

INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY DAN WHITE 2115

CASE NO. A09098

TAKEN: NOVEMBER 24, 2009
1653 HOURS

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY:

SGT. QUANICO #1429
AND
SGT. COLMENERO #1059

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SGT. QUANICO: Okay. We're on. The time is, uh, 1653. Today's date is, uh, November 24th, 2009. We are currently at 25 Van Ness, room 350 here in San Francisco. This is a follow-up interview for case A09098, the death in custody of inmate [REDACTED] which took place on September 9th, 2009. Uh, we are currently at, uh, 25 Van Ness. And, uh, Harry Stern, uh, from Rains, Lucia and Stern is present. Uh, we also have, uh, Deputy Daniel White. Starting with you, Mr. Stern, can you please, uh, spell your last name for the record?

MR. STERN: Sure. It's S-T-E-R-N.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Deputy White?

DEP. WHITE: W-H-I-T-E.

SGT. QUANICO: And your star number?

DEP. WHITE: 2115.

SGT. QUANICO: Great. I'm Sergeant Quanico, Q-U-A-N-I-C-O, star number 1429. And also with me is?

SGT. COLMENERO: Sergeant Colmenero, C-O-L-M-E-N-E-R-O, star number 1059.

SGT. QUANICO: Deputy White, we will be the only estiv -- investigators asking questions. We are from the ISU and acting as internal affairs investigators. Uh, this is a follow-up interview, uh, with Deputy Daniel White for the events leading to the death in custody of inmate [REDACTED] Deputy White, on September 10th, 2009, we conducted your initial interview with you here at the office. Uh, please understand that the Lybarger admonition that was read to you is still in effect. Please understand, uh, that this is an administrative interview only and that your compelled statement cannot be used in a later criminal proceeding. Do you understand that?

DEP. WHITE: Yes.

SGT. QUANICO: Secondly, you have rights -- your rights under 3303 of the government code are still in effect. You have the right to have a representative. Uh, Mr. Harry Stern is here from Rains, Lucia and Stern. Uh, Deputy White, on -- once again, on September 10th, 2009, you gave us a narrative of your recollection of the events that led to the [REDACTED] safety cell, uh, uh -- the death of inmate [REDACTED] which took place in, uh, safety cell number two and the s -- and the events that led up to that. Uh, after reviewing incident reports, after conducting several interviews, there is a gross disparity among-among the interviews as well as the, uh, uh, the incident reports. Uh, the incident reports as well as the interviews clearly indicate that Senior Deputy Matthew [Wong] was the scene commander and that he was in charge in front of K tank and the safety cell. In your September 10th statement of 2009, you said you did not see Lieutenant Casey at post nine or post 10. Is that correct?

DEP. WHITE: Yeah.

SGT. QUANICO: And this is the incident in front of K tank that you responded to? You don't recall seeing Lieutenant [Casey]. Is that correct?

DEP. WHITE: Don't r -- that is correct. I don't recall seeing him.

SGT. QUANICO: When asked by me if he had any part in the incident, you said no. And this is from your transc-transcript. Uh, you said [Casey] did not appear until a later time, and that was after the safety cell placement. Is that correct?

DEP. WHITE: Yes.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Uh, in fact, this is a direct quote from your, uh -- from you -- from your s -- from your statement. Do you know -- this is me asking you. Do you know if [Casey] was aware of what took place at K tank and that he was taken to the safety cell? Was he -- was he basically summoned by Senior Deputy [Wong]? Or did [Wong] tell him, "Hey, I've got one for the box or for the safety cell?" And you said, "I'm not sure."

DEP. WHITE: Correct.

SGT. QUANICO: Uh, after interviewing Lieutenant [Casey], uh, he clearly indicated that he ordered the deputies to stand up inmate [REDACTED] who was on the floor, on the ground after you had arrived and put leg shackles on him, to raise him up off the ground. Uh, and that [Casey] said Senior Deputy [Wong] gave him a briefing at that point, basically told him what had taken place at post 11, in K tank and, uh, subsequently what happened, uh, before inmate [REDACTED] went to the ground. He indicated that, uh, after [Wong's] briefing and after [Casey's] observations of what he saw on the main line, he ordered Senior Deputy [Wong] to place inmate [REDACTED] in the safety cell and that it was his decision for the safety cell placement, not Senior Deputy [Wong's]. So my first question, uh, was Lieutenant [Casey] in front of K tank?

DEP. WHITE: I can't recall.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Uh, did he -- do you recall a briefing that Senior Deputy [Wong] gave to Lieutenant [Casey] in front of K tank?

DEP. WHITE: I don't.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Do you recall Lieutenant [Casey] making the final decision and telling Senior Deputy [Wong] that [REDACTED] needed to go into the safety cell?

DEP. WHITE: I don't recall.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. At any time while on the ground or when you [picked] [REDACTED] up and on the way to the safety cell, d-do you recall inmate [REDACTED] saying that he couldn't breathe?

DEP. WHITE: No. [crosstalk]

SGT. QUANICO: And this could be redundant. I may have asked you this before.

DEP. WHITE: Yeah. I-I believe you have.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. At any time upon your arrival, did you place your knee on Mr. [REDACTED] back or any part of his body?

DEP. WHITE: No.

SGT. QUANICO: Do you recall seeing any of your coworkers place their knee on inmate [REDACTED] back or any part of his body in front of K tank?

DEP. WHITE: No.

SGT. QUANICO: And, of course, that was the same question for you in front of K tank.

DEP. WHITE: No. [No.]

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Sarge, do you want to clarify anything? Harry?

MR. STERN: No, thank you, sir.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Is there anything that you'd like to add, uh, Deputy White? Anything that you feel is important?

DEP. WHITE: No.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. These are the follow-up questions that I needed to ask you. The admonishment stands that you are not to share this with anyone. Of course, you can talk to Mr. Stern about any questions that you have. Do you understand that?

DEP. WHITE: Yes.

SGT. QUANICO: Okay. Uh, if there's nothing else, it's, uh, 1659. And this will conclude our interview with, uh, uh, Deputy Dan White. Thanks, Dan.

[End of recorded material]