



Firestone Police Department

– 9900 Park Ave. • Firestone, CO 80504 –

Official Interview Transcript

David C. Angelo
Chief of Police

Interviewer: James Stroud

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RE: IA 2021 – 12

11:15 AM / 00:01

Uh, I am Sergeant Jim Stroud with the Firestone Police Department. Uh, I am doing an internal investigation, uh, I 2021-12. Uh, I am here with Officer Justin Ellis. Uh, you would state your name and rank, sir?

11:15 AM / 00:20

Uh, Justin Ellis, patrol Officer.

11:15 AM / 00:23

Um, we're investigating an incident that occurred on September 24th, uh, 2021 just after 5:00 PM um, having to do with Officer Ellis. Um, and our [REDACTED], witnesses involved that, uh, may or may not have been there. Uh, were Officer, I'm sorry, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Um, the incident that I'm gonna ask you about, uh, Justin, do you remember to the best of your knowledge, what occurred? I know it's been a couple of weeks. Yes. Is there anything that you want me to go over before I Basically I'm just gonna ask you to go over with what, what you thought happened during the incident. Yeah. Okay. If you want to go ahead and start kind of from your recollection what happened and then I'll follow up with questions after

11:16 AM / 01:12

That. Um, from what I remember, I don't remember the exact time. Um, [REDACTED] came from the, the front stating that, uh, somebody wanted to report ATA that happened at the King Soopers parking lot. Um, I advised [REDACTED] that, uh, just to let them know that they can report it online. Um, I was under the impression that they were authorized to do that cuz they front were at the front desk. Um, I was advised by, uh, I don't, I don't remember what [REDACTED] said, but I meant, I just mentioned just have 'em reported online. Um, I don't recall what [REDACTED] said. Uh, [REDACTED] told me one, just go ahead and do it. Um, so as I was walking away, um, I think I made the statement of, uh, he can fucking report it online or I know I'd use profanity. Um, it wasn't directing anything.

11:17 AM / 02:08

I was just talking to myself. I do that often. I think it was in the, I mean, it wasn't, I wasn't, um, I don't even believe I was in the same room as [REDACTED] at the same at the time. I'm not super sure where [REDACTED] was. Um, I went to the front, uh, one, one of the reasons that I, I told [REDACTED] to go tell that individuals cuz [REDACTED] works in the front and that's where [REDACTED] leaves and I, I assume [REDACTED] was going back there. Um, I didn't know [REDACTED] was going home. I didn't know what was going on. But, uh, I just thought that they were authorized to do that. Um, I went to the front and I advised the individual he can report online.

11:18 AM / 02:50

Okay. Um, uh, let's see. Do you remember, we'll just backtrack a little bit. Do you remember, so [REDACTED] made the statement that it was just after five, [REDACTED] was trying to get out of there. Um, [REDACTED] the front desk was closed and the doors were locked to the front. Uh, do you remember the alarm going off in the back, uh, for somebody so that we can go to the front No. And deal with them at all? Okay. Um,

11:18 AM / 03:20

And like there, like you said, there's three other people there and I don't, we usually are pretty good at answering that, so.

11:18 AM / 03:26

Okay. Um, [REDACTED] stated that at that point [REDACTED] met up, this is coming from [REDACTED] statement. [REDACTED] came up, uh, met with the male that was at the front. Um, he said to [REDACTED] that there was an incident at King Soopers, uh, where he was involved in a traffic accident. The guy, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] said that this male said that the guy that hit him was acting all sketchy and that he potentially either needed to make a report or get some advice from an officer. At that point, [REDACTED] walked back. [REDACTED] knew that, [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] knew that, uh, [REDACTED], uh, was leaving shortly. So [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] directed [REDACTED] question towards you, um, and made the statement asking you if you'd come up and talk with this gentleman that wanted to, to meet with an officer. Does that, that match up?

11:19 AM / 04:14

I don't remember asking me directly. Okay. Um, I thought [REDACTED], from my recollection, [REDACTED] came and just mentioned there's somebody at the front that wants to report a TA happened. King Soopers. Okay. I don't just

11:19 AM / 04:27

Kind of directed it to everybody that was in there.

11:19 AM / 04:29

Yes. Um, that's what they usually do is. Yeah, they will come and advise us and everyone wants to take 'em and take it.

11:20 AM / 04:35

Okay. And then [REDACTED] made the statement that you asked for what, and then [REDACTED] explained back to you, um, that there may have been an accident, King Soopers, uh, with this individual. And [REDACTED] said that you replied, tell him to do it online, quote, tell him to do it online, exclamation point. So [REDACTED], [REDACTED] took that as like, you want me to go tell him what to do when he wants to talk with an officer? Um, did you feel it was that way with a way, did you say it that way, do you think, or No.

11:20 AM / 05:07

With an exclamation point?

11:20 AM / 05:09

Like directed to [REDACTED]. Like the way [REDACTED] took it was you go tell him to do it online instead of me having to go up there. I guess

11:20 AM / 05:18

Believe believe my verbiage was tell him to report it online. Okay. And I was under the impression that I, I was not aware [REDACTED] was leaving at that time. Okay. Uh, I, I mean, I wasn't paying attention to the time and I know that they leave through the front and [REDACTED] was already in contact with them, so I thought [REDACTED] was going back there anyways. So, um, it wasn't, I mean, I was, wasn't trying to make [REDACTED] do any extra work, I just thought that's what they do.

11:21 AM / 05:42

Okay. Um, so after that, after [REDACTED] says that you, you said to go tell him to do it online, [REDACTED] said that, so you want me to turn this guy away? And then [REDACTED] said that you said Yes, he can report it online.

11:21 AM / 05:59

I don't remember.

Do you remember that at all?

I don't remember [REDACTED] saying to turn him away. Okay. That's not turning him away. Okay.

11:21 AM / 06:06

Um, [REDACTED] says at that point, uh, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] spoke up and said, Justin, you go tell him yourself.

11:21 AM / 06:14

Um, I don't know if that was the exact verbiage. I thought just go ahead and I thought [REDACTED] said just go ahead and do it. Okay.

11:21 AM / 06:20

Okay. Um, that's when [REDACTED] said that you wa you then walked towards the front, [REDACTED] was falling behind you. Um, and then [REDACTED] heard you say he can just fucking make the report online?

Yes.

Okay. And and you said

11:22 AM / 06:41

That I had, I wasn't aware [REDACTED] was behind me.

Okay.

I did not know where [REDACTED] was.

Okay.

Because I know it was going through was the, the briefing room to the hallway. I don't remember which point I said it, but I, I didn't know anybody was behind me.

11:22 AM / 06:54

Okay. Um, and then you eventually went up and dealt with the individual and then [REDACTED] went back in the office and left and that that was the end of it. Um, so [REDACTED] statement is that [REDACTED] felt that it was, it was unprofessional. [REDACTED] felt like you were, because [REDACTED] took it as, uh, when you told [REDACTED] to go up and tell him that he can do it online, [REDACTED] basically, the way [REDACTED] came off to me was that, hey, this guy wants to talk to an officer. He already said he wants to talk to an officer about what was going on. Now you want me to go back up and, and talk to this guy and tell him to do something that she doesn't feel like is necessarily [REDACTED] job. And maybe that's where there was a disconnect. I don't

11:23 AM / 07:40

Know. I don't remember her saying that he wants to talk to an officer. I, I thought [REDACTED], I remember [REDACTED] saying sh he wants to report a ta that happened. at king supers. Okay. And all private property TAs are

handled online. Right. I don't remember her saying that he wants, he wants to talk face to face to officer. Okay. I don't remember that part.

11:23 AM / 08:00

And, and so I don't know this personally, but is it your experience that the, the front desk clerks have been telling people to go do stuff online or is that something I, I, is that something you've experienced?

11:23 AM / 08:16

I'm not sure. I thought Okay. Just because it has to do with like the website and online reporting. Cuz I know actually does the online or the reporting of, uh, stolen vehicles and stuff like that. I thought, I thought they could do that as well. Cause it's kind of an admin thing. Okay. I, I thought

11:24 AM / 08:35

Okay. And again, I'm just trying to get your standpoint from, from what you've, what you feel. So, um, so in your opinion, <affirmative>, the things you said were nothing was directed towards [REDACTED]. Well,

11:24 AM / 08:51

Or telling, telling [REDACTED] that he, [REDACTED], like I said, I thought [REDACTED] was going back up front anyways. Yeah. And I thought I, I might be wrong if I am, um, I will look into this later. I thought they were, they're allowed to tell people if it's private property you can report online. Okay. And if they refused to report online, then we, we can come up and talk to him. Um, I'm not be mistaken on that, but that was the only part that was directed towards her.

11:24 AM / 09:19

Okay. And, um, do you feel like anything that you said towards [REDACTED] in that, that statement, do you feel like it was unprofessional at all in your opinion? I

11:25 AM / 09:31

Don't, no. Okay.

11:25 AM / 09:33

Um, when you did say that you got up and you were going to help this guy at that point, and you're going down the hallway and you made the statement as you stated to some effect of he could go fucking make the report online, do you think that was unprofessional in itself or unprofessional towards [REDACTED] in any way? In your opinion?

11:25 AM / 09:56

In, in the, the way I perceived it is I, I didn't know [REDACTED] was behind me. I didn't know where [REDACTED] was. I was pretty much talking to myself at that point. Okay. Like, he can fucking report it online. We don't have to do a report. That's awesome. Okay. Um, because I mean, as you know, even the minor ta reports take like two hours. So I mean, it was more like Yeah, he can fucking report it online. That's awesome. Okay. But I, I didn't, I didn't even know [REDACTED] heard me. I didn't even know where [REDACTED] was. Okay. Like I said, I was in the, if I remember I was in the, uh, briefing room, I had nowhere to do where [REDACTED] was. And if [REDACTED] overheard me, it wasn't, I wasn't on purpose.

11:26 AM / 10:37

Okay. Making that statement, do you feel were, did you feel like you were upset that you had to go help this guy at all? No. Making that statement or was just you made that statement just to

11:26 AM / 10:49

I was, like, I said I was, I was talking to myself. Yeah. I mean, I do that occasionally. Um, but I mean, it wasn't out of like anger or, I mean, like I said, I was gonna go tell the guy, you can report it online. That's it. Okay. And, and that's why I kind of felt like I didn't, if it was outta line, I, I apologized for it, but I thought it was like, like I said, [REDACTED] was going up there up front anyways and he was already there and I thought okay. They were authorized to do that and I might be mistaken now. Okay.

11:26 AM / 11:19

Um, and just so I get an idea so that I'm on the same page, making sure that where [REDACTED] said that point happened, were you in the hallway right here between the front desk when you said that or do you remember?

11:27 AM / 11:33

I don't, I don't recall. I know I went through the, the briefing room into the hallway, but like I said, I don't, I don't recall exactly between that point and the front door. Okay. That's when I said it.

11:27 AM / 11:50

Um, anything, anything else that you want to add that I didn't already ask or go over?

11:27 AM / 11:58

No, I mean, like, like I said, if, if I did or said anything that came across I or rude or, I mean, I, I, I apologize for, I take full responsibility, but like I said, I've never been rude or disrespectful to anybody in this police department and I'm not gonna start now. Okay. So, um, if I was outta line, I'm more than welcome to, more than happy to apologize and to, for whatever it was perceived that I did. Okay.

11:27 AM / 12:29

Um, I don't have any further questions, so we will end it. Um, again, today's date, if I didn't already state it, it's October 14th. Uh, right now we're just after just at 11:18 PM Um, and we will wrap up this, uh, uh, this investigation on this part.

– End Of Record –
