Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Case number 2010-08-286 C. Laundrie Witness Interview

September 3, 2010

Present:

Nikki Dofflemyer, Captain, Internal Affairs Carl Laundrie, Firefighter/Paramedic, Division of Fire Services

Transcribed:

Rebecca Perryman, Senior Staff Assistant

Dofflemyer: This is Captain Dofflemyer with the Volusia County Department of Public

Protection Internal Affairs Unit. Today's date is September 3rd, 2010, the

time is 0844 hours. We're conducting this interview with Mr. Carl

Laundrie, Landry.

Laundrie: Yes ma'am, Laundrie.

Dofflemyer: Okay, Laundrie. We at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse in

DeLand, Florida. This is a taped interview statement regarding Internal Affairs' case number 2010-08-286. Mr. Laundrie is not the subject of this investigation. He is currently on-duty, has been released from service for the purpose of this interview. Carl can you identify yourself for the record

please?

Laundrie: I'm Carl W. Laundrie the third.

Dofflemyer: And you are currently employed by Volusia County Fire Services?

Laundrie: Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer: In what capacity?

Laundrie: I'm a firefighter paramedic.

Dofflemyer: And how long have you been with Volusia County?

Laundrie: Going on six years.

Dofflemyer: What station are you assigned to currently?

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Laundrie:

Station 23 in New Smyrna Beach B Shift.

Dofflemyer:

Okay and on June 2nd, 2010, what shift where you assigned to?

Laundrie:

Station 23 B shift, New Smyrna Beach.

Dofflemyer:

Is that the Turnbull bay?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Alright, Mr. Laundrie has been advised that he is participating in an official administrative investigation for the Department of Public Protection. I will be asking questions specifically directed and nearly related to the performance of his official duties. He is entitled all rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Florida, including the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. He is further advised that if he refuses to testify or answer questions relating to the performance of his official duties, it will be considered an act of insubordination. If he does answer questions, neither statement, nor any information or evidence which is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding. Do you understand your Garrity rights?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Also be advised this is an open active case please don't discuss what we talked about today with anybody until the case comes to closure.

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

You understand this is going to be a sworn statement given under oath?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

You also understand in accordance with Merit Rules and Regulations and and the Firefighter Bill of Rights, you have the right to have representation present during this interview. Do you elect to have representation at this time?

Laundrie:

No ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, be advised during the interview you wish to get representation just advise and we'll stop the interview and allow you to seek representation.

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Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

All righty raise your right hand for me. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Very good on June 2nd, 2010, you were assigned to Station 23 is that

correct?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, Captain Rawlins arrived ah, on that date to exchange out some ah,

medication. I think it was Lorazepam?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Do you remember what time he arrived?

Laundrie:

It was sometime in the afternoon, in the mid to late afternoon. Ah, the only reason I remember is that they do it monthly every thirty days now, it use to be every ninety days. I know it was later in the afternoon cause he usually makes his rounds to either every station in the quad or every station in County. So he just happened catch, I think it was around

anywhere from two to four PM.

Dofflemyer:

Okay and you recognize Captain Rawlins as a supervisor within Volusia

County Fire Services?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, tell me ah, the events as they transpired with the exchange of that

medication.

Laundrie:

He showed up at the station. Ah, we had conducted training and we were getting a late lunch, making something to eat. He came in said he was there to exchange the medication. I was expecting him that day, because I knew the medication expired the next morning. He came in, asked me to pull my narcotic stock off the truck. I pulled both narcotic logs and the drug pouch, we keep them locked, dual locked separate. Their in a pelican box and then in a drug pouch that's locked as well. I got the pouches as well as both logs. Came in the station and started to open the pouches to get the old narcotics out, the old Lorazepam.

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Dofflemyer:

Ah hum.

Laundrie:

I think we had eight milligrams in one pouch and ten in another. Typically we carry ten. Ah, I got started getting the medication out and he started to fill out the narc logs which was kind of odd to me. Usually I do all the handwriting, keep the handwriting the same in the narc logs. So it was one

of the things that like I said tipped me off a little bit.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, and what happened after that?

Laundrie:

We started exchanging, I took all the old expired medication or the medication that was due to expire the next day out, ah, assuming that we were going to waste the medication. When he walked in, he walked in with ah clean Sharps receptacle. Ah that didn't have, to my knowledge, I didn't look inside of it, didn't have any narcotics in it or any other medications. Ah, he came in with that and some paperwork for me, routine paperwork for me to fill out, to sign for the new medication. When he started filling out the narc log, he handed over to me to sign and witness that he filled out the amount that I was receiving. Ah, and then he went to go put the medication Lorazepam into the receptacle. I asked him if we were supposed to waste that or we don't do that anymore is this a new policy, he said nope, that's all he said to me. And then he put the old Lorazepam or the Lorazepam due to expire into the receptacle unopened.

Dofflemyer:

Current policy and protocol is to draw the medication and waste it into a

sink is that correct?

Laundrie:

Currently either into a sink or trash receptacle to waste the expired medication and then we have another paramedic or EMT or supervisor witness us as we do it. we'll sign in the narcotic logs we'll note the lot number and we'll note the date and the amount wasted and then I'll sign it, the person wasting or the person in charge of the narcotics for that day

would sign it and then we have the witness sign it.

Dofflemyer:

So on this particular day, Captain Rawlins instructed you to give him the

vials without wasting the medications in the vials?

Laundrie:

That's correct.

Dofflemyer:

And what did he do with that medication again?

Laundrie:

He put it into an used Sharps container.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, is that what you recognize as a violation of policy?

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Laundrie:

Yes.

Dofflemyer:

Did he direct you to put, to turn the medication over to him in that

fashion?

Laundrie:

Yes.

Dofflemyer:

And you said that you asked him is has policy changed?

Laundrie:

Yeah I asked him if there was a change in policy I didn't know, simply put I asked him I said we don't waste the narcotics anymore, we don't waste the expired medications anymore, we just. He goes nope, I said okay, and

that was it, and I handed them over to him, assuming that maybe

something had came out that I didn't know about or they were changing. I know recently he's taken over ah, the dispersal of the Lorazepam and stuff there's been several. They went to Logistics as opposed to we used to have an EMS captain that worked for us that took care of all that and made sure that it got out to the Battalions, then the Battalions would shuttle it to us.

Now it's pretty much he does all of that.

Dofflemyer:

Was that the first time a supervisor has ever come and taken the

medication in that fashion?

Laundrie:

Very first time.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, and how long have you've been with Fire Services?

Laundrie:

Going on six years.

Dofflemyer:

Has it happened since that time?

Laundrie:

No ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

How many milligrams did ah, Captain Rawlins take?

Laundrie:

I'm not a hundred percent sure, ah, there's a copy, there's a record of it in

the ah, the copy of the narcotic logs, but I believe it was eight milligrams

on one truck and ten on another.

Dofflemyer:

And this would be the narcotic logs that you're talking about, the

controlled substance accountability form?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Is this the form that Captain Rawlins filled out on 6/2/2010?

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Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Okay. And this form indicates that the medication was wasted and witnessed by a second party which would have been Captain Rawlins.

Laundrie:

That's correct.

Dofflemyer:

So Captain Rawlins in essence signed saying he witnessed the medication

being wasted.

Laundrie:

That's correct. He, that was the part that tipped me off that it was kind of odd. He filled it out and filled his name out as witnessing it and that I

wasted. And it wasn't, I didn't waste it.

Dofflemyer:

Okay.

Laundrie:

And he handed over for me to sign.

Dofflemyer:

Did he direct you to sign the form?

Laundrie:

Yes.

Dofflemyer:

Okay and you said you questioned him?

Laundrie:

That's correct.

Dofflemyer:

And he placed the medication into a Sharps container?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Did he take that Sharps container with him?

Laundrie:

Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Do you know what he did with it?

Laundrie:

No ma'am. As far as I know he put it in his truck and left with it.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, did you notify anybody that this had transpired?

Laundrie:

Absolutely.

Dofflemyer:

Okay what did you do?

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Laundrie: Ah, that day my normal lieutenant was, sorry I didn't turn my cell phone

off.

Dofflemyer: That's alright.

Laundrie: My normal lieutenant I believe was in training or out of town, ah, had a

fill in supervisor who was Lieutenant Kevin Kennett. Ah, I immediately notified him ah, either I believe I can't a hundred percent remember if he showed up at the station or I phoned called him. But he was making his

rounds.

Dofflemyer: Ah hum.

Laundrie: I notified Lieutenant Kevin Kennett what had taken place. He said he had

just spoke to Station 12 and he said a similar had taken place there. Ah, he advised me to make sure that it was documented in the narcotic logs that it was actually taken and not expired, which I had already done it at that point, once I realized what had taken place after Captain Rawlins left.

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Dofflemyer: Where did you put it again? You said that you documented it?

Laundrie: Documented it in the narcotic logs.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Did the medication...

Laundrie: I that's why...

Dofflemyer: that it wasn't wasted?

Laundrie: That it wasn't wasted, that it was in fact taken by Logistics 10. Ah, it's

documented here at the top in the parenthesis in my handwriting.

Dofflemyer: Very good okay.

Laundrie: And then he also instructed me to send an email to him and the other

battalions working that station. I included Commander Millwater on that because he was due to be assigned at our station but just hadn't reported to

duty yet.

Dofflemyer: So you sent this inmate, this email out to Rusty Case, Mike Inglett, and

Kevin Kennett?

Laundrie: Yes ma'am, and copied Commander Millwater because he was due to be

our battalion.

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Dofflemyer: Okay, did any of these gentleman respond back to you after they received

the email?

Laundrie: I didn't get an email back from them. I spoke to ah, Commander Inglett

the following morning and also spoke to Commander Case about the issue.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Have you spoken to anybody else about this ah, series of events

since it transpired?

Laundrie: Just normal discussion at the fire station. Ah, over morning coffee before

we do our truck checks and stuff, you know, asking, you know we get on a subject of it and wondered what happened about it and all that good stuff.

And that's about it, other than that nobody else.

Dofflemyer: Has Captain Rawlins attempted to talk to you about it?

Laundrie: No ma'am.

Dofflemyer: Who is your normal supervisor?

Laundrie: Lieutenant Jason Castelli.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Jason was at training?

Laundrie: I believe he was either, he's an instructor and works a lot with the

Training Center, so he was either teaching that day or he had half the shift off. For some reason he was out and Lieutenant Kennett was there riding

up as the battalion.

Dofflemyer: How soon after this took place did you notify supervisor?

Laundrie: Within the hour.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Laundrie: Or less, as soon as I could reach him.

Dofflemyer: My copy has that too, so you went back to the narcs log and put taken by.

Laundrie: Once I read through it I wasn't, at first I wasn't comfortable at all, but he

filled it out but I just assumed he was doing me a favor while I was getting the narcotics out and trying to speed up the process, so I allowed it to happen. And then once I read through it and realized that it wasn't how business is usually done and I went ahead and put the addendum in there

and notified Kevin and say hey.

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Dofflemyer:

And just to go back over some information, you said Captain Rawlins told

you this is the way we're going it now?

Laundrie:

He, he just said nope we're not doing that way, he goes nope not any

more.

Dofflemyer:

Talking about.

Laundrie:

Yeah.

Dofflemyer:

Actually wasting and drawing it into a syringe and wasting into a

trashcan?

Laundrie:

Typically you don't even draw it out because it, well, they use to get the Lorazepam in carpujects which basically you just attach it to ah, a dispense and you waste it straight out of there. Now they are giving it in ampuls where you actually have to draw it out. So at the time I believe they were carpujects containers which have a paper seal around the top of them let's you know if they have been broken or not. So, typically we don't draw them out, all we do is put them in the carpuject dispenser and

whoosh.

Dofflemver:

On 06/02 you did not waste them in a sink?

Laundrie:

Nope. I asked him specifically I said you know is we're not wasting them anymore? He said nope not any more and that was it, so. I didn't know if it was something that was, had came about that I wasn't aware of I know there's a lot of changes as far as we were dispensing the medication and

stuff, so.

Dofflemyer:

Did anybody witness the communication between you and Captain

Rawlins?

Laundrie:

Ah, there were other people ah, we have another agency that's assigned to

our station that's sit on readiness level, waiting for forest fires, the

Division of Forestry. But I don't think they could hear us our conversation just because they were in the dayroom, they were watching the news and I was, at the kitchen table or there's like a table in the dayroom that we all

eat it, do our briefings and stuff like that.

Dofflemyer:

Who else told you that this happened to them too?

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Laundrie:

It wasn't, well, it wasn't directly communicated to me that it had happened to somebody else, ah, first hand when I spoke to Lieutenant Kennett. He had said he spoke to his guys at 12 his normally assigned at Station 12 and he rides up for our station as battalion quite a bit. He has said that he spoke to his guys at 12 and said that something similar had happened to him as well. And he's telling them to ah.

Dofflemyer:

And you said that you haven't had any conversation with Captain

Rawlins?

Laundrie:

No ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

Okay.

Laundrie:

I can't remember if Kevin called me or I called him. But there was a

phone conversation I'm pretty sure I called him up.

Dofflemyer:

Okay, Carl is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think I need

to know?

Laundrie:

No ma'am.

Dofflemyer:

All righty. And we're going to go off the record. We are still at the

Historic Courthouse in DeLand Florida, still September 3rd, the time is

0857 hours and we'll be off the record.

(Tape recording devices off)