

SUMMARY OF TRANSCRIPTION – JAMES CRAFT

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at approximately 4:31pm, DIRECTOR FRED MAYS in the OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS interviewed SPECIAL AGENT JAMES CRAFT at the GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER in Forsyth, Georgia. The interview of SPECIAL AGENT CRAFT was recorded in its entirety and a typed transcription of the interview is attached to this summary.

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DIRECTOR FRED MAYS: 05/18/2021
jm: 05/22/2021

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES CRAFT

Okay. Today's date is Tuesday, May 18, 2021. The time now is 4:31pm. This is DIRECTOR FRED MAYS in the GBI OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS. I'm speaking with SPECIAL AGENT JAMES CRAFT. He is located at the GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER in the GBI BASIC ACADEMY. I contacted AGENT CRAFT at the GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER at telephone number 478-993-4601.

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

JC: Uh, I been employed, uh, since I believe it was September 15th of last year. Um,

—

FM: Okay.

JC: Yes, sir.

FM: And you were assigned to the GBI REGION 12 once you finished the Academy, right?

JC: Yes, sir. That's correct.

FM: Okay. Alright. Bring your attention back to last Wednesday night, May the 12th, 2021. I have a copy of your statement that you gave SAC BODREY and up to DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INVESTIGATION CHRIS HOSEY memorandum. And is there anything you want to change, add or delete to that statement?

JC: Uh, no, sir.

FM: Okay and briefly tell me – I have your statement, you were very detailed with times and that type of stuff in your statement, so you don't have to go into all of that – just briefly tell me what happened that night, and up until, you know, the next day.

JC: Sure. So, so after class, around 5pm., I, I went back home to Dalvin, Georgia to visit with my wife and my child, uh, to do some laundry and eat dinner. I did that once or twice a week, just depending on what time we get out of class, but about 8:20, I packed up from the house and, and traveled back to GPSTC ****. And, I got, I arrived back somewhere between 9:20 and 9:30 and about the time that I drove through the gate, I received a phone call from, uh, RICHARDSON, our Class President. Um, and he called me to, just to inform me that, that, uh, QUAMERE, my roommate, QUAMERE ROOKS, uh, was just extremely intoxicated and that he told me that he wanted me to help him, uh, get him wrangled per se to make sure that he goes to bed so that he wouldn't, uh, so that he wouldn't oversleep for PT. Um, so I, I acknowledged his phone call, said I'll be right there by the **** gate. And so, I get to, you know, the training center and I parked and started walking back to the dorm room. I noticed my room's open, um, or I'm sorry, I, I opened my door and noticed that, uh, QUAMERE wasn't there. Um, and based off what he told me, I went looking for the Class President and I told him, I said, hey, QUAMERE'S not here, uh, but you told me he was severely intoxicated. We probably need to go find him because I don't know what's going on. Uh, so I called QUAMERE and we, you know, we're walking back towards the parking lot because I figured that he was either in the parking lot or gone at that point. So, I called him, but he said that he – and he answered the phone. QUAMERE started walking back towards his dorms and he said that he was in the parking lot, but he was walking back towards the dorms. So, me and RICHARDSON stayed there. Um, I can't remember, I can't remember

exactly what time it was, but it was before 10:00 and, uh, uh, QUAMERE come back to the room and he was, um, very obviously intoxicated. He was stumbling all over the place, um, kinda sweaty and his eyes were glazed over, um, and it was just completely out of character. Uh, he started, uh, getting agitated because I told him, I said, look, you need to come back to the dorm. I said you're going to draw a lot of attention to yourself being intoxicated like this. I said, look, you need, you need to come back so we can go to bed. I said, if not, you're going to be miserable in the morning for class. And immediately, immediately when I started to, you know, kinda, not really give him commands but trying to encourage him to come, come to bed, and he started getting agitated with me and saying he had a problem with, you know, with, um, sorry, CHARLIE, CHARLIE JOHNSTON. That he had a problem with him. Um, he started to get agitated with JUSTIN as well, JUSTIN JONES, because JUSTIN came out of his room at this time to help me get QUAMERE into the room. Um, uh, I got him back to the room and, uh, myself and JUSTIN JONES began to ask him what the problem was because he was slurring his speech, talking about how he was gonna fuck up CHARLIE. Uh, and I tried to ask him, I was like, look, I was like, just calm down and tell me what's going on. I said whatever it is, I promise you, it ain't that big of a deal because, uh, you got to remember we in the Academy. So don't, don't try to do anything foolish. Just talk with me. And he wouldn't tell me what was going on. He just kept getting more, more agitated. Um, he started advancing towards the door, like he wanted to leave and, uh, myself and JUSTIN JONES tried to get him to stay in the room. Um, at, at a certain point, he, like,

bucked up at me. He looked like he was gonna hit me and even made a motion that he was gonna shove me into the door. Uh, so I just got out of the way to avoid confrontation. I didn't want there to be any sort of contact between me and him. I didn't wanna have to explain defending myself. So, I just left. I mean, I was just like, I, I told him, I said, look, if you wanna go and fight CHARLIE, you go right ahead. I was like, but I'm going to get the Class President because I'm, I'm not gonna be in any, involved in any sort of physical confrontation. So, I immediately went and got, uh, RICHARDSON back out of his room again, because he went back to his room, uh, after we went through the first time. So, I went and got the Class President and we walked outside, and I saw where QUAMERE was down at. I guess, it's Room 108, where CHARLIE stays and he's over there banging on the door, telling CHARLIE to come out. JUSTIN'S trying to get him to stop. Uh, me and RICHARDSON both go down there and, and try to wrangle him together. He's just starting to get more and more agitated. Uh, he starts saying again how he's gonna fuck up CHARLIE. Um, he, he was just like, he said things, like y'all about to see this nigga get real out of character. Um, he said that a couple of times, where he dropped the N word. Um, at that point, um, we were trying, at that point, we, CLASS PRESIDENT RICHARDSON tried to start coordinating efforts to say, alright, look, he's getting agitated at CRAFT. He's getting agitated at CHARLIE and, at this point, RICHARDSON knew something, I guess, that I didn't know but he said don't, do not let him go back into CHARLIE'S room and he doesn't need to go into MEG'S room. And so, at that point, it was pretty much a corral to try to keep ROOKS out of MEG

HIRSCH'S room and CHARLIE'S room. At that point, I didn't know why, so I was just listening to CHARLIE. Uh, I'm, I'm sorry, not CHARLIE, listening to, uh, RICHARDSON tell me what to do pretty much to try to keep the peace. Uh, at a certain point, um, QUAMERE and JUSTIN JONES went out to, like, that grassy area next to the dorms. And, and QUAMERE started to get even more agitated and, um, aggressive towards JUSTIN. But he also saw where myself and LUCAS BYER and, um, uh, RICHARDSON were talking and trying to figure out what was going on. And QUAMERE saw us talking and came over there and started shouting at us, saying that we were trying to make up rumors about him. That we were talking about him. When, in reality, none of us really knew what was going on. We were just trying to figure out what to do. So, the, the situation continued to get more tense. Um, about that time, uh, QUAMERE walked away again with JUSTIN. JUSTIN was trying to get him to calm down and, um, the Class President got pulled into MEG HIRSCH'S room at MEG'S request. And then after a period of time of him being in there, he came back outside and said, hey, I've contacted CARLA, or I'm sorry, uh, SPECIAL AGENT DUTTON and SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, uh, BILL BODREY and they're on the way down here because this incident is, is now a serious one. He didn't tell me what at the time. I just, he just told me to, to not bother asking because it was none of my business and so I took his word at it. Um, at that point, um, he told, he again kinda gave me directions. He was like, look, just go to your room and try to keep ROOKS calm. Well, I went, uh, room, the room down there with ROOKS and – I'm sorry, no, at this point, I stayed at LUCAS, LUCAS BYERS' room. I'm getting my