna help the person because he was leaving at six.

He was helping out and it was 5:15.

11:18 AM / 02:48

Was he, was he, was this in the patrol office area?

Yes,

11:18 AM / 02:51

He was he at the computer?

Yeah. So right when I walked back the common area.

Okay.

So [REDACTED] was sitting and I kind of laughed. I'm like, I know. So then Justin standing like right in front of me now and [REDACTED], not too far behind, and Justin looks at me and I'm like, Hey, can you come help this guy that's in the vestibule? And he's like, what does he need? I'm like, well, he got hit at King Soopers and he like, cut me off, tell him to report 'em online. I'm like, and I kind of, I don't know Justin mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

so I don't know what's like joke or, and I was like kind of caught off guard. I was like, you want me to go back up front and tell him to report it online? Yeah. We're not taking a report for that. Tell him to go report it online.

Okay.

So I look at [REDACTED] and he kind of is like smirking and he looks at Justin, he's like, you go tell him to report it online.

Okay.

So at that point Justin's didn't say anything. Turns around, walks to the front. Like he was walking through like the briefing area, like the command staff area and I think under his breath he said they can just fucking report it online. Doesn't look at me, doesn't say anything to me.

11:19 AM / 03:59

That's as he's walking

As he's walking

11:19 AM / 04:00

Towards the front.

Yeah.

11:19 AM / 04:02

Were you walking with him or was it

No.

11:19 AM / 04:04

Okay.

I was just like, he turned around and left and I was just like, thanks guys.

Okay.

So I turn around and by the time I'm coming up front, he's already talking to dispatch, telling him what he's doing and goes out the front door and

Okay.

Doesn't say another word to me after that.

11:19 AM / 04:19

And obviously how did you take all of that?

11:19 AM / 04:21

What was your

I was like really caught off guard cuz I was like, that was, I was, that was uncalled for. I was very upset. It'd been a long week. It was Friday afternoon.

Yeah

██████ wasn't there, but she's the first person I called. Cause I was like, I don't like how he talked to me, like, we're a team here. Um, I went outta my way to try and help him.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

you're an officer, this is, you go outta your way to try and help him. That's why he came here. He came here for help.

Right.

Not for me to send me back to the front. He'd be like, go report him online.

Okay.

Sorry.

11:20 AM / 04:52

Well, and, and just knowing your job title, that's the, the, the man at the front wanted to talk with an officer

Yes.

Is the way I understand what you're saying.

Yeah.

You're not an officer, so,

No.

11:20 AM / 05:03

So I

11:20 AM / 05:03

Was, you know, that's why you went back to get an officer. Okay.

Yeah.

Um, did, uh, did you, did at any point, did you think he was joking or did you it did

No

Seem serious on, on his face that

11:20 AM / 05:14

No, he, he was, no, he did smile. He didn't turn around and like, you know, give me a facial express, nothing. And so I just was kind of like, I felt uncomfortable and

Okay.

It was awkward.

Yep.

And unprofessional.

Okay.

11:21 AM / 05:31

Um, and did, did ████████ say anything to you

No

about anything or did he just, other than telling him he needed to go up and handle it himself basically?

Yep. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Okay. Um, and ████████ after that, there was no other interaction with ████████ either.

No

Okay.

11:21 AM / 05:44

No, he kinda looked down, was working

11:21 AM / 05:46

On his

Have you, have you ever, um, have you ever had face-to-face contact with, uh, officer Ellis before?

Really? Or

11:21 AM / 05:54

No? I've sent him emails

11:21 AM / 05:54

or talked with him more than just,

No.

Okay.

11:21 AM / 05:57

Nope. I don't know who he is as a person.

Okay.

And I don't know if that, that's really fair. Um, because I made a comment to [REDACTED]. I'm like, well maybe if [REDACTED] had said something like that to me, it would've been different because [REDACTED] has made a point to like,

okay,

ha you know, come up to the front, talk to us. It's more of like a,

you know him

11:21 AM / 06:17

A little bit better

11:21 AM / 06:18

Than

Yes. So like a friendly relation, a working friendly relationship.

Right.

But Justin on the other hand, I'm like, I don't know this dude at all.

Okay.

I don't know if he's Jo, he didn't smile or maybe think he was joking, so I really took offense to it.

<laugh>.

11:22 AM / 06:33

Okay. Um, I'm trying to think if I have any other questions. Anything, anything else that you have questions on?

11:22 AM / 06:44

I don't, I don't think so.

Okay.

And I, my intent was not to, I'm not trying to,

11:22 AM / 06:50

No And, and from our standpoint, we wanna make this department, I mean, there's always stuff we can work on

mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

If, if there's a situation where, you know, we're, if a team is being broken up, we're trying to work as a team

Yeah.

Then obviously we wanna make it better. And that's why, that's why we're doing all this, to make sure that, you know, everything is, uh, properly handled. So

mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Um, okay. I will go ahead and end, uh, this IA interview with [REDACTED]. It is 2:14 on 9/24/2021 and we're ending the conversation now.

– End Of Record –
