

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**William Plotz, Witness Interview  
IA 2012-11-312**

November 21, 2012

Present:

William Plotz, Corrections Officer

David Vanis, Captain

Bonita McClough, Transcribing Secretary

Vanis: Today's date is November 21, 2012. The time is now 0815 hours. This is Captain Vanis with the Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Unit. I'm conducting an interview with Officer William Plotz at the IA Office at the Branch Jail. Sir, could you state your name for the record?

Plotz: William Plotz

Vanis: And your current position and job title?

Plotz: Senior Officer and Corrections Officer

Vanis: Ok how long have you been employed with the Department of Corrections?

Plotz: Ahm over six and a half years.

Vanis: Ok what's your home address?

Plotz: [REDACTED]

Vanis: Ok and a phone number you can be reached at?

Plotz: [REDACTED]

Vanis: All right you are hereby advised that you're being interviewed as a part of an official administrative investigation being conducted by the Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Unit. You will be asked questions specifically directed and narrowly

related to the performance of your official duties and or fitness for continued employment. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws and the Constitution of this State and the Constitution of the United States, including the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. I am further advising you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or the fitness for continued employment, it will be considered an act of insubordination and a violation of a direct order given by a superior or competent authority. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence that is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding. These statements may be used against you in relation to Divisional disciplinary actions. Be advised this is an active and open Internal Affairs investigation. I am directing you not to discuss any part of this investigation with anyone other than your representative until that until this case comes to ah closure. Do you understand you'll be providing a sworn statement today which will be given under oath?

Plotz: Yes, Sir.

Vanis: Ok will you raise your right hand for me? Do you solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Plotz: Yes, Sir.

Vanis: Ok. All right Ofc. Plotz, do you have any idea why you're here?

Plotz: None at all.

Vanis: Ok. Have ahm...around the beginning of August what was your assignment at that time, do you remember?

Plotz: (To himself) August...ahm in August I believe I was moved over to - I was in the Facility at the time I was an officer in Dorm 1.

Vanis: All right prior to that what were you doing?

Plotz: I was ahm assigned to Unit 3 over here at the Branch.

Vanis: Ok did you have a a partner at the time? Like somebody you worked with all the time?

Plotz: Ahm well I worked with Ofc. Cella till he went out on injury and then I worked with Ofc. Rodriguez.

Vanis: Ok. Ofc. Cella have you ah how long did you work with him?

Plotz: Ahm almost three er it was probably two two and a half months from the time we had shift change which would've been...shift change was in May...(June, July)...yeah end of July, the beginning of August somewhere around that time I think he had gotten injured in the kitchen and then he left ahm on injury and...two, three weeks after that I was reassigned over to the dorms ahm in August and ahm I don't know the exact dates.

Vanis: Ok when you were working with Ofc. Cella who was your Shift Commander?

Plotz: Ah that would be...ahm Capt. Hunter.

Vanis: Ok...and when you and Ofc. Cella were working together I mean you're pretty much together most of the night, aren't you?

Plotz: Yes, Sir.

Vanis: Ok. Did Capt. Hunter ever interact with you or was she kinda -?

Plotz: Ahm once a night she'd do her rounds ahm and she'd stop by the unit and talk you know for you know anywhere from one minute to thirty minutes you know depending on what was going on in the building.

Vanis: All right so she'd stop by and chat with you all

Plotz: M hm

Vanis: and make sure everything's all right see if you need anything.

Plotz: Correct.

Vanis: Anything else she'd ask, say?

Plotz: Ahm sometimes there was personal conversations that went on while you know we would talk about what we did on the weekend or you know other things that went on like that.

Vanis: All right would you ever say any of those conversations became inappropriate for the workplace?

Plotz: Ahm I personally think that that's would be subject to opinion but you know my opinion could be yes.

Vanis: Ok so what would be some of the topics of conversation that you would consider inappropriate?

Plotz: She had discussed how you know her and ahm her baby's father had problems and they used to get in fights I think that's somewhat inappropriate for you know a captain in the building talking about she gets in fistfights with you know another officer that works here and ahm - then you know she would ah - most of the conversations would revolve around that and she was moving out of her ah out of her ahm his house they lived up in Palm Coast and she was moving to Deltona. That was the majority of what she would come down and talk to us about.

Vanis: Ok ahm who who was her ex at the time?

Plotz: Ah Sgt. Jason Johnson

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: was ah was her ex ahm when she was on the unit she talked to Ofc. Cella more than she would talk to me but most of it was when both of us were in the officers' station

Vanis: M hm

Plotz: unless I was doing something with a trusty or whatever you know they could've been talking on their own.

Vanis: Have you ever heard her make any ahm - she ever come on to Ofc. Cella? Ever hit on him? Anything like that anything...

Plotz: Ahm...since I've worked here and I've known her she's always been a little bit more flirtatious with other officers even when she was a sergeant and as a lieutenant and as a captain. Ahm two different officers and she was she would you know like ah just inadvertently flirt or whatever with with different officers. She probably flirted with Cella a couple of times.

Vanis: Ok did she ever make any sexually explicit comments to you or Ofc. Cella that you ever heard?

Plotz: Ahm...I've yeah I've heard her make sexual comments to Ofc. Cella once or twice.

Vanis: Can you think of any examples? And please don't don't hold back you're not gonna offend me.

Plotz: Well no I'm (laughs) it's just hard to place you know that long ago it's hard to remember exactly verbatim word for word what was said I mean ahm...her her verbiage was unassailed.

Vanis: Ok so somewhat crude you'd

Plotz: Yeah

Vanis: describe it as

Plotz: Yeah I mean you know it's like like ahm God I can't even think of an example off the top of my head ahm...just...ahm I can't even I hate to say I can't say word for word what she said I mean you know just ah you know I could rock your world I you know what I mean if if you weren't married you know you know we could ah you know I could do this or that or...

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: You know it's just like it's (laughs) on the spot it's hard to remember exactly word for word what was said four months ago.

Vanis: Ok but it was you would definitely consider it crude it's not something that you would expect would you would you expect to hear that from...

Plotz: Not it's not something it's not the way I would talk to Ofc. Cella as a partner.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: You know not a not a way I would talk to a subordinate or a you know a supervisor as as an officer. There are certain things you say in the workplace and certain things you don't.

Vanis: So would you consider you would consider that inappropriate?

Plotz: I would say so.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: For me, at least...and I understand that's subject to your interpretation or my interpretation but my interpretation would be that's not how I would talk or expect to be talked to. But if he was comfortable with that...

Vanis: Did he ever voice any concerns about this to you?

Plotz: Ahm he never he never said that ah...I think once there was...he was off the unit and went to the Shift Commander's office for something one time and he came back and he's like, you would not believe what she just did. And I said what did she do? And he says I'm not going to tell you because I don't want you to you know I don't want to put you in that position. I was like ok and that was like it. But I mean

Vanis: When was that? Do you remember?

Plotz: Probably about two three weeks before he before he got injured, I think. You know it was right around it's so hard to say it was right at the beginning of that shift. Ahm...but yeah he came back and said cause he was off the unit for about a half hour. Ofc. Cella and I never took breaks we were always up on Unit 3 the entire time you know it was very rare for us for one of us to take a break.

Vanis: I'm sure nights it's kind of slowed down

Plotz: And ahm I think he went out to get overtime slips or something like that in the office so he took a break and then he had come back and ah and I vaguely remember him saying something though like you know ah I was in the office and you know just I can't believe she says the stuff she says and he said you would not believe it. And ah I said then I was like well what is it you know and he ah...he had said ah...I forget exactly what he said but he said he had a - he says (laughs) you don't want to know we don't need to go there I was like ok and just dropped it. So...

Vanis: So you can't think of any specific examples of like what she would say to him?

Plotz: Ahm...

Vanis: Something similar I mean it doesn't have to be verbatim but context is kinda important.

Plotz: Ahm...context she was talking to him one day about giving blow jobs.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: Yeah and I you know as I said I remember the exact words she'd said or he had said when it was

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: that long ago. But I you know she had she had talked to him in maybe half a dozen conversations maybe just you know sexually explicit stuff for just you know a couple of seconds or this or that.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: As I said most of the conversations she came down to the unit she was talking about you know ah her spouse or

Vanis: her ex

Plotz: baby daddy or whatever

Vanis: Right

Plotz: Jason...so...

Vanis: Do you know you know of any reason Ofc. Cella would want to get Capt. Hunter into trouble? Other than...other than what you just said I mean has she ever written him up, any kind of severe discipline or ?

Plotz: As far as I know he's never been written up by her or whatever. Ahm Capt. Hunter is a hunter er Capt. Hunter's a hunter Capt. Hunter's a shift commander, ahm she she wasn't the type that was always looking for something to pin something on somebody or whatever so I can't see her going after somebody or you're making you know you're like sometimes you get

Vanis: She was a fair boss.

Plotz: She yeah that's what it is. She you know wasn't like you know when you get in some situations where a shift commander's just out for you and every little thing you do wrong they write you up and then the officer gets disgruntled and looks for there was nothing anything like that.

Vanis: Right. She would take care of an issue and move on.

Plotz: Yeah yeah so there was nothing going on I'm sorry I couldn't imagine Ofc. Cella would have anything that he would want to go against her. I mean ahm I mean and it you know in a conversation of her speaking sexually explicit to another officer which ahm...I mean...you run a fair line of sexual harassment you know when you start talking sexual contact you know especially at work with somebody that you work with and I think when Cella and I had the conversation one night was ah you know many places you know there are many people who would take that kind of content as too far. And you know there's that line of ah you know what's not wanted to want, do you know what I mean

Vanis: Mm

Plotz: with harassment it's not I guess it's I mean correct me if I'm wrong, but it's not sexual harassment if it's not wanted or or I'm sorry if it's wanted no. But if it's not wanted it is sexual harassment. Is that how that

Vanis: Sounds right.

Plotz: Something something along that and we had discussed that one night and both of us just kinda laughed it off. Ofc. Cella's happily married, you know I'm ah engaged you know so neither one of us never ever as far as I know according with Ofc. Cella neither one of us ever had any wish to have any follow through with her but you know. So it always just kind of

Vanis: Was most of her...trying to think of the right word most of her most of her commen come ons were towards Ofc. Cella? Or did did you were you the recipient of some of that also?

Plotz: Ahm...I would say 99% of it was probably towards him. She would make a snide comment to me and she's like oh you're you're happily involved you know whatever, so...you know and then Ofc. Cella was going through a hard time with his wife at the time so any conversation they might've had off the unit or you know or when I was working with a trusty that I didn't hear you know ahm you know...but he'd had ahm he was having a rough time with his wife and you know and just I think working at night and the hours, you know.

Vanis: Right, I can understand that.



Plotz: But as far as I know they never separated or you know there was never any intent to have Ofc. Cella leaving his wife or you know or his wife leaving him you know so I don't and I don't know if she misinterpreted that as something and then said something like he said when he went to the office and came back he when he said you won't believe what she just did.

Vanis: And you said that was a couple weeks before his injury?

Plotz: Two or three, probably, yeah

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: Ahm...

Vanis: Now you say you wouldn't believe what she *said* or what she *did*? Did he kinda or are you not not sure?

Plotz: Take me a few minutes to think about it ahm...might've been what what she did, not what she said. Or or what she said *and* did.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: It's...ahm...I think it was what she did

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: and that's when I said so what happened and he said ah that's when he said you know we don't need to get into that and then ah ahm I just said were you alone in the office with her and he said no. He wouldn't put himself in that position. And I was like ok, whatever and you know we moved on.

Vanis: Ok...so are you friends with him outside of work or just kinda work partners?

Plotz: We're work partners. I don't associate I I associate with two people that work in this building outside of work. That's it.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: One's a lieutenant, one's a sergeant.

Vanis: Understood.

Plotz: (unintelligible)

Vanis: Have you spoke to Ofc. Cella since he's been out on his in with his injury?

Plotz: Ahm I would email him or text him here and there just asking him how the injury was going and how he was recovering I guess he was having a problem with his knee and his meniscus

Vanis: M hm

Plotz: ahm you know I probably shot a half a dozen texts to him between the time he's been out to now just to check up on him, see when he's coming back.

Vanis: So nothing else about Capt. Hunter in those emails,

Plotz: No, no

Vanis: texts?

Plotz: No

Vanis: Ok...I'm trying to think. All right, so I'm just gonna kinda sum sum up what what we talked about. You and Ofc. Cella worked Unit 3 together

Plotz: Correct

Vanis: at night Capt. Hunter would come by and visit every you know about once a night and you know check on you but at some times talk and she would talk about her relationship with ah - Sgt. Johnson?

Plotz: Yes

Vanis: and how they were going through a breakup she was moving

Plotz: M hm

Vanis: and occasionally she would - there would be sexually explicit conversation between her that she would direct at Ofc. Cella?

Plotz: Yes

Vanis: But you observed

Plotz: yes

Vanis: observed and overheard and...

Plotz: but I've also seen her have sexually explicit conversations with many, many officers throughout the time I've worked here so it's nothing different from the behavior she's had now to the behavior she had say three years ago.

Vanis: And Ofc. Cella would voice some concern about it but he wasn't how would you consider was it to the point that he wanted to report it to somebody or was it

Plotz: It was it was more of a like if you and I were partners we'd be like Jesus you know what the hell just happened? You know kinda like that type of thing. It's not like like wow that made me feel uncomfortable. I never heard that coming from him because if it did then we'd be subject to have to report it.

Vanis: Right

Plotz: You know where where you definitely feel obligated at that point but it was more or less like both of our heads would be spinning like I can't believe she just said something like that or I can't believe you know...that's our captain. You know it was more or less something like that. It wasn't like ah

Vanis: Kind of awestruck that she would even

Plotz: Yeah not like

Vanis: say something like that

Plotz: not like wow that made me uncomfortable but it was more like wow I just can't believe a (laughs) a captain would say that to you or something

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: but that's all she's since I've worked here there's always been a shock factor around...you know like I said her language is like a sailor, you know like two steps worse than a truck driver you know

Vanis: Right

Plotz: and that's her language has always been like that since I've worked here you know so it's I think it's when you work here and you're in that environment and ahm somebody continuously talks like that and nothing's ever done about it you just you know that's just the way somebody talks. You know so you don't think anything of it. You know what I mean?

Vanis: Right. I gotcha.

Plotz: So it's

Vanis: You become kinda numb to it.

Plotz: Yeah you know

Vanis: It's no longer offensive.

Plotz: I mean just as an out of the blue example if ahm Lt. Hughes were to come down and say something like that to me today, I would be floored. You know what I mean?

Vanis: You kinda expect it coming from Capt. Hunter but not from

Plotz: Yeah

Vanis: Lt. Hughes

Plotz: because you've heard that you know the whole time you've worked here you know you've heard that kind of conversations from her and nothing's ever been done about it, so it's just something that you know you just accept that's how somebody is. So that's why I say it wasn't like ah oh my God I can't believe she just said that it's just like you know you're shaking your head and you're like you know it's just how it is.

Vanis: Ok...All right I want to check something out real quick. (papers) All right. I'm gonna read you something. I really don't want to read it but I'm gonna read it to you and just tell me if it sounds familiar sounds like something that Off that Capt. Hunter might've said to

Plotz: Ok

Vanis: to Ofc. Cella at some point: "I'm looking to become a home wrecker because Johnson has beat on me and wrecked my home so now it's my turn. If retard Johnson didn't lick my clit so good I'd have kicked his dumb ass to the curb. Cella I don't care if you fuck

me while you're watching football but at least fuck my ass. Don't just eat my pussy like a bitch but fuck it like you fuck my ass. Cella, tell me you don't shave that shit around your dick and balls because I like it dirty and want to choke on th the hairs from your dick. I'll gag on your cock and you can grab my hair and fuck my mouth."

Plotz: Yeah

Vanis: Does that sound like something you've heard?

Plotz: Yeah, that wouldn't be out of context. That would that would be something she would say.

Vanis: Really?

Plotz: It sounds very similar.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: I can't you know like I say

Vanis: You can't say it's

Plotz: for verbatim word for word cause I don't remember like that it does sound very similar to something that she would say. And that would be - a comment like that would be within a two or three minute stop. You know that wasn't like a long drawn out conversation as she went through the unit. You know that could just be ahm...you know two three minute stop hi, whatcha doin, ok after you're done talking about business then that would be the little you know

Vanis: So you can't say for sure for certain that that's a quote but you can say

Plotz: I would say it sounds close to a quote you know - very close.

Vanis: Ok. All right well do you have anything else you want to add?

Plotz: Ahm...with a quote like that

Vanis: M hm

Plotz: ahm I think I've heard that you know maybe not word for word but you know she's talked to other people that way also...and that

would be like one of those conversations where Ofc. Cella and I would look at each other and just shake our head and be like you know you know what is she on what is she you know why does she talk like that

Vanis: Right who can you do you know anybody else that she mighta talked to like that?

Plotz: Ahm I know she's talked like that with Ofc. Marasco but I think they were also involved in a relationship for awhile...and she also would talk about how she ah would go out and ahm get drunk and party with other officers and you know pass out at their houses and stuff like that.

Vanis: Ok. Do you know who any of them might be?

Plotz: Ahm a lot of them were newer officers and you know I'm not really that good with their names.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: They I know Marasco was one of them that she would hang out with...ahm she was primarily on ahm she was on the Charlie/Delta rotation for a long time when she was going out with a lot of different people and I was on the Alpha/Bravo rotation, so I so I really didn't get to know a lot of those different officers ahm then she switched over to Bravo and like Ofc. Marasco he does a lot of overtime but I think he's still assigned to Charlie/Delta rotation you know so but there was a lot of a lot of em were newer officers like you know I'm very bad with names when it comes to the new guys.

Vanis: Ok

Plotz: but ahm ahm I guess that's about...yeah what you read sounds very close to something like the context that she would come up and talk to Cella about or whatever or just some of the comments she would make

Vanis: Ok. Anything else?

Plotz: Not off the top of my head

Vanis: Do you have any questions for me?

Plotz: Ahm...are you going to be here all day?

Vanis: I'm not but I'll give you my card with my contact information.

Plotz: Ok I'm just saying the way that the way my head works is in an hour I'll think of something specific.

Vanis: Yeah if you think of something else you can contact me and we can you can meet me in here next week some time

Plotz: Ok

Vanis: we'll just set up a time

Plotz: Yeah it's just you know I not knowing what this was about it's like I wasn't thinking about all the different things that could have been said or whatever you know to get clear on it.

Vanis: Right

Plotz: So...

Vanis: And I want to be really clear on something. Do not discuss what we talked about in here today

Plotz: Oh absolutely

Vanis: with anybody and that's it's it's an order that it's this is a a very sensitive matter that needs to be...

Plotz: I don't like getting involved with stuff with other people from here it's strictly work for me.

Vanis: Ok. All right, Sir, well I appreciate your time and like I said I'll give you my contact information if you think of anything

Plotz: Yeah I mean I just

Vanis: you can call me

Plotz: You know I I cause you know how it is when somebody asks you something and like an hour later you're like oh I should've said this or

Vanis: M hm

Plotz: you know that's

Vanis: Right

Plotz: that's the only thing I you know if I can I can't think of anything else off the top of my head I mean...just the general behavior of her which I think I covered.

Vanis: Yes Sir. Yes, you did. Ok. Time is now 0840 hours and we're gonna be off the record.

(Recording devices off)