

Statement

EE – Lt. Erik Eagan GB – Inv. Glen Bennett MC – Chief Deputy Mike Coffin

EE Alright the recorder is on. This is an Internal Affairs investigative interview regarding Internal Affairs case number IA-12-013. The subject's name is Chief Deputy Mike Coffin. I'm Lt. Erik Eagan with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. Today's date is August 21, 2012 and the current time is 1340 hours. The location of this interview is the Sheriff's administrative building. Also present during the interview is Inv. Glen Bennett. Chief Coffin are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

MC Yes.

EE I am conducting an official administrative investigation concerning Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 sub 13, any conduct on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the county as an employer. As a Florida law enforcement officer and a Notary Public of the state of Florida I am empowered to take sworn statements. At this time I would ask you to raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the statement you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MC I do.

EE Ok. Any false statement about material matters given by a witness under oath will constitute perjury which is a third degree felony according to section 837.02 Florida Statutes. Do you understand that if you knowingly make material misstatements of fact to me during this investigation you will have committed the crime of perjury?

MC I understand.

EE Ok. Chief Coffin have you had the opportunity to review all documents provided in this investigation?

MC Yes.

EE Ok do you need any more time?

MC No.

EE Ok. Before going on record did you read and sign your advisement of rights as they pertain to garrity?

MC I did.

47
48 EE Alright did you also receive a copy of your law enforcement officer bill of rights?
49
50 MC I did.
51
52 EE Ok I've also provided you a second copy here today.
53
54 MC Yes.
55
56 EE Ok I'm going to be asking you questions during the interview, do you mind if Inv.
57 Bennett were to ask any questions?
58
59 MC That's fine.
60
61 EE Alright. Chief how long have you worked for the Volusia County Sheriff's
62 Office?
63
64 MC A little over 23 years.
65
66 EE Ok how long have you been the Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Office?
67
68 MC Since December of 2011.
69
70 EE There was an allegation made to the website Volusia Exposed that you had
71 extramarital relations with Bobby King while she was married to Sgt. Joey
72 Bryant. Is this allegation true?
73
74 MC No.
75
76 EE Alright do you feel that you violated Volusia County Merit Rule 86-453 sub 13
77 which states any conduct on or off duty that may reflect poorly on the county as
78 an employer?
79
80 MC No.
81
82 EE Ok. Chief I want to thank you for meeting with us today. Is there anything that
83 you would like to add to your statement?
84
85 MC Yes there is. I want to make it clear that this isn't an anonymous complaint. It's
86 allegations to a third party source who's choosing to keep the complainants
87 identity confidential which is not addressed in either the County Merit System
88 Rules and/or our departmental standards. These wild accusations are not
89 supported with any type of credible information, documentation, fact, sworn
90 statement or evidence to support the claim. It doesn't identify potential witnesses,
91 timeframes or otherwise provide supporting material that meets any type of
92 evidentiary standards of any kind. In fact on the Volusia Exposed website that I

just looked at it clearly states that Volusia Exposed.com has no supportive documentation that can support any of these allegations. I'm making this statement because I believe that third party statements are considered hearsay and without supporting facts should not be considered to rise to the level of an internal investigation. The credibility of these such statements must be viewed with a certain level of skepticism without knowing the motivation of the writer and/or the third party source. Accordingly a supervisor's inquiry should be conducted to substantiate at least a portion of the allegation before opening a formal investigation. I don't believe that this IA is proper in terms of the merit of the complaint or in terms of procedure. Some of the reasons why I think the county should not accept or adjudicate third party anonymous or confidential complaints is because it lessens the likelihood that these frivolous complaints or complaints filed with ill will or malice will come before the Sheriff. Accepting these complaints make it difficult to assess whether the anonymous complainant truly exists at all. The veracity of the complainant, the credibility of the facts and the evidence on which the complaint is based. Some cases rise or fall in the credibility of the complainant therefore in these cases where there's no supporting evidence offered to substantiate the complaint, the credibility of the complainant is key to the investigation. While the complainant may or may not be retaliatory in nature the accused should have the right to expect a formal investigation will not be initiated when the complaint is from an unknown source whose credibility can not be ascertained nor challenged by the individual against whom the complaint is filed without some sort of documentation. Again in this case there's no documentation what so ever. This is just a complaint out of left field.

EE Ok. Do you have anything Inv. Bennett?

GB No sir.

EE Chief do you have anything additional?

MC I do not.

EE Again I want to thank you for your time. I appreciate you meeting with us today and we wish it were under different circumstances.

MC Understandable.

EE This will conclude the interview. The time is 1346 hours, thank you.

MC Thank you.

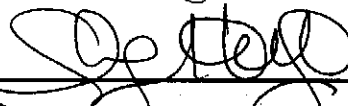
I, Lt. Erik Eagan, swear that the forgoing is
an accurate transcription of the sworn
recorded statement of Chief Deputy Mike
Coffin taken by me on August 21, 2012.

(Signed)



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st

Day of August, 2012.



Signature of Notary Public-State of Florida



(Print, type or Stamp Commissioned Name
of Notary Public)

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Number is:

Personally Known ✓

Produced identification

Type of Identification Produced