

**INTERVIEW WITH ERIC WHITE**

Today's date is Monday, May 17, 2021. The time is 5:50pm. This is DIRECTOR FRED MAYS in the GBI OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, and I'm speaking with SPECIAL AGENT ERIC WHITE. He is in the GBI BASIC AGENTS CLASS. We're located at the GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER in Forsyth, Georgia.

FM: ERIC, how long have you worked for the GBI?

EW: Since November 16<sup>th</sup> of 2020. So, what's it about 6 months?

FM: Okay, so you were P.O.S.T. certified, and they sent you to Region 1 in Calhoun to work for a while before they sent you to the Academy?

EW: Yes sir.

FM: Okay. Alright. And then, you're located in the Academy.

EW: Yes sir.

FM: Alright. Bring your attention to May 12, 2021. You provided a memorandum up through the Chain of Command to DEPUTY DIRECTOR of INVESTIGATIONS for the GBI, CHRIS HOSEY, explaining what happened on that particular evening. And, I have your statement here. Is there anything you want to change, add or delete to this statement, ERIC?

EW: So, from, at the time that I wrote the statement, I was under the impression that the statement was to be centered around QUAMERE, who you may hear me refer to as Q --

FM: Mm hmm.

EW: -- and MEGAN, who goes by MEG. Um, since then, it sounds like not only that, but I should've provided more information about what myself and others were

doing prior to that as well. Um, and I just, I, I didn't realize that that needed to be in there as well.

FM: Okay. Alright, well, we'll go over that. Let's get the, okay, let's start off in the -- if I hold my hand up, ERIC, stop talking, because we don't want to talk over each other. This has to be transcribed. So, if I hold my hand up, that means I'm getting ready to ask you a question, okay?

EW: Yes sir.

FM: Alright. But go ahead and tell me how this started out that night ya'll went to the Mexican restaurant. And, I might stop you and ask you some specific questions, but go ahead and tell me, how did ya'll end up at the Mexican restaurant that night? And, who did you ride with, or did you drive?

EW: So, MEG, at some point towards the end of class that day, sent out a message in our group chat app that we use to say that, you know, she wanted to go Mexican and eat Mexican food after class. I saw the message, and I believe she actually asked me. Um, I'm not, positive about that, but I know we talked about it, like, in person. And I said, yeah, I'll, I'll go. Um, and everybody that was going left before I did. I got a phone call as they were loading up to go. So, I wasn't sure at the time who all went, uh, or how, how everybody got there. But I drove myself there, by myself to the Mexican restaurant.

FM: Okay. Alright, and what happened at the Mexican restaurant?

EW: Um, so when I got to the Mexican restaurant, it was QUAMERE, MEGAN, JASON COLE, JUSTIN JONES, STEPHEN PENDERGRASS and BRANDON CROCKER. And, no, I'm sorry, I take that, I take that back. BRANDON

CROCKER got there after I did. Um, so I got there, and they were there, and they were sitting there. It was right at 5:00, maybe a little bit before, because we got out of class a little bit early that day. And, and we were there to eat dinner, and I know we all, we all drank a little bit at the Mexican restaurant, and that is, um, one issue that I have personally realized now. On Friday, before we got dismissed, BILL came in, BILL BODREY, and like went over some policy stuff with us before we went home. And, I was under the impression that we were allowed to have a little bit of alcohol and still be able to drive, so long -- I, from what I thought -- as long as we were under like .02, that it was okay. And when BILL talked to us about that on Friday, I mean, I immediately realized like I've screwed up, because I, I didn't know that policy correctly. I called BILL Friday when I got home. Uh, you know, I have a long drive home. So, I left, and I got home, and I, I pulled up policy on Power DMS and was going through it and saw what BILL was talking about. So, I, I actually called BILL Friday and was like hey, I've, like I, I screwed up here. I thought we were, you know, like I just told you, I thought we were allowed to drink a little bit and still be okay to drive, and BILL clarified that for me. He, uh, well, actually I called CARLA. Well, I called BILL first. He didn't answer. I left him a voice mail. And then I called CARLA and I talked to CARLA about it. And then, I called my own SAC, JOE MONTGOMERY, and talked to JOE about it. And then BILL called me after that. Um, and BILL, from the way, from what BILL told me, it sounded like I'd gotten another policy confused that applies to like undercover agents working in a bar. Um, so, I mean, that's definitely something that I screwed up on Wednesday. I, I

mean, I'm not trying to make excuses for myself, but I just misunderstood the policy.

FM: Okay.

EW: Um, but, but anyways, um, back to Wednesday. So –

FM: Let me ask you this, how much did you drink?

EW: I had one beer at the Mexican restaurant, and then we left, and we went to the brewery, and I had two beers at the brewery. So, over the course of about 3 hours, I had three beers.

FM: Okay. Alright, go ahead.

EW: So, at the Mexican restaurant, um, we ate dinner and MEG and Q -- I remember specifically, they had these big margarita things that they brought out, um, in these like big, uh, just like big glasses. I don't even know how to describe them, uh, and the reason that that jumped out to me is because I noticed that MEG had drank maybe half to three quarters of hers, and she was drinking something else. Um, and I, I said something to her about it, because I thought that was weird, and she, she was like, "Oh, I didn't like that, so I got one of these." But I'm not sure how they all got there. I mean, I guess, you know, later on I saw when we went to the brewery, I saw JASON COLE'S truck in the parking lot, so I know at least JASON drove. But as far as everybody else's driving arrangements, I don't really know whose car they took, or how they all got there to the Mexican restaurant. I know BRANDON CROCKER got there after I did. And so, I know he drove himself. Um, but as far as like what the amount that people were drinking there, uh, I really don't know. I know, I know STEPHEN PENDERGRASS because he

was sitting beside me. He had at least a beer at the Mexican restaurant. And I'm thinking that BRANDON CROCKER had a beer at the Mexican restaurant. And I don't, I don't know about JUSTIN. I don't think he drinks at all, but I wasn't really paying attention. And, as far as like, JASON and MEGAN and QUAMERE, I don't know, I don't recall seeing JASON drink anything at the Mexican restaurant. Um, but I mean, I don't, I don't know if he did or if he didn't. I just don't remember seeing him drink anything.

FM: Did ya'll sit together at the brewery?

EW: Yes.

FM: Okay. Describe what happened there.

EW: Okay. So when we leave to go to the Mexican restaurant, BRANDON CROCKER went back here, STEPHEN PENDERGRASS and I talked for a minute because we talked about, you know, hey, do we want to go, because it was MEGAN'S idea to go. And, he and I were like, well, I mean, I guess we'll go, we'll go hang out. So, he rode, STEPHEN rode with me, and we drove over there, and we got there first. Um, so when we got out of the car, I saw JASON. So we parked, and then we sat there in the car for a second. And, when we got out, I saw that JASON'S truck was behind me, and MEGAN and JASON were there. And then when I, when we turned to start walking in, I saw that JUSTIN and Q were there. So, then we go to the brewery, and uh, I ordered a beer there. STEPHEN ordered a beer there. And, I remember JASON showing up. He had a mixed drink in his hand, and he had three shots, and he gave Q a shot, he gave MEG a shot, he took a shot, and he had his mixed drink. And then, I know at

some point, MEGAN and Q were also drinking mixed drinks, but I don't know how much they had. Um, and I know, I know everybody at least had two. Because, at some point, MEG told the waitress to bring another round for them, but the waitress brought another round for like all of us, and that's how I ended up with the third beer that I had. And I don't know about STEPHEN. I don't know how many he ordered on his own, but he got a beer out of that as well. Um, but anyways, so I didn't, like, I didn't actually order that last beer. But she brought it, and I drank it because she brought it. And I know Stephen drank that one that she brought, and they all drank whatever they had. And I really don't know how much else that they had. But what jumped out at me about it is, I knew that MEG and QUAMERE were pretty drunk just because of how they were acting, not so much what I watched them drink.

FM: Mm hmm.

EW: Uh, because STEPHEN, I mean, I never felt intoxicated. Um, I wasn't trying to be intoxicated. So, STEPHEN, I also don't think ever got intoxicated or anywhere close to that, and JASON seemed fine as well. But um, MEGAN and, and QUAMERE, they were, they were like loud, being rowdy drunk. So, we stayed there. We were at the, we were probably at the brewery from 5:30 to, to a little bit after 8:00, um, about 2 and ½ hours. Um, and then when, when it came time to leave, I'm not even sure who asked, like how that -- I don't remember how that came about, but the waitress brought our checks. We paid our tabs, and then STEPHEN and I walked out, and, and like, we all left together.

FM: Hmm.

EW: Um, but when we got to, we got to my vehicle, STEPHEN and I hopped in my vehicle, and I drove us back here to GPSTC, and they were all still standing in the parking lot of the brewery. So, when I got back here to GPSTC, I walked in, I talked to my roommate, LUCAS, and I was like, hey, you know, we've got to, we got to watch out for MEG and QUAMERE, because they are pretty drunk. And I, I was like, I don't know that they'll be able to make it to PT in the morning. So just FYI, like, they got pretty drunk tonight. So then I leave, and I go talk to, I go down to uh, CHARLIE JOHNSTON and MATT PIERCE'S room, because I was gonna go chit chat with them. Just kinda see what they were up to. So, I go, I walk by, uh, and I see CHARLIE and BRIAN WHITER in there, and CHARLIE is teaching -- MATT wasn't in there at the time -- CHARLIE was teaching BRIAN how to pick locks. And so, I sat in there with them for a few minutes and tried to learn how to pick locks. And then CHARLIE was talking about how he needed to go. He does something with his wife at night, like plays, plays some kind of game like Scrabble or something like that with her. And MATT had come back by then. So I talked to MATT, I found out that MATT had gone and ate some pizza with a, uh, a, a girl that he met here at GPSTC, it's a friend that he made. Um, so I talked to him, or so I talked to them for a couple minutes. And then I went back to my room and got ready for bed. And, LUCAS and I both got ready for bed, and we laid down. Um, I don't know exactly what time it was that we laid down, but it was probably between 9 and 9:30. It wasn't very late. So, LUCAS and I laid down, and MEG and KAREN'S room is adjacent to ours. They're 211, and we're 212. So, we hear the door shut in MEG'S room. And, I don't know how much

time went by, um, after I laid down or anything like that, but obviously, some time had gone by since STEPHEN and I left the brewery. Um, so, I think it was LUCAS' idea? It might've been mine. I can't remember. But we talked about just checking in with KAREN to make sure that she keeps an eye out for MEG to get MEG up in the morning for PT. So, when LUCAS and I opened the door to go out, JAMES RICHARDSON was there for some reason. I don't remember what JAMES RICHARDSON was doing, but we talked to RICHARDSON for a second and kinda like let him know what was going on. And then we knocked on KAREN and MEG'S door. KAREN opened the door, and I said, um, I or we, I, I can't remember exactly how this conversation went, but the three of us talked to KAREN for a second and just indicated to her like, hey, um, you know, we know MEG got pretty drunk, and we were just checking in. We want to make sure that, you know, everything's good, and we're concerned about her getting up for PT in the morning. So, if you need anything from us, just let us know. Basically, is how that conversation went. And so, so Karen says, "Okay. Everything's fine." She shuts the door. So the three of us stand there for another, probably less than a minute, I would image, were kinda talking for a second. And, KAREN opens the door, and she points and me and says, "Hey, I need you to come in here, please." So, I stepped in there, into their room and, MEG is bawling her eyes out on the bed. She's sitting like kinda at the foot of her bed, and she's just squawling. And so, I sit down at the chair over in front of, like at the foot of MEG'S bed where the desk is. I just turned the chair around, and I sit there with MEG, and I'm just trying to be, you know, kinda be gentle with her because I



could tell she was upset about something and I'm like, "Hey, what's going on?" And she, she was impossible to talk to there for the first few minutes. She was just crying so hard, and so the, the first thing that she said to me really and truly was, because I, I asked her, I'm like, "So did something happen? Like, obviously you're upset, so something's wrong," and she looked at me, and she said, "It was Q." And I said, "Okay. What about Q?" And then she cried for a while more, and she started just kinda talking about how, um, how she felt like she had been taken advantage of, and that she was concerned what people would think, and just kinda all, all that kinda stuff. And so, it took a few more minutes of talking to her and kinda trying to get her to calm down before she really told me anything. And the, the first thing that she told me is that Q had touched her. But she didn't really describe how it happened. She just said like, "She, he touched me in a way that made me feel uncomfortable." And I said, okay. And so, then she, she cried some more, and we kinda, we kinda spun our wheels again talking about just her being upset and how, (*coughs*) excuse me, and how she had felt like she had been taken advantage of. And we talked some more about that stuff, and how she was upset, and I, you know, kinda tried to reassure her that, you know, it's okay, you know, something like that happens to you then it's, it's very natural to, to be upset and feel embarrassed and stuff. And uh, and I was like, you know, the real question is kinda, where do we go from here? Because this is probably something we need to call CARLA about. And she was upset, and it was like she knew that she needed to, but she didn't want to. Um, and at some point, so she's, she's crying and kinda upset for a few minutes, and I forget exactly what

happened. I think maybe she needed to go to the bathroom or something. Something happened that caused me to step outside. So, I stepped outside, um, and LUCAS and JAMES RICHARDSON are still standing there by our doors, and I looked at JAMES, and I said, you know, "Hey," you know, "it may be a long night." Um, you know, "She just told me some stuff that's not, not too good." Um, and he said, okay. And so then, yeah, I think KAREN opened the door again and asked me to come back in there, and so I talked to MEG again. KAREN was in there the whole time I was in there talking to MEG. Um, so I talked to, I talked to MEG again, and we were still kinda talking about the same stuff, you know. She felt like she was being taken advantage of. She was concerned what other people were gonna think of her. She was embarrassed. All, all that kinda same stuff. And so, um, at some point, and again, I was like well, hey, we, I mean, you need to consider calling, like us calling CARLA. And at some point, she asked if JAMES RICHARDSON was outside, and we said that he was. So MEG asked for RICHARDSON to come in the room. And so, JAMES comes in there, and I told JAMES what MEG had told me about, you know, Q touching her and feeling uncomfortable about all that. And I was like, so obviously, MEG'S pretty upset. She's a little embarrassed about what's happened. She told me that QUAMERE touched her, and she, she, you know, in a way that made her feel uncomfortable that she was not okay with. And so, then JAMES asked her what, um, you know, what did he do? And so, she told him, and he said, "Well, what else happened?" And then, at that point, MEG said that he pulled his penis out and showed it to her. And so, we were like, okay, did