



David C. Angelo
Chief of Police

Firestone Police Department

– 9900 Park Ave. • Firestone, CO 80504 –

Official Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Dan Wittler

Date: January 12, 2022

RE: IA 2022 – 01

11:15 AM / 00:01

All right, Sergeant Dan Wittler with Firestone Police Department here, here with Officer Justin Ellis. Today is January 12th, 2022. Uh, this is involving IA number 2022-01. Involved case is 21FI11704. Um, so we're here at the Firestone Police Department, um, handing, officer Ellis's. Notice of complaint to review on the backside is an advisement, only a signature, and also have the Garrity advisement to give you when you're ready.

Forgot to mention earlier the time's 2:50 right now. Thank you.

11:17 AM / 02:07

Okay.

11:17 AM / 02:07

Any questions on Garrity or anything like that? Justin, you good? Feel uncomfortable with it. Okay.

Yes.

Wanna make sure? Um, okay. So, you know, this is an IA?

um, yes.

You're familiar with the case that we're talking about, right?

Yes.

Okay. So just talk me through, talk me through that case, um, from dispatch and your involvement in it.

11:17 AM / 02:25

Um, so I think one, there was about two o'clock in the morning we were dispatched to a shots fired call on Farmdale. Um, once on scene I drove northbound on Farmdale with my takedowns on, looking for any kind of shots fired and kind of damage anybody in the area. Um, I reached Silver Leaf. I hadn't seen anything up at that point. I didn't see any damage, busted windows, any signs of that anything had happened.

Hm.

Um, dispatch advised that an rp, um, observed three females at,

11:18 AM / 03:09

Uh,

11:18 AM / 03:10

I, I don't have the address memorized. Um.

It's okay.

It was a house and they said there was a, uh, um, a Christmas decoration and said Joy in the front yard.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative> mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

So I turned around, headed southbound down Farmdale. Um, I observed the three females at the front door. Uh, like I said, I don't, I don't remember the address.

Yeah.

Um, I exited my vehicle, contacted 'em. Um, it was, I know the temperatures have been the single digits. It was cold.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

And these, um, young ladies were not very, wearing very many clothes.

Understood.

So, um, I mean, they were shaking. I mean, I was cold and I was fully clothed. I mean, they were wearing mini skirts, um, tight clothes, I mean, not clothes that were acclimated for the weather.

Gotcha.

Very inappropriate. Um, I, to prevent them from getting any kind of cold related injuries, I immediately put them in my vehicle, turn on the heat, and I talked to the owner of the property.

Okay.

Um, at some point after that, um, I asked them if they had heard or seen anything. They told me no, I asked 'em how old they were. They told me they were 14. Um, I immediately told 'em, I asked how they were getting home. Um, one of 'em told me that her brother was gonna pick them up and they were spending the night at her house. I told them, you need to contact them, whoever's gonna pick you up and they need to come get you now. Um,

11:20 AM / 04:41

So it was actually so cold that this young lady's phone, um, stopped working so well, it wasn't working at all?

No. Okay.

It, I mean, it was charged. We thought it was dead.

Okay.

So we plugged it in, um, warmed it up and it was at like 30% of battery life. So there's no reason that it shouldn't have been working. It was, that's how cold it was. Yeah. So we warm, we got the phone warmed up. She called her brother

11:20 AM / 05:05

After a conversation and she told me her brother's not coming to get her. So, okay. Um, I asked, who else you can call? Just call somebody. Uh, she said she called her dad. Um, her dad would come and get her. Um, and it just based off what was going on, I felt, uh, transporting 'em to the pd, I didn't want them in the back of my patrol car. Um, I transported 'em to the police department. I felt it would be a lot easier for her father to find a police department

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

than a random house in Firestone.

Reasonable.

So trans him put to the police department. Um, they waited in the lobby. I waited with them. Um, the, one of the juveniles mothers showed up. Um,

11:21 AM / 05:57

She said she wasn't gonna take her daughter. I told her she needed to cuz she's a legal guardian.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

but then she said she's not gonna take anybody else. So, um, she took the daughter, I attempted to find somebody else to pick these girls up. Um, I know, I think we tried an uncle in Brighton who said he couldn't. Then we tried an aunt and a cousin in Longmont who after a while said they couldn't. Um, I don't, I don't recall how many options we went through.

Okay.

Um, eventually we got in contact with the mother in Denver who agreed to pick up both parties, but she was coming from Denver. It was like a 45 minute drive. Um, she arrived, I released both girls to the driver.

11:22 AM / 06:41

Okay. Um, so when you say I attempted to contact, did you contact them like you called them on your phone?

No.

Saying, Hey, I got your daughters here. Okay. They, they were doing that.

Yeah.

Right.

11:22 AM / 06:51

They were, I mean, they were speaking Spanish, so I wasn't gonna try it.

11:22 AM / 06:54

Okay. The, do you remember what the female said to you when you first arrived?

11:22 AM / 06:59

Um, they said they were here for a party. Um, later on when we got to the pd, they showed me a Snapchat that had the address of the party.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

I, I talked to the owner of the property and she told me she believes that these girls got their wrong address. Um, other than that, that they said they were here for a party.

Okay.

11:22 AM / 07:20

The, um, so when I reviewed the body cam, they said that they had, um, they had gotten word that a party had been shot up

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

and that was right when you were first contacting them.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

does that refresh anything?

Yeah.

Okay. So they did tell you that?

11:23 AM / 07:36

Yeah, I think I annotated my report.

11:23 AM / 07:37

Okay. The, um,

11:23 AM / 07:40

They said I heard it off of, off of Snapchat. So when I posted on Snapchat, I think.

Okay.

11:23 AM / 07:44

The, did you take a picture of the Snapchat or did you record it anywhere?

I,

11:23 AM / 07:49

I thought I had on my body camera, uh, my body camera was rolling the entire time was in contact with these juveniles

mm-hmm.

11:23 AM / 07:54

<affirmative>, the, um, but you didn't take a picture of it with your phone? Nothing like that. Okay.

Nothing to document. Um,

11:23 AM / 08:01

In retrospect I should have, but

11:23 AM / 08:02

i get

11:23 AM / 08:03

That

ex, I mean it, at the time we had no proof other than people calling in shots fired. Right. We had nothing.

Sure.

11:23 AM / 08:11

So the, um, so when you first contacted the females too, your, you also spoke with the homeowner that they were at?

Yes.

Right. Did you, um, body camera shows that you spoke with another male?

Yes.

That was there. What do you remember of that?

11:23 AM / 08:26

Um, he mentioned that he heard some kind of, he, I don't know if he said he thought it was fireworks at first, uh, but he said some, he heard some loud noises next to his house.

11:24 AM / 08:36

Okay. Did he tell you where he lived?

11:24 AM / 08:38

He said the, at the

11:24 AM / 08:39

Corner.

Okay. The,

11:24 AM / 08:42

I don't remember. I don't know if he gave me a street number. He said he lives at the corner.

Okay.

11:24 AM / 08:46

The, um, uh, did you think about giving him a business card or doing anything like that?

11:24 AM / 08:53

At, at the time, my main concern was three juvenile females in the back of my car.

Okay.

Okay. I, I was, I mean, this is, I regret, uh, thinking about this, but I honestly thought of dropping them off at a gas station so that I can at least assist with what was going on. But once I was in contact, I was, Right.

I was, they were my main concern.

Okay.

11:24 AM / 09:18

The, and I, again, trying to understand the totality of it

Yeah I know.

And trying to under, I can watch the body cam, but that doesn't give me what your mindset is unless you're speaking it, you know, so trying to understand what's going on. Um, yeah.

So,

11:25 AM / 09:34

I mean, at the time I had three scantily clad

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

14 year olds in the back of my car.

Okay.

And I didn't know what to do with them.

11:25 AM / 09:42

Gotcha. The, did you, uh, I know you talked to [REDACTED]

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

the, what was that conversation? The, because some of it, some of it's on the body cam, but then part of it's muted. So I don't know what was going on there.

I think I was describing

11:25 AM / 09:58

Their outfits.

Okay.

Um, I just told 'em, I had, I contacted these girls here. They are almost half naked.

Okay.

Um, and I, I don't know if I mentioned that they possibly have somebody coming to get 'em.

Right.

Um, and I don't recall everything that was said, but I know the, uh, the muted part was when I was describing the young lady's outfits.

11:25 AM / 10:22

No problem. Okay. Um, the, so we got three. I get it. The weather's cold. They're not dressed for the weather. We're putting 'em in the car for, for their wellbeing. Um, did at any point did you think about activating your dash cam?

11:26 AM / 10:39

I thought I did

11:26 AM / 10:39

While they, you did when you left and you drove to the pd, but it wasn't activated prior to that?

I

11:26 AM / 10:45

Could've, I thought it, it wasn't before that I couldn't, I thought I did.

Okay.

Because I thought I, I went to my computer to look up what street there was a vehicle going to.

Okay.

And I thought at that point I activated my dash cam.

Okay.

It's usually when I have anybody in my dash, my vehicle, I turn on for what they say, I, I thought I activated it. Okay.

11:26 AM / 11:08

The, and would you say that's fair? I mean, that's, would you say that is a cultural practice here at Firestone Police? When you have someone

Yeah

In the back of your car, you activate the, the

11:26 AM / 11:17

I I thought I did.

Okay.

11:26 AM / 11:22

The,

11:26 AM / 11:22

Yeah. Any, anytime anybody isn't, especially if I'm not in there with them
mm-hmm. <affirmative>

I activate my body or my vehicle and I put it, I click the button that shows,

11:27 AM / 11:32

Shows the rear.

Yes.

11:27 AM / 11:34

I thought I did that.

11:27 AM / 11:35

Okay.

11:27 AM / 11:38

Okay.

11:27 AM / 11:40

Um, the, did the girls give you any kind of, did you, granted, I'm looking at this in hindsight

mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Okay. You're there on scene. The, did you, did you believe the females when they were talking to you?

11:27 AM / 12:00

I kind of did. I'm gonna, they, they show me the address and dispatch reported that three girls were dropped in front of this house. So they showed me the Snapchat, it had the address where they were at.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

um, even the lady said, I think somebody gave these girls the wrong address. So they were at the address that they thought they were supposed to be, but nobody else was. There's nobody else around.

They mentioned same thing. They got there and there's nobody here.

Okay.

So I think these 14 year olds just might not have been in the loop if there was something going on.

Correct.

11:28 AM / 12:33

So why didn't you ask for IDs or names or anything like that?

I,

11:28 AM / 12:37

I, I didn't think about it. It was, it was a lapse in judgment on my part.

11:28 AM / 12:44

The, um,

11:28 AM / 12:50

Any other time that you come into contact with juveniles in, in, while you're on duty, would you ask for IDs?

11:28 AM / 12:57

I mean, if it depends on the contact, but,

Okay.

I mean, yeah. If they're in my car and under circumstances I should've asked or just gotten a name, date of birth and phone number.

Okay.

But it, it was, like I said, it was my bad and it was lapse in judgment. I was, my head was not in the right place. I was more concerned about getting them away.

Okay.

Because if, I mean, if they, if I couldn't find anybody to come get them, I had no idea what I was gonna do. And that's, I think that was my main concern and the fact that there's three half naked girls in the back of my car.

11:29 AM / 13:38

Sure. Sure.

11:29 AM / 13:39

But yeah, it was just, I lapse in judgment.

Okay.

11:29 AM / 13:44

The, I had some pre-written questions and you've already answered, so I'm just gonna

Okay.

Make some quick notes.

11:29 AM / 13:56

Um,

11:29 AM / 13:58

The, so as you said earlier, it's customary when you put someone in the back of your car that you're gonna activate the dash cam?

Yes.

11:29 AM / 14:05

Okay.

Especially three juvenile females.

Okay.

11:29 AM / 14:08

I,

11:29 AM / 14:08

I swear, God, I thought I did.

Okay.

11:29 AM / 14:11

Is there any other customary things or things that you do with anybody prior to putting 'em in the back of your car?

11:29 AM / 14:16

I meant, yes, you pat 'em down, but in all honestly, based off what these females were wearing, I didn't, I felt like the visual inspection was acceptable.

Okay.

I mean, they were wearing skintight. One was a mini miniskirt. The other one, um, I felt this, if they had anything on em, it would've been sticking out and

Okay.

I, I just, and there are 14 year old girls wearing inappropriate clothing. Um, I, I felt at the time that the visual inspection would've been

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

acceptable. I didn't feel the need to take them outta the vehicle and pat down.

Right.

Half naked females in the neighborhood in two degrees with the entire neighborhood watching. I, I, that was just my call.

Yeah,

11:30 AM / 15:05

I get that. The, um, uh, did you ask for a female officer, see if there was anybody in the area that could come and do that, or,

11:30 AM / 15:16

Like I said, the first thing that kid went to my head was, I gotta get these girls warm. I threw 'em in the car. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

cranked up the heat.

Okay.

The, so I just, they were they were shivering. You could tell they were obviously, I don't know how long they've been out there. And like I said, it was, I think it was a single digits and the clothes they were wearing theirs, <laugh>, there was very little.

11:31 AM / 15:38

Right. Okay.

Covered.

Um, so you're there, they're, they're attempting to contact somebody, right? Is what you said there?

11:31 AM / 15:48

They were at the front door? Yeah.

11:31 AM / 15:49

Okay. The, now you have 'em in your car

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

um, did one of them have a cell phone that worked? Did one of them have?

11:31 AM / 15:57

Only one of 'em had was the one who was frozen.

11:31 AM / 16:00

Okay. So they, at that point when they were in the car, they weren't attempting to contact anybody?

11:31 AM / 16:05

Uh, once we got their phone working.

11:31 AM / 16:08

Okay.

11:31 AM / 16:08

I believe so, yes.

Okay.

Because she, she's straight upset. Can I charge my phone? My phone was dead.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

So we plugged on the phone and realized it wasn't dead. It was frozen.

It's frozen.

Yeah.

Okay. So once we got the phone working, she attempted to contact who she said was her brother. But like I said, they totally Spanish speaking.

Mm-hmm.

Couldn't understand it. Okay. I don't, I, like I said, I thought I had my dash camera. I don't know if I had it on at that time. Like I said, I swear to God, I thought I turned it on.

Okay.

Because I, I remember, I, I went to look at what the street that truck was going towards and at that point, I know it was silver leaf. So I swear to God, I thought I turned my camera on at that time. Like granted, I know it was a few minutes after I put 'em in there

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

but I thought when I went to my comp, went to my computer, I thought I turned it on.

11:32 AM / 16:52

Okay. Um, who made the determination? Who, or ultimately who made the determination to transport 'em to the pd?

11:32 AM / 17:05

Like I said, my, my first initial thought was to transport them to like a gas station where somebody can pick 'em up. That way I could at least assist with whatever was going on. Cuz at that time I was just kind of babysitting.

Okay.

Um, I believe after the brother said he couldn't pick him, pick them up and she contacted the father, um, I felt it would be a lot easier to find a police department than a random house and

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

an unknown neighborhood. So, uh, I requested to, at first I said I was gonna see if I could drop them off at, in the lobby and maybe come back and help, but, uh, [REDACTED] advised me that, um, once we're there, I gotta watch 'em the entire time.

Yeah.

So

11:33 AM / 17:51

The, do you believe the girls felt that they were in custody once they were in the back of your car?

No.

Okay. Did you ever tell 'em they were in custody?

No.

Okay. The, um, but you knew they were juveniles, right?

Yeah. They didn't belong to, to Firestone?

No,

11:33 AM / 18:08

Because they didn't, they said they Denver, Aurora area.

11:33 AM / 18:11

Okay. The, so on any other given day, if we come into contact with a juvenile at 2:00 AM um, have they committed a crime?

11:33 AM / 18:21

Yep. Um, yeah.

11:33 AM / 18:23

Okay. Um, so could they have been cus in custody?

Yes.

Okay. Um,

11:34 AM / 18:30

Well, I'm, I I advise this by they're in protective custody, but not

11:34 AM / 18:35

Right.

11:34 AM / 18:36

Criminal

11:34 AM / 18:37

Matters.

11:34 AM / 18:37

Correct.

11:34 AM / 18:38

The, um, but the, were they violating curfew?

Yes.

Okay. So the, you could have had them in protective custody and or custody.

Yeah.

11:34 AM / 18:52

Like unfortunately at, at the time my mindset was getting them home.

Okay.

Getting somebody, cuz it was one after another that they couldn't do it. So my main concern was less in charges more than their, I guess their wellbeing.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

11:34 AM / 19:12

The, and I guess the reason I say that is, um, were were you thinking along those lines in the sense of yes, we want to take care of them, we obviously want to take care of their wellbeing, but now you can actually exercise more control over these people because you have charges and you can do it opens up certain things for you?

11:35 AM / 19:35

Yeah. Well, I mean, at, at the time they had been cooperative. They hadn't, hadn't caused any issues. They, I asked them, did you see anything? No. We, we got here and there's nobody here. Um, they, at the time, I, I felt they, maybe they were giving out bad information.

Okay.

And they showed up and they just kind of got

Okay.

Blown off. So the,

11:35 AM / 19:58

Do you think it's normal for someone to get dropped off somewhere that they're gonna, they're gonna exit a vehicle in single degree digit weather with no coats, no jackets?

11:35 AM / 20:07

Well, no, I, I, I was full, well, they were expecting a party, but
Okay.

11:35 AM / 20:12

Did it, you didn't think they would bring that stuff with them though?

11:35 AM / 20:14

No. If this gonna be inside because I asked them the same thing.

11:35 AM / 20:19

Okay. The, what'd the girls say when you asked her about her shoes?

11:35 AM / 20:23

She left 'em in the car.

She

11:35 AM / 20:24

Left them in the car.

11:35 AM / 20:25

And like I said, if they were gonna be inside at, I guess that, I mean, it's stupid. They're 14, they do dumb things.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

, like wearing a, a tiny mini skirt and two degree weather.

I get

11:36 AM / 20:36

That too.

11:36 AM / 20:37

But I mean,

11:36 AM / 20:38

Okay.

11:36 AM / 20:39

They're going to a party.

Okay.

11:36 AM / 20:42

Um, the, so it was determined that they were gonna be transported back to the pd?

Yes.

Um, let may ask you this, I I I, I understand some of the reasoning behind dropping 'em off at a gas station, but can, can we just go drop juvenile's

11:36 AM / 21:00

Off?

No.

The gas,

11:36 AM / 21:01

Gas

11:36 AM / 21:01

Station It, like I said,

11:36 AM / 21:02

You elaborate on that one for the,

11:36 AM / 21:03

It was just an idea.

Okay.

But I mean, I, I actually, I, I want to, but I know Okay. I think I mentioned that like it's a bad idea.

Okay.

11:36 AM / 21:12

I

11:36 AM / 21:13

Like, I just wanted to get them away from this situation

Sure.

So that I can help.

Okay.

And it was just, it was, I don't even know if I mentioned it to [REDACTED], I hates what I want to do, but I know we can't do that.

Um,

it's like, it wasn't even a hypothetical it's just, I don't believe.

Sure.

So I don't remember.

11:37 AM / 21:33

I get that part of it too. Um, how many seat belts you got in the back of your car?

Two.

How many females did you have in the back of your car?

Three.

So, uh, did you ask them to at least put on seat belts?

No.

Okay. Um, are you supposed to do that?

11:37 AM / 21:50

I mean, us usually if I transport I buckle 'em in myself, but

Okay.

I, they were already back there and I, I didn't think about it.

Okay.

11:37 AM / 21:59

Um,

11:37 AM / 22:00

And honestly, I mean even so I wouldn't, if I was gonna have two

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

back there, I didn't feel comfortable having a third one sit up front with me. So

11:37 AM / 22:10

I get that part of it too. Um,

11:37 AM / 22:12

But yeah, as far as that, like, I didn't think about a time cuz they were already back there. And usually if I'm gonna transport, I put somebody back there and then put seatbelts on immediately because they're in handcuffs. But, um, they'd been in, they were in there for so long. I just kind of, I guess it skipped my mind as far as that part.

11:38 AM / 22:33

Okay. Uh, so you got 'em back to the pd, got 'em in the lobby. Um, the, the phone was working at that point. Did they have any, did they have more than one cell phone? They just had the one, correct?

Yeah.

Okay. Um, all right. Um, so the one, tell me more about the first parent or somebody who showed up.

11:38 AM / 23:03

It was the mom.

Okay.

So she called her dad. She was expecting her dad, mom shows up saying, um, I'm, I'm not going, I'm not gonna take her. I said, why not saying, well, she, uh, she had run away and there's a case for it, and I was saying, you're the legal guardian, you have to take her.

Okay.

So it's not, she had a, a translator with her.

Okay.

I told her, you're the legal guardian, you're legally required to take her.

Okay.

And she agreed to it.

Okay.

But she refused to take the other two.

11:39 AM / 23:34

Got it. Uh, did you confirm the legal guardian status? Status?

No,

11:39 AM / 23:38

I didn't.

Okay.

Well, I mean, she, she said she was her mom.

Yeah.

So I went off of what she told me. She hadn't.

11:39 AM / 23:43

But you didn't, you have an id didn't write anything down?

No,

nothing like that. Okay.

11:39 AM / 23:47

Uh,

11:39 AM / 23:50

Like I said, I was, I was more concerned about getting them outta here than

mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

anything else. And

11:39 AM / 23:55

I get that. Yeah. Um, okay. The, uh, and when the other, when the other car came, did you speak with that car? No.

11:39 AM / 24:07

Okay.

She said it was her mom. I mean, she confirmed it. I was like, just go.

11:39 AM / 24:16

Okay.

11:39 AM / 24:17

In retrospect, I, I probably should have, but I'm mean, they we're up front and straight with me the entire time. So I was

right.

Going with what, what they told me.

Yeah.

11:39 AM / 24:25

How many times have you been lied to in this job?

11:39 AM / 24:27

Yeah. I, I got it, but

mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

like, like I said, I, I was doing everything in my power to get them to go home.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

11:40 AM / 24:35

The, and I get that.

Yeah.

The, I I've been there, been there. Um, the, so what did the one girl have in her purse?

11:40 AM / 24:47

I didn't check the purse.

11:40 AM / 24:49

She showed it to you in the lobby? Do you remember?

11:40 AM / 24:53

No,

11:40 AM / 24:54

The pepper spray,

11:40 AM / 24:55

She didn't show me. She told me about it. She told

11:40 AM / 24:58

You about it?

Yeah.

Okay. So, but from what I saw, it says that she had pepper spray in her purse. Right.

11:40 AM / 25:03

I don't remember she had it in her purse. She, she asked me, was it, are you allowed to carry a pepper spray other than technically you're not.

Okay.

I didn't, I don't know if she mentioned that it was in her purse. She asked if she, if it was, if you were allowed to, it was allowed

11:40 AM / 25:16

To carry it. Okay.

11:40 AM / 25:17

Yeah. Um, I don't, like I said, I don't know if she said it was on her, but she says like, she goes to parties and boys get outta hand and crazy. And I was like, I understand that. I mean, that might be, if your parents allow it, that's up to them.

Right.

Um, I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna

Right.

Question that

Sure.

11:41 AM / 25:37

The,

11:41 AM / 25:38

I know they're not allowed to have it, but I, I'm, like I said, she admitted to, admitted to it like she was honest with me

mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So

11:41 AM / 25:46

I was,

but you have officer discretion, right?

Yeah.

The, and, and I get it. And so like watching the video, um, you make a comment of, Hey, just keep it outta sight outta mind. I don't know if these other officers may think the same way that I do.

Yeah.

Does that, does that sound gonna ring a bell? And

Yes.

Okay.

11:41 AM / 26:04

Like I say, it's my discretion.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

I don't, I wasn't gonna bring it up to them.

Right.

This is mine.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

11:41 AM / 26:10

Well, and that kind of goes back to that searching some of those things. The, I I get it. The females are cooperative. They're, they're, they're doing everything that you ask. But what happens if then one of them wants to use the pepper spray?

Yeah,

11:41 AM / 26:26

I understand.

11:41 AM / 26:27

I mean, bad shit can happen. They may only be three 14 year old girls, but worst has happened.

No, no.

You know what I mean?

11:42 AM / 26:34

And like, like I said, like I look back and I see all the stuff that messed up on and like, I'm, I'm, well, I even brought up to [REDACTED], like afterwards, like Yeah, I messed up.

11:42 AM / 26:44

Yeah. The, um,

11:42 AM / 26:48

Yeah,

11:42 AM / 26:51

Because make sure I get all my right questions answered here.

11:42 AM / 26:58

Um, got

11:42 AM / 27:02

That one,

11:42 AM / 27:03

Got that

11:42 AM / 27:04

Rich. Like I know this, I'm not making excuses, but it wasn't the exact, um, scenario I was thinking I was gonna be placed into. So,

yeah.

Um, like, like I said, I had no idea what the heck I was gonna do with em.

Right.

And that was, well I guess that was where my head was at and

Sure.

It's where sh

11:42 AM / 27:22

And I, I, I think your statement as the other girls leave, as long as you're not here, I don't care where you go, just get out. I think that that mirrors your statement of you. You didn't know what to do with them.

Yeah.

Um,

and

11:43 AM / 27:38

Yeah, I probably shouldn't have said that.

11:43 AM / 27:42

The, um, yeah. Did to be blunt with you Ellis and, uh, and truthful Yeah. There's a lot of things that went wrong in this call that sh that that shouldn't have. Um, and we do these things to figure out what we did wrong, why we did it wrong, and how to get better.

No, I,

11:43 AM / 28:03

So I already, I was already about it, so.

Okay.

11:43 AM / 28:08

Um, the, do you have, while I'm kind of reviewing some paperwork here, you got any questions of me?

No.

Okay. Um, to make sure that where we need to be at, um,

11:44 AM / 28:30

Okay. So we didn't ID the girls. Correct.

Okay.

Um, we didn't ID parents, guardians or whoever picked them up. Correct.

11:44 AM / 28:45

Okay.

11:44 AM / 28:47

Um, the, Uh, You thought you activated the dash cam and you did at one point, but you thought he activated it earlier? Maybe it didn't activate.

11:44 AM / 28:57

I, I thought I did.

Okay.

Because like I said, it's, if there's anybody in my car and I'm not there with em mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

I always activate it. So I, I swear to God, I thought I did it when I put him in there.

Sure.

11:44 AM / 29:10

Um, no pat downs of, of the girls, um, the, we didn't, uh, we didn't call for another female officer or anything along those lines, correct?

No.

Okay. Um, they, they weren't buckled, didn't tell 'em to buckle. Okay. Um, the, did you think it was a legit shots call?

11:45 AM / 29:37

At at the time? Not really. I mean, cuz we, we get 'em, like, especially closer to the New Year's mm-hmm. <affirmative>

all the time.

Yes.

Um, and like I said, I drove the area. I didn't see any brass. I didn't see any type of damage. There was nobody there.

Right.

Um, like I, I know there was a party, but, um, we, we get parties with fireworks all the time too. Um, like I said, I don't know where is, they showed me the Snapchat of the address.

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

there's nobody else there. This lady said that she thinks they got bad directions, so I, I didn't have anything to go on.

11:45 AM / 30:19

How many officers were working that night? Do you remember?

11:45 AM / 30:22

Well, at the time the call came out, it was, I think [REDACTED] and me and [REDACTED], I think, I don't know if [REDACTED] was going home.

Okay.

Um, it was me [REDACTED]. Uh, so four.

11:46 AM / 30:37

Okay. Is [REDACTED] working?

11:46 AM / 30:39

Yeah, it was me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Okay.

Well, he, he was already getting ready to go home, but we called him back in.

Okay.

11:46 AM / 30:48

Um, did you receive an email or text or anything like that from [REDACTED] later in the evening while you were still on shift?

Yes.

Okay. And what was that?

11:46 AM / 30:56

Um, it was the video he received from somebody.

Okay.

11:46 AM / 30:59

Did you forward that to [REDACTED] or did you forward it to anybody at the time?

No.

Okay. Did you give it to anybody it pass on?

11:46 AM / 31:08

No.

Okay.

I didn't even get to watch it until like later.

Okay.

11:46 AM / 31:13

Did you watch it while on duty or were you gone?

11:46 AM / 31:16

I don't think I watched it on duty. If it was, it was like at six o'clock and I might have just like, skimmed through it.

Okay.

I don't recall.

Okay.

But like I was, he sent it to me. I wasn't under the impression. He, he observed it or he saw it on somebody and sent it to me because I was in charge of the case, but I,

who,

11:47 AM / 31:35

Whose call was it? It it was yours?

Yeah.

Okay. And you ended up having to take care of the females more than anything

11:47 AM / 31:42

Else?

Yeah, I didn't, I didn't, so I didn't even know where the video came from, so I was under impression that like he looked at it and there was nothing there.

Okay.

But I guess we looked at it later and there was the sound, so.

Okay.

Um, and then once I learned that there was later in the day, it was, I think we annotated the videos, but at the time I, I saw that he had emailed me, um, but I was still at the time dealing with the female. So I don't think I watched it at that time. I think I watched it later in the day, but I, I can't say hundred percent.

Gotcha.

11:47 AM / 32:21

Um, is it fair to say that wasn't your best cop work?

Nope. Yep. That was very bad.

11:48 AM / 32:29

Okay. Um,

11:48 AM / 32:31

And like I said, I, I came forward to [REDACTED] like immediately. Yeah. I, I kind, I believe this one, like, I, I got stuck with babysitting duty and I that's, that's all I saw. I just need them to go so I can go do real stuff, but yeah, that was right.

The wrong choice.

Okay.

11:48 AM / 32:53

Um, any que feel free, you can ask me any questions you want. If I can answer it, I'll answer it.

Um,

and

I, like I said, I know I messed up. Like I I brought it to my supervisor already.

Okay.

Yeah. I messed up.

11:48 AM / 33:07

I appreciate the honesty. I do. Um, how do we get better? What do you think?

11:48 AM / 33:11

Just know what, what not to do.

Okay.

11:48 AM / 33:14

Um, the, yeah, like, like anything, this is how we get better and we can only learn through mistakes.

Yeah. Um, we're not always perfect.

11:48 AM / 33:25

And also like, I, I felt bad because look, this is how stupid my mindset was. Like, I'm babysitting these kids and they got, they're running people, they got people coming towards them, they got stuff going on over there and I'm stuck here babysitting.

Right.

So yeah, the fact that my mindset was trying to release them as soon as possible

mm-hmm. <affirmative>

granted you was, it was wrong, but that's where I was. And then was it four hours later <laugh> and was just, I guess it was, it was frustrating too cause

Sure

nobody would come and get them.

11:49 AM / 34:02

Yes. I, I get that. But it, it's also frustrating. This was,

11:49 AM / 34:08

I i

11:49 AM / 34:09

The, is the, it was frustrating for us as well. Um, and as a whole,

I know,

um, the, uh, you didn't know this at the time, um, and, but through the course of the investigation, it's highly likely those females were involved in one way or the other. And unfortunately we can't contact them.

No, I understand.

We, we, we have nothing. They're out in the wind and the, is it the crime of the century? No, but the, as as you saw the shit storm that, that happens when we do less than good police work, it, it affects everybody.

Yes.

And it affects the department. And, um, we have half a subdivision that is, you know, we have to get back in their good graces type thing and it's, I get it, dude. I don't want babysit kids either. Like, that's not what I would want to be doing.

11:50 AM / 35:10

Um, the but sometimes we forget that we have to do the job.

Yeah.

And sometimes our little piece of the pie connects to everybody else's piece of the pie. Um, so, uh, I'll have this wrapped up and I'll have it forwarded on, um, probably within 72 hours.

Okay.

And then, um, you'll get notified of the outcome and we go from there.

Okay.

Okay. Any other questions?

Nope.

Anything else? All right. Uh, it's 3:24. You're admin unavailable right now, right?

Yep.

Okay. Uh, take another 20 minutes. Stay admin unavailable. I don't want you to go in service for immediately. Go sit in the locker room, do whatever you wanna do. Chill out for 15, 20 minutes before you go in service. Okay?

Okay.

Uh, um, at any point moving forward until this is completed, if you have any other information you wanna provide, you remember something, you think that there's a mitigating circumstance or something that I need to be aware of, um, text me, call me, do whatever. We will set, set it up, set it up again, and get that information, okay?

Okay.

All right, man. Thanks Ellis.

No problem.

The time is now 3:25 and that concludes the interview.

– End Of Record –
