



Firestone Police Department

– 9900 Park Ave. • Firestone, CO 80504 –

Official Interview Transcript

David C. Angelo
Chief of Police

Interviewer: James Stroud

Date: October 14, 2021

RE: IA 2021 – 12

11:15 AM / 00:02

Okay. I am Sergeant Jim Stroud with the Firestone Police Department. Today is October 14th at about 10:30 PM I am meeting with [REDACTED] in reference to an incident that occurred on September 24th, 2021, uh, just after 5:00 PM Um, [REDACTED], if you'd state your name and your job title, please.

11:15 AM / 00:29

Sure. [REDACTED], and I work for the Firestone Police Department.

11:16 AM / 00:33

Um, you've been named as a witness in an incident, internal incident that occurred on this date, um, involving Officer Justin Ellis. Do you remember the incident that I'm talking about? Or I can start off explaining what had happened?

11:16 AM / 00:49

I do remember it.

Okay.

Yep.

11:16 AM / 00:51

Can you start off by what you witnessed that day and what occurred?

11:16 AM / 00:54

Sure. Um, myself and Ellis, and I believe it was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were, uh, in the patrol area. Um, [REDACTED], one of the, uh, uh, [REDACTED] clerks came back to us stating that there was somebody in the lobby that wanted to report something. Um, uh, Ellis was the, or Officer Ellis was the one that was recently on duty, whereas [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was about to go home or, or had already gone home and was just, was standing there talking. I can't remember his status, but, um, basically [REDACTED] said, Hey, I got this guy there. And, and it seemed like something that [REDACTED] could have told him that, um, wasn't a thing, but he really just wanted to speak to an officer. Um, I don't think that when [REDACTED] said it to us, it was very clear [REDACTED] was, [REDACTED] was more asking than than telling though. It was really should have been a, uh, a telling thing that it was that, um, you know, we didn't want to ne uh, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] didn't wanna necessarily go up there. I said, just go talk to the guy, take care of it and be done with it. Uh, officer Ellis said, okay, kind of put his shoulders down and was like, all right, I'll go up there and talk to this guy. And he walked off and walked to the front and handled whatever that call was.

Okay.

11:17 AM / 02:20

Um, I know you just stated that they didn't really want to go up there and help him. Um, or Ellis, I don't know if you meant Ellis and [REDACTED]. Was there reasoning you think that they didn't want to go up and help this guy that wanted to talk to an officer?

11:18 AM / 02:33

Uh, I can't remember what the call type was, but it was something that did seem like it just, I can't, I can't remember what the call type was, but it was just one of those things where they, it didn't, I don't know if it didn't, I, I don't remember. Like, I just remember the call type of whatever it was just was something that was just like, oh my gosh, one of one, one of these. Why? Like, why is this person reporting this? Or, or what is this? You know, is this is gonna be nothing or I'm gonna go up there and explain this to him and he is just gonna leave anyway. Or some sort of call like that where it was just like, man, like front desk. You couldn't have just told them to leave. And, uh, I think they had that kind of feeling of like this, whatever it was. This, I, I don't remember where it was, but it was, it was the, whatever the call type was that they were going up there. That and [REDACTED], he was about to go home. So it wasn't his, I mean, he would've done it if I would've told him to, but he was about to head home, so it wasn't

Okay.

More ELLIS'S responsibility.

11:19 AM / 03:36

Um, so again, a little different variation of what [REDACTED] had mentioned and what [REDACTED] stated. Um, [REDACTED] did say that, that there was a male at the front that wanted to talk to an officer. Um, do you ever remember when [REDACTED] came up and said, asked directly to [REDACTED] or, I'm sorry, not the [REDACTED] to Ellis, and [REDACTED] did state that [REDACTED] was leaving for the day shortly, and so [REDACTED] kind of directed at Ellis, Hey, can you come help this guy up front? Um, he wants to talk to an officer. And then Ellis stating for what, do you remember him saying that?

11:19 AM / 04:14

Um, I don't remember that detail specifically, but I, I would imagine that would be a, a proper question to ask. Just so you know what you're gonna walk into.

11:19 AM / 04:25

Yep.

Okay.

Um, and then [REDACTED] explained [REDACTED] statement was, [REDACTED] explained that there may have been an accident at King Soopers, and then [REDACTED] stated that Officer Ellis, uh, reported back to [REDACTED], tell him to do it online. Exclamation mark. This is a quote from [REDACTED].

Sure.

Do you remember that?

11:20 AM / 04:47

Um, yes. Because we had just received the directive that we no longer were taking private property TAs and they can be filed online.

Okay.

Um, I don't, I I'm not saying that [REDACTED] statement with the exclamation point was, was how I think either of us took [REDACTED] statement or, or, or how, I'm sorry. How he took his statement. Like, I don't remember him yelling or, or, you know, majorly exclaiming, but eventually I did have to tell him, just go down there and talk to the guy. Like you go explain that to him. [REDACTED], I didn't explain this, but [REDACTED] too is off work. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] gets off at five and just like for [REDACTED], you know, go down there and take care of the call.

11:21 AM / 05:31

Right. And that was what [REDACTED] mentioned to me was that, um, it was after five and kind of backtracking a little bit, I guess this guy had pushed the, the, the call button that rings back to the back, uh, the patrol room area. [REDACTED] said that nobody responded at that point, and that's when [REDACTED] came back because [REDACTED] didn't wanna leave the guy standing up there again after five, [REDACTED] needed to leave. Um, so that's when

█ came back and, and asked, uh, officer Ellis if he could come back and talk to this guy. Um, after █, after █ says that Ellis told █, tell him to do it online, um, █ said that █ asked Ellis, so you want me to turn this guy away? And █ says that Ellis said, yes, he can report it online. And the way █ took that was that you want me, he wants, he wants to meet with an officer. You want me to turn this guy away when I'm not an officer? And █ felt like █ didn't think that was █ job to do that, that that's how █, █ took it.

Okay.

Do you think that, did you see that at all? If you remember?

11:22 AM / 06:39

God, it, this was just like a short, like

Yeah.

Brief. Didn't give it a second thought interaction.

Okay.

Um, I, I, I, I think that he probably meant for that to happen, but I think it was like a almost a, Hey, we all got this email the other day. You know, we don't take private property TAs. Like, why? Like, I, I don't think he realized what time it was that █ was already off and, you know, █ was still here, so he thought he was, █ was still working, so it wasn't that type of mistake. But I, I, I want to say that he was probably thinking that it just, yeah, we don't, we don't do those anymore. So why, why does it need to be me that goes down there and tells him that, but

Okay.

But █ was, you know, █ was wanting an officer, he was wanting an officer, so, yeah.

11:23 AM / 07:34

Yeah. Well, █, █ statement was that this guy wanted to talk to an officer, not █, who's not an officer. So, yeah.

11:23 AM / 07:39

Um, yeah, and I did hear █ say that, and I, I, I don't think that part, I think that may be fell on deaf ears with, with Ellis, but, uh, yeah, I heard that. And,

11:23 AM / 07:48

Um, so after that, so you want me to turn this guy away? He says yes, he can report it online. At that point, █ says that you spoke up to Justin Sa and told him you go tell him yourself. Is that

Yeah.

11:23 AM / 08:04

Something you remember?

Mm-hmm. <affirmative> vague.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

Something to that, to that effect. Um, █ says that Justin then walked to the front while saying, um, I quote, he could, he could fucking make the report online. Do you remember ever hearing that?

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Okay. And maybe that was something that was in the hallway walking up. That's the way I kind of understood it from █ standpoint. So yeah

11:23 AM / 08:28

I was in front █ office on that side of the computers.

Okay. And He, okay. Um, where was █ at the whole time? Was he sitting

11:24 AM / 08:35

At his,

okay,

his desk there.

Okay.

11:24 AM / 08:39

Um, I think, and then at that point [REDACTED] was falling behind, uh, Ellis obviously, and heard that is what [REDACTED] says. And Ellis went out to the front to help the guy, and then [REDACTED] went back into the office to leave. Um, Any, anything different than that that

No.

That you wanna state?

Yeah, I mean I just, I'm, I'm not a hundred percent crystal clear on, on the verbiage of, of that conversation, cuz again, it was not a whatever and, and I didn't hear him say anything going down the hallway, but I, I did give di direction to him to go down there and do it to himself.

11:24 AM / 09:12

Okay. Um, do you think that basically [REDACTED] being, being the complaintant on this felt that it was unprofessional, unprofessional the way that that Ellis handled the situation. Uh, from your standpoint, do you feel like, um, Ellis was unprofessional towards [REDACTED] or towards the incident at all?

Towards, towards the incident? I can see that I, I didn't feel like he was specifically unprofessional to [REDACTED]. I mean, I, I think us as cops, we're a little bit, we're very direct with each other, and I don't know if [REDACTED], I mean, [REDACTED] doesn't interact with us very much at all, so, um, perhaps [REDACTED] was a little taken back by the, the directness of, of, uh, Ellis and, and I mean, you know how guys can be too, like, you know, there's a, there's a TA one 19 at three and a half. Well, they can handle it themselves full well knowing that we're just standing up and we're walking into the car and we're just, you know, exclaiming a joke or something about that. But, uh, um, yeah, I, I do think it was maybe a little unprofessional to the point where I had to, you know, give direction to tell Ellis to go down there and do that. So as, as a, as a police officer, I could, I could agree that he should just go do that and deal with the citizen. As far as his interactions with [REDACTED], I, I didn't find him to be, um, rude or, or specific. He was just direct with [REDACTED] and, and stating what the newest email said and, you know, uh, that way with [REDACTED].

11:26 AM / 10:41

Okay. Um, anything else that you can think of that you want to add that I didn't already ask?

Nope.

Okay. I don't have any further questions either. So we will wrap, uh, this interview up. It is 10 40. Um, I forgot to mention at the beginning, this is in reference to IA investigation, uh, 2021-12.

– End Of Record –
