



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: Captain Richard Hunter, Rabun County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 2111 hours

Major Matt Allen and Captain Carissa McFaddin met with Captain Richard Hunter in person within the conference room of the Rabun County Health Department. At the time of the interview, Captain R. Hunter held the position of Uniform Patrol Commander. Captain R. Hunter was advised that Sheriff Chad Nichols had requested Banks County Sheriff's Office's assistance with investigating an internal complaint made against him.

As the interview began, Major M. Allen inquired as to how many sergeants currently worked for Captain R. Hunter to which he advised "five". Following his answer, Major M. Allen inquired if he held an on call capacity where he speaks with his subordinates abundantly to which he responded "sometimes". Major M. Allen continued by asking if Captain R. Hunter was aware of the complaint made against him. Captain R. Hunter replied, "Scott Harvey...yes." Major M. Allen asked him to further explain what he knew about the complaint. Captain R. Hunter replied, "Just that he said he was uncomfortable about a conversation we had...in a nutshell. It may have been a little different."

Major M. Allen asked him if he remembered the conversation to which he confirmed that he did. Major M. Allen requested Captain R. Hunter to explain the conversation. He replied, "The part that he's talking about...it is me and him jokingly talking about our wives giving each other massages." Major M. Allen asked how the conversation was initiated to which he replied, "He called me." Major M. Allen then inquired how the conversation continued. Captain R. Hunter stated, "He started that conversation with a massage and then it just developed from there." He continued by advising he wanted to back up from the conversation to speak on the background of his relationship with S. Harvey. He advised that at one time, S. Harvey was his sergeant and said the same things to him at a previous agency. He continued by advising that it was not uncommon for S. Harvey to speak like that with him. He then began explaining how S. Harvey has had medical surgeries that he described prevented him from being able to "do things as a husband". He continued by stating that S. Harvey jokingly asks people to do things for him on a regular basis to which he made the statement, "It's just a running joke."

Major M. Allen asked Captain R. Hunter if S. Harvey had asked him to have sex with his wife to which he replied, "As a joking way." He continued by advising he was sure other members of the agency could confirm the information regarding S. Harvey making sexual related comments.

Major M. Allen redirected the conversation back to the complaint made against him by asking Captain R. Hunter how S. Harvey's wife, Autumn Harvey, became involved in the conversation. He replied, "I guess she was sitting beside him. I don't know but you could hear her talking back to him and laughing." Major M. Allen asked if he made a direct call to A. Harvey to which he stated, "Yes I did." He continued by explaining that he did call her and the call lasted approximately 15 minutes. He advised that the conversation was just "chatter" [sic]. He continued by stating, "It wasn't a fifteen minute long conversation on how we could massage your wife." Captain R. Hunter advised that the conversation he had with A. Harvey included his own wife, Natalie Hunter, "as a joke".

Major M. Allen asked the purpose of making the call to A. Harvey after speaking with S. Harvey. He replied, "'Cause he had mentioned something...if you want to set it up, then call my wife, so I jokingly did." Major M. Allen asked him to explain what he meant to which he replied, "The massage." Major M. Allen asked if he had ever had a conversation like the one described with A. Harvey. Captain R. Hunter stated, "With her on the same conversation, yes. Not necessarily a massage but, 'Hey you wanna come spend the night with my wife while I go out'....and her on the phone laughing." He continued by explaining that jokes are a normal thing between him and S. Harvey with A. Harvey present in conversation.

Major M. Allen asked Captain R. Hunter again to describe how the conversation with A. Harvey went. He replied, "A couple jokes about the massage and that was the end of it. Rest of it was just talk." Major M. Allen continued by asking if A. Harvey's children were present and if he actually asked if they were present. He advised that he did not know and that he does not commonly ask if the children are present. He continued by presenting a phone call where S. Harvey called him asking if he was "still naked" and inquiring if he could come to his house. He again stated, "It's a joke....Maybe I should know better in my position...this goes back to when he was my sergeant in Baldwin." Major M. Allen inquired how A. Harvey responded to the massage conversation. Captain R. Hunter advised that she laughed.

Captain R. Hunter stated he was surprised that he complained about him due to it just being a joke. Captain C. McFaddin asked if joking in that manner was a common occurrence in the patrol division to which he replied, "I wouldn't say everybody there but a couple folks, yes...sometimes it's a way to blow off steam...just jabber." He continued by explaining his perspective of why inappropriate jokes are a way of coping in law enforcement.

Major M. Allen asked why he believed S. Harvey felt like a line was crossed. Captain R. Hunter began to explain a recent incident involving him verbally reprimanding S. Harvey for leaving evidence in his patrol vehicle. He advised he didn't make any supervisory notes of the reprimand but did not understand why he would complain about the conversation. He continued by stating, "That's just basic law enforcement to me."

Major M. Allen advised Captain R. Hunter that S. Harvey and A. Harvey both reported that they believed he was intoxicated during the conversation. He replied, "I'd had a drink, yes." Major M. Allen continued by asking if he believed that had any effect on what he said. He replied, "No." He continued by explaining he would have said the same thing to S. Harvey at the Sheriff's Office. He recognized that such talk was

inappropriate and he's "learning that now". He continued by stating, "Maybe there's some chatter that's been going on for four or five years ...maybe [it] should stop. I see that now. I guess, well, you just don't see a lot of that until it does happen. Guilty of that, yes. I probably shouldn't [have] said that." He continued by advising the remarks and jokes have been going on too long for S. Harvey to be upset.

Major M. Allen asked if S. Harvey had ever said anything directly to his wife, N. Hunter. He advised she had heard him make remarks while he was on the phone with her but never found it offensive. When asked what changed in the relationship, he could only reference his recent verbal reprimand.

Major M. Allen asked what phone he uses when having such conversations. Captain R. Hunter, "It's on my personal phone. I don't do any of that crap on my county phone." He then added by saying, "That night was on my county phone because he called me on my county phone." He explained that work-related conversations occur on his county issued phone while personal and casual conversations happen on his personal phone. He advised that he has A. Harvey's number saved in his county issued phone. Major M. Allen asked if he talks with other deputies' spouses' to which he replied, "Yeah, I would say I talk to other spouses, too." He then explained how he has other spouses' phone numbers due to his personal and work cell phone being synced.

Major M. Allen asked if Captain R. Hunter has a relationship with any other deputies and their spouse like he has with S. Harvey and A. Harvey, where sexual banter is used. He replied, "I wouldn't call it sexual banter. I would call it joking. I wouldn't sleep with his wife nor would I want him to sleep with mine. It's just a joke." He spoke about camping with other wives present and referenced such talk being said. He continued by advising S. Harvey initiated the massage conversation and he fed into it. He added that he is aware what he stated was wrong but did not understand why he chose to complain about it.

Major M. Allen advised Captain R. Hunter that he was aware someone was being untruthful. He replied, "All I can say is he called me so that ought to tell you something. I didn't call him looking for a massage. He called me. On an off night, not working." Major M. Allen questioned if he was intoxicated on the evening of the phone conversation. Captain R. Hunter replied, "I had a drink but I wasn't intoxicated. How do you tell that difference? We know how you tell that difference. Words slurring, speech slurred, all that stuff...no, none of that was present." Major M. Allen asked if Captain R. Hunter currently has a drinking problem. He advised he believes he has it under control and no longer has one. He explained that he had a problem "several months ago". Major M. Allen inquired how he accomplished conquering the issue to which he replied, "I just quit. I didn't have a choice. It's either job, family or drink so you make that conscious decision to do that. I occasionally still drink, yes." He continued by explaining the stress he was currently under with being on call day in and day out.

Major M. Allen asked when the last time Captain R. Hunter was intoxicated to which he replied, "I don't know. Last week, maybe?" He continued by stating that he was not intoxicated but had a drink. He further again explained the difference between having a drink and being drunk. Major M. Allen again asked when was the last time he was intoxicated to which he further replied, "I don't know. It's been long enough I don't remember."

Captain C. McFaddin asked Captain R. Hunter if he typically speaks with deputies while they are working. He advised he does not unless "something comes up" but did advise he speaks with deputies off duty because "we're friends". Captain C. McFaddin questioned if he has ever called deputies on duty while he

has been drinking to which he replied, "I'm sure." Captain C. McFaddin continued by asking how often it occurs to which he replied, "Hardly ever 'cause I don't drink...hardly ever anymore." He added, "To backup ma'am...maybe it happened more than it should have." Captain C. McFaddin asked if it had occurred within the last four months. He replied, "I don't know. Maybe a time or two."

Captain C. McFaddin asked if sharing sexual jokes, pictures and videos occurs normally at the Sheriff's Office to which he nodded in confirmation. Captain C. McFaddin questioned Captain R. Hunter if he had ever shown a pornographic video to someone within the agency. He replied, "Well, yeah." Captain C. McFaddin continued by asking if he had ever shown a subordinate a pornographic video to which he replied, "Yeah." Captain C. McFaddin asked if he believed that was the environment within the agency to which he stated, "I wouldn't say it was the environment....I just think it's something that comes around...curiosity wanting to watch it....they want to see it." Captain C. McFaddin questioned Captain R. Hunter to clarify his statement by asking if the subordinates asked to see it to which he said "yeah". Captain C. McFaddin then directly asked Captain R. Hunter if subordinates "ask to watch porn" on his phone to which he replied, "Not necessarily porn." He then explained sexual type social media videos of individuals known by deputies have been shared.

No further statements were made and the interview was concluded.

