



Sheriff Carlton Speed

Banks County Sheriff's Office
160 Windmill Farm Road • Homer, Georgia 30547

DATE: June 18, 2020
TO: IA File # 2001 (External Agency Investigation-Rabun Co.)
FROM: Captain Carissa M. McFaddin
SUBJECT: Investigator John Ulm, Rabun County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 1117 hours

Major Matt Allen and Captain Carissa McFaddin met with Investigator John Ulm in person within the conference room of the Rabun County Health Department. At the time of the interview, Investigator J. Ulm held the position of Property Crimes & Internal Affairs Investigator. Investigator J. Ulm was advised that Sheriff Chad Nichols had requested Banks County Sheriff's Office's assistance with investigating an internal complaint made against Captain Richard Hunter.

As the interview began, Major M. Allen inquired as to how he became aware of the complaint made against Captain R. Hunter. Inv. J. Ulm gave a summary of events when he was confronted by complainant, Sergeant Scott Harvey, due to him being fearful of the outcome of an incident that occurred involving Capt. R. Hunter. He advised Sgt. S. Harvey informed him that Capt. R. Hunter contacted his wife, Autumn Harvey, and made inappropriate comments to her while being intoxicated and off duty. Inv. J. Ulm advised Sgt. S. Harvey that he needed to make a complaint to Chief Deputy Mark Jones but later, Inv. J. Ulm met with Chief Deputy M. Jones about the complaint. Inv. J. Ulm advised that later the same day, Chief Deputy M. Jones directed him to contact A. Harvey about the incident. He advised he in turn contacted her via telephone and recorded the phone conversation.

Capt. C. McFaddin inquired as to why Sgt. S. Harvey came to him about the incident and if they had a personal relationship. Inv. J. Ulm advised they did not and continued by advising he had only been at the agency for a year and was trusted by a lot of deputies. Major M. Allen followed by asked his official position and if deputies knew him as an internal affairs investigator. Inv. J. Ulm advised that he was currently assigned as a property crimes investigator and handles internal affairs investigations. He continued by stating he has handled "a few" internal affairs investigations for the agency but deputies also are aware of his background in internal affairs. Inv. J. Ulm conveyed that he believed Sgt. S. Harvey came to him for help in directing him on what he should do.

Inv. J. Ulm discussed how deputies contact him about Capt. R. Hunter's "drinking" to which he advises them to make their complaint to Chief Deputy M. Jones or Sheriff C. Nichols. Major M. Allen requested

Inv. J. Ulm to further explain complaints he receives about Capt. R. Hunter. Inv. J. Ulm proceeded to present an example of a call involving Sgt. C. Sanders. On that incident, he described Capt. R. Hunter contacted Sgt. C. Sanders while intoxicated and proceeded to try and give him commands on how to handle the call. He followed by stating he does not interact with Capt. R. Hunter and that he has never been contacted by Capt. R. Hunter while he was intoxicated.

Major M. Allen inquired if Sgt. S. Harvey had every made a complaint about Capt. R. Hunter's drinking before to which he replied, "They all have." Capt. C. McFaddin requested Inv. J. Ulm to clarify who exactly had made complaints. He advised that all patrol sergeants have complained. Maj. M. Allen again requested clarification as to who exactly has complained to him in order to distinguish hearsay. He replied with naming Deputy Andy Beck and referred back to the incident with Sgt. C. Sanders. He followed by mentioning Captain Shane Presgraves complaining of Capt. R. Hunter calling him while intoxicated. Capt. C. McFaddin inquired if Capt. R. Hunter uses his county issued cell phone to make the calls mentioned to which he advised it was. Major M. Allen questioned if Inv. J. Ulm was aware of any documented complaints against Capt. R. Hunter to which he advised he was unaware.

Inv. J. Ulm advised that the patrol sergeants are scared not to take orders given by Capt. R. Hunter, even when they believe he's intoxicated, due to possible retaliation against them. Captain C. McFaddin asked Inv. J. Ulm for a specific example of that to which he replied with the complaint brought forward from Sgt. S. Harvey. Major M. Allen inquired if he was aware of a personal relationship between Sgt. S. Harvey and Capt. R. Hunter to which he replied he was unaware. He advised that he clear that there are friendships throughout the agency but he is unaware of specifics. Major M. Allen followed by asking if he knew why Capt. R. Hunter had A. Harvey's phone number. He advised he also found it odd was unfamiliar as to why he had her phone number.

Capt. C. McFaddin inquired if Inv. J. Ulm knew of any previous issues or personal problems with Sgt. S. Harvey to which he advised he was unaware. Capt. C. McFaddin asked if he was aware of any previous or ongoing issues between Sgt. S. Harvey and Capt. R. Hunter. He advised he was aware of an incident involving evidence where there were conflicting orders given to Sgt. S. Harvey by Capt. R. Hunter and Chief Deputy M. Jones. He described a conversation he had with Sgt. S. Harvey regarding Capt. R. Hunter not speaking to him and how fearful Sgt. Harvey was regarding possible future disciplinary action from Capt. R. Hunter.

Inv. J. Ulm followed by discussing questions he was unable to answer during his initial internal investigation regarding why the conversation occurred. Capt. C. McFaddin inquired about his reference during his interview with A. Harvey regarding a "swinging" type life style and if this was known lifestyle lead by Capt. R. Hunter. He explained how he came to that reference based on what was reported to him by A. Harvey regarding statements made by Capt. R. Hunter. He continued by advising that Capt. R. Hunter "says weird stuff all the time." He followed by stating, "Cops play." Capt. C. McFaddin inquired as to what he meant to which he described it as meaning "saying inappropriate things".

Capt. C. McFaddin inquired if the described "saying inappropriate things" was part of the normal climate within the agency. Inv. J. Ulm advised, "In the patrol room...there's no telling what gets said in there." Major. M. Allen followed by asking if the described climate within the agency worse than what he has witnessed in his career to which he confirmed it was. He described controversial and offensive statements made in common talk regarding sexual orientation and race. He further explained how a specific incident

that upset him in regards to homosexuals and parenting children. He advised that he told two of his fellow employees, "Marty" and "Kyle Shook", to not talk like they were in front of him again.

Inv. J. Ulm continued discussing a conversation he had with Chief Deputy M. Jones in regards to Capt. R. Hunter being intoxicated. He further described asking Chief Deputy M. Jones what he was going to do about Capt. R. Hunter's behavior. He continued by stating he believed Chief Deputy M. Jones was mad at him for saying what he said about Capt. R. Hunter. He followed by talking about stressors he faces at the agency.

Major M. Allen directly asked Inv. J. Ulm the current climate regarding sexual comments to which he stated, "It's wide open." He followed by explaining how easy it is for personnel to be drawn into the inappropriate conversations due to no one stopping it from happening. He continued by explaining how he distanced himself from fellow employees due to the inappropriate talk and actions.

Major M. Allen referenced Inv. J. Ulm's investigation and his documented report stating policies had been violated. He followed by asking what policy violations he discovered to which advised he was rushed in his investigation and was unable to identify the exact violations. He advised he was familiar agency's policy. Capt. C. McFaddin questioned if he was aware of any training conducted on policies to which he advised there had recently been training on biased based policing and social media standards. Capt. C. McFaddin specifically asked if sexual harassment or sexual discrimination to which he replied, "Not since I've been here."

Inv. J. Ulm began discussing issues he believes occur within the agency involving command staff. During his dialogue, he made a statement insinuating Capt. R. Hunter has shown up to work in an intoxicated nature. Major M. Allen asked Inv. J. Ulm to clarify if Capt. R. Hunter has been at work drinking to which he replied, "I think he has come down from a drinking binge all night." He continued by describing his mannerisms and appearance to which he believed he has previously shown up for duty under the influence. Capt. C. McFaddin inquired if he knew of anyone who had confronted Capt. R. Hunter about drinking on duty to which he replied he did not. He continued by stating he believed he should have confronted him but he did not.

Capt. C. McFaddin inquired if anyone had ever confided in him any sexual misconduct that Capt. R. Hunter had displayed or presented. Inv. J. Ulm began to describe an incident where Capt. R. Hunter possessed "weird porno stuff" on his county issued phone and showed it to him while they were sitting at a table. He stated he advised Capt. R. Hunter that his behavior was "unbecoming". He continued by explaining how the material was within a "robo" text message that appeared to be a subscription service. He followed by stating "he's creepy to me".

No further statements pertinent to the case were made and the interview was concluded.