



Sheriff Richard A. Reigenborn

sheriffreigenborn@adcogov.org

To: Undersheriff McLallen

From: Division Chief Dunning

Date: 09/22/2020

Re: Citizen Complaint on Chief Bethel

On Monday, September 21, 2020 at approximately 0846 hours I received a message to contact Division Chief Toth. I was off duty at the time and at my residence, but I returned the call and spoke with Chief Toth who told me that he had received a call from a citizen wishing to make a complaint against Division Chief Bethel. Chief Toth told me that he had only received a voicemail from the citizen (██████████), and that he had made a couple attempts to contact her and left voicemails to her, but she has yet to return his calls. Chief Toth requested that due to the nature of the complaint and the employee involved, he would like to make sure that this complaint comes straight to me, and I agreed that this would be best.

I obtained █████ phone number from Chief Toth and called her at 0857 hours on 09-22-20. █████ told me that she had an encounter with Chief Bethel in the Wal-Mart Parking lot in La Junta Colorado over the weekend of 09/19/2020-09/20/2020, and I neglected to confirm the actual date with her on the phone. █████ told me that she was parked and inside her vehicle finishing up some work. █████ told me she contracts work with Wal-Marts in the area doing IT related duties. █████ stated that as she was sitting in the parking lot, she observed Chief Bethel pull up in the parking space directly in front of her. █████ said that Chief Bethel was in a Jeep Cherokee, Colorado license number BKOT63. █████ said that her vehicle and Chief Bethels vehicle were "face to face". █████ stated as Chief Bethel exited his vehicle, she instantly recognized him and described him as wearing a black trench coat and straw hat. Chief Bethel and █████ had previously worked together in Rocky Ford Police Department and knew each other quite well.

█████ told me that Chief Bethel recognized █████ and approached her while she was still seated in her vehicle. █████ stated that she began to record their interaction on her cell phone as she noticed Chief Bethel was also recording on his cell phone. █████ stated that Chief Bethel made the statement to her that "Hey █████ have you been eating a lot of donuts, you're getting really fat". █████ said that after this statement, Chief Bethel stated, "I should have killed you when I had

HEADQUARTERS
332 N. 19th Ave.
Brighton, CO 80601
303.654.1850

**DETECTIVE AND
PATROL DIVISION**
4210 East 72nd Ave. Suite C
Commerce City, CO 80022
720.322.1313

JAIL DIVISION
150th North 19th Ave.
Brighton, CO 80601
303.654.1850

FLATROCK TRAINING
23600 East 128th Ave.
Commerce City, CO 80022
720.523.7500

the chance". ■■■ stated she did not respond or talk to Chief Bethel and rolled up her window and locked her doors. ■■■ continued and stated that Chief Bethel then walked away from her vehicle towards the front of the Wal-Mart doors but quickly turned around and walked around her vehicle as he continued to video her sitting in her vehicle.

■■■ told me that this incident was very upsetting to her and she feared for her life after she heard Chief Bethel's statement of "I should have killed you when I had the chance". ■■■ told me that after Chief Bethel walked around her vehicle and filmed her, she backed out of the parking space and left the Wal-Mart and called the La Junta Police Department to make a complaint.

■■■ told me that La Junta Police came and investigated the incident on case report # 2001216.

■■■ stated that both Chief Bethel and she were interviewed by the La Junta Police Officer.

■■■ stated that the officer for La Junta PD told her that because there was no proof that Chief Bethel made the statement about killing her, there was nothing he could charge Chief Bethel with and would only be taking an incident report. Both ■■■ and Chief Bethel then left the area and no further contact was made between ■■■ and Chief Bethel. ■■■ did provide me with several text photographs that are attached to this complaint.

During our phone call, ■■■ told me that she fears for her life around Chief Bethel due to their extensive history together where she was terminated from the Rocky Ford Animal Control by Chief Bethel when he was the Chief of Police at Rocky Ford. ■■■ told me she believes that Chief Bethel was directly or indirectly involved in the "execution style murder" of ■■■ who she believes was a star witness in a sexual misconduct case that involved Chief Bethel years ago.

■■■ also told me that she was targeted by Chief Bethel when she was employed at Rocky Ford when she exposed that Chief Bethel used city property (fencing material) on his personal rental properties. ■■■ alleges that Chief Bethel took the fencing, purchased by the City of Rocky Ford, and returned it to a local hardware store and exchanged it for fencing material that was ultimately used on Chief Bethel's personal rental properties. ■■■ provided me text pictures of these receipts which are attached to this complaint.

At the conclusion of our phone call I asked ■■■ what she wanted to come from this phone call and she stated that she just wants Chief Bethel to leave her alone. ■■■ stated that she has also filed a complaint with CBI about this incident.

After our phone call ■■■ texted me that her attorney desires her to file a formal complaint to follow up with the phone call. On 09/22/20 at 0904 hours I sent the official Adams County Sheriff's Office Compliment-Complaint form to ■■■ and she responded almost immediately that she will complete the form today and send it back to me.