

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Nathan Schneider, Witness Interview
IA 2012-11-312**

November 20, 2012

Present:

Nathan Schneider, Corrections Officer

David Vanis, Captain

Bonita McClough, Transcribing Secretary

Vanis: This is Captain Vanis with the Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Unit. Today's date is November 20th, 2012 the time is now 0946 hours. I'm interviewing Officer Schneider today in the Internal Affairs Office. Sir, could you please state your name?

Schneider: Nathan Schneider.

Vanis: And what's your current position and job title?

Schneider: Ah Senior Correctional Officer.

Vanis: Ok. How long have you been employed with Corrections?

Schneider: Approximately 11 years.

Vanis: All right Sir what's a what's a home address for you?

Schneider: [REDACTED].

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

Schneider: [REDACTED]

Vanis: All right. Ahm 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 off your official duties and your 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 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. Please be advised that this is an active and open Internal Affairs investigation I'm still directing you not to discuss any part of this investigation or this interview with anyone other than your representative until this case comes to a close. Do you understand that you'll be providing a sworn statement today?

Schneider: Yes

Vanis: Go ahead and raise your right hand? Do you swear to tell do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Schneider: I do

Vanis: Ok. Do you have any questions about what I just read to you?

Schneider: No

Vanis: Ok pretty much what it says is

Schneider: M hm

Vanis: what we talked about before you're gonna you're gonna answer the questions and you can't be charged criminally with what you answer but the most important part I want you to remember about this what I just read is do not discuss any part of this

Schneider: Correct

Vanis: interview or this investigation with anybody until it's closed. Try to keep this stuff confidential.

Schneider: Will they will they notify us when it's closed or whatever do they -?

Vanis: Ahm...maybe.

Schneider: Not that I'm chompin at the bit to tell anybody but...

Vanis: No I don't think you know what it's about right now, do you?

Schneider: I have no clue.

Vanis: Ok all right are you familiar with Officer Cella?

Schneider: Cella? Yes.

Vanis: Do you work with him? Did you work with him?

Schneider: I have yeah.

Vanis: Do you remember when he hurt his knee? Were you working that night? Morning?

Schneider: I came in that morning ahm I wasn't there when he hurt it or nothin I was just ah I was in I was in the office as

Vanis: Oh you were in the office

Schneider: he was there finishing up stuff

Vanis: When he was doing paperwork?

Schneider: Ahm...I don't remember if he was doing the paperwork or if they were just finishing up.

Vanis: Ok whose office was it?

Schneider: Ah the Shift Commander's office.

Vanis: And who was that?

Schneider: Capt. Hunter.

Vanis: Ok. Did you hear Ofc. Cella and Capt. Hunter have any kind of conversation any kind of interaction while you were in the office?

Schneider: Ahm...I'm sure they did nothing that really stands out.

Vanis: Nothing you remember?

Schneider: M mm

Vanis: Did you ah...What were they doing? Did you see any any kind of action any kind of interaction between them anything that that stands out?

Schneider: Ahm...I'm sorry specifically?

Vanis: Yeah anything that sticks out in your head? Nothing out of the ordinary?

Schneider: No

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: Nothing that I can recall anyway. This was a few months ago.

Vanis: Right it was a few months ago. Did you see Capt. Hunter taunt or try to make light of Cella's injuries at all?

Schneider: Ahm...I can't remember any ah like specifics I mean but oh I mean there was a little bit you know ah like I said I can't remember any exact words or anything like that, but...I mean it was the normal just like with anybody has like an OJI kinda slip and fall everybody kinda gets razzed about it a little bit.

Vanis: You don't remember anything specifically

Schneider: Nothing specific, no.

Vanis: Ok. Remember you're not the first person I've interviewed about this and I I do have other statements, ok?

Schneider: Ok but that's

Vanis: So please remember be honest

Schneider: I'm I'm I'm being totally honest with you.

Vanis: Ok I just want to make sure we're clear on that.

Schneider: Right yeah no I'm not I'm not trying to hold anything back

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: like I said it's just ahm you've gotta understand that the time in the morning it's 5:15 in the morning when I get in

Vanis: Right

Schneider: you know I was probably still...you know still kinda getting getting going in the morning

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: you know I'm in the office ah it's been months ago

Vanis: You don't recall anything inappropriate between Ofc. or Ofc. Cella and Capt. Hunter

Schneider: (Sighs) I nothin is coming out like ah I mean i if you're gonna ask me specific things like

Vanis: I'm going to

Schneider: do you remember if she did this did she do that I mean that might help me I mean cause I'll tell you I'm like oh yeah that's right she did do that but nothing nothing that I was like oh hey, I can't believe she's doin that, let me put this in the memory bank so I can use it for you know an investigation later or anything.

Vanis: Ok did you see Capt. Hunter lick her finger and place it in Ofc. Cella's ear? A "wet willie"?

Schneider: (pause) She might have. I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I do recall...

Vanis: You remember anything else she might've done like that?

Schneider: ...no. Nothing that's coming to mind but did she did she "wet willie" him? I can't be a hundred percent that she did I mean it...

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: but I mean it doesn't it doesn't sound like it would be like totally out of the ordinary but

Vanis: It sounds like something that potentially you know she could've done.

Schneider: Correct.

Vanis: Ok. Did you see Capt. Hunter place her rear end on Ofc. Cella and flatulate on him?

Schneider: Ah (laughs) I don't remember but that sounds like something she would do, yes.

Vanis: You don't remember if she if she did that?

Schneider: I not specifically that at that time, no.

Vanis: Ok. Did you see Capt. Hunter lick Ofc. Cella's neck and head?

Schneider: No!

Vanis: No (papers) you didn't you don't remember her saying anything? Any comments then?

Schneider: Ahm...

Vanis: Do you remember who else was in the office with you?

Schneider: Ah Sgt. West

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: Cause I think he was helping Cella do the paperwork...ahm

Vanis: Do you remember Sgt. West saying anything to Capt. Hunter?

Schneider: M m. Work like I said I part of me doesn't like I understand you called me in I'm a witness whatever. But like I'm in when I come in in the morning

Vanis: M hm

Schneider: I'm not just like in the office and hang out there I'm in and out because they have early as an early feed or escorting carts to the units or doing other stuff...

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: so I'm coming in and out of the office.

Vanis: All right I'm gonna read you a little bit of Ofc. Cella's complaint here. "A few moments later she pushed her behind up against my

back and flatulated on me. Immediately following the flatulation incident she placed her tongue on the back of my lower neck and ran it up the back of my scalp. After this disturbing act she then made a spitting sound and said, 'Tasted salty'. Sgt. West asked Capt. Hunter to leave the guy alone, he's hurt. Capt. Hunter again left the office while Sgt. West and Sgt. Lowenstein continued searching for the flash drive with the revised Injury Report. Ofc. Schneider was in the office at this time and just stared at me in disbelief."

Schneider: Hm...I I don't remember her licking him...ah I really don't remember specifically that she flatulated on him. I mean that's...you know. I've seen her do it before. Not lick anybody ok (laughs) before but...but yeah.

Vanis: And so you didn't hear Capt. I mean Sgt. West ask ask her to leave the guy alone he's hurt?

Schneider: If if I did, I I honestly don't remember.

Vanis: Anybody else in the office?

Schneider: Ahm...

Vanis: Other than Sgt. West and Cella

Schneider: Any of the early any of the other early feeds that came in could've been in and out of there ah that would've been...you know the time could've been ah Bressett, Wood, Sturla they could've come and gone. Ah any of the other sergeants could've been in there.

Vanis: Like who would be some other sergeants?

Schneider: Ah I'm trying to think who was there last shift...I want to say Sgt. Lowenstein...ah maybe Sgt. Waddoups...ahm...yeah

Vanis: Do you remember being in the office when when he was there doing paperwork

Schneider: I remember

Vanis: you just don't remember anything that happened is pretty much what you're saying. Some you're saying some of the things I'm asking wouldn't be out of the ordinary but

Schneider: Correct

Vanis: you don't remember.

Schneider: but but yeah the the the incident wasn't big enough for me to like really like dwell on it

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: is what I'm saying. Ahm

Vanis: Have you have you how long have you worked here again? I'm sorry.

Schneider: About eleven years.

Vanis: Eleven years so you've put some time in here.

Schneider: Yeah

Vanis: Have you worked for Capt. Hunter before?

Schneider: Yeah

Vanis: Ok you obviously seem to kind of know know her what kind of

Schneider: Right

Vanis: know what to expect out of her. Ahm have you ever heard her make inappropriate comments to you or any anybody else?

Schneider: Ahm...nothing that I would find...

Vanis: Anything crude, offensive, sexually explicit, anything like that?

Schneider: Nothing more than anybody else around here does we're all pretty you know everybody can kinda be that way at times it's how you deal with havin a stressful job. You know you'll make rude comments to each other we're all pretty thick skinned...you know nothing's really sacred around here...there's a lot of low blows that go on but it's all in...it's all in ah what do you call it?

Vanis: Joking

Schneider: Joking, you know? I mean I don't and I think anybody they if there's at any point in time anybody kinda looks like they're truly

offended, people stop. I mean it's you know it's just kinda like
Dude, deal with it so I mean have I heard her say things? Yes. Ah

Vanis: Is it things you'd want her to say around your mother or
grandmother?

Schneider: I'm kind of...nothing really that stuff doesn't faze me either so...I talk
the same way around my mother and father and grandmother that I
do here, so.

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: Ah...yeah I mean (laughs) as far as that kinda stuff goes and that's
probably why I honestly can't remember cause nothing really after
being here eleven years nothing anybody says or does - inmates,
officers - really surprises me anymore. Everything just kinda ah
you know it's just another day at the Jail you know and that's
probably why you know like I said if I had seen her licking that
woulda definitely stood out. I mean cause it that's kinda like wow!
You know but ah

Vanis: You don't recall that at all?

Schneider: (laughs) No

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: I don't ah but ahm...

Vanis: Does Capt. Hunter ever talk about her sex life?

Schneider: Ah - yes.

Vanis: In detail or just generally speaking?

Schneider: Ahm it's hit and miss sometimes she'll go on to some details.

Vanis: Ok. Anybody else talked about this incident with you?

Schneider: No

Vanis: No

Schneider: I honestly had no clue what it was about until I came in here today.

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: When they they called me in and told me it was other than that I've literally been walkin around goin what's goin on? And that's really one of the worst things I think that they can do is cause they this was like two weeks ago when they call and tell you hey you're part of an investigation you can't talk about it to nobody

Vanis: That wasn't that wasn't my decision.

Schneider: Oh ok cause I was like cause the first thing you want to do now is

Vanis: Figure out what it's about

Schneider: Yeah what the hell's goin on? You know so

Vanis: All right do you know any reason Ofc. Cella would want to get Capt. Hunter in trouble? Do you know of any kind of history between them?

Schneider: Ah no I know Cella isn't the type he doesn't like joke around a lot I mean he ah...I mean I can understand how like some of the stuff that goes on...ah he's not as ahm as crude I guess as a lot of us are...

Vanis: Ok

Schneider: so he takes a you know he'll take offense like ahm to a lot more stuff than a lot of lot of the other ones would.

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

Schneider: No. I'm sorry I couldn't like give you more or whatever but I honestly...

Vanis: If you don't

Schneider: I don't

Vanis: If you don't remember you don't remember

Schneider: Yeah

Vanis: Or if you didn't see something you didn't see something. Ahm I'm just gonna reiterate that what was said in here today

Schneider: Correct

Vanis: what we talked about the incident anything

Schneider: Correct

Vanis: does not leave this office until this investigation's done.

Schneider: Ok

Vanis: And ah if it's dyin if you're dying to get it out of you and you want to talk about it come back and ask me if it's done. Or ask Ms. B or somebody.

Schneider: Right

Vanis: But we're not

Schneider: Yeah

Vanis: this is this is a very sensitive topic and we don't want it

Schneider: Absolutely

Vanis: it doesn't need to be outside anybody that's involved with it doesn't need to know about it.

Schneider: Ok

Vanis: Ok?

Schneider: Yeah

Vanis: If you've got nothing else to add, no questions for me

Schneider: Now if ah if I for whatever reason I mean I can't say that I would but if I do remember anything should I get back in touch with you?

Vanis: Absolutely I'll give you my card with contact information

Schneider: All right

Vanis: All right? Well the time is now 1002 hours and we're gonna be off the record.

Schneider: Yeah, no problem.
(Recording devices off)