Sasekpt1

Lefdal: We are on the record. Today is June 14th, 2023. The time is 11:59. My name is Dusty Lefdal, and that is D-u-s-t-y L-e-f-d-a-l. I'm an investigator with Employers Investigative Services, retained to do an internal affairs investigation for Oroville Police Department.

Officer Sasek, I'd like you to state your name and spell it for the record, please.

Sasek: Officer Robert Sasek, R-o-b-e-r-t, last name, S-a-s-e-k.

Lefdal: And I apologize for mispronouncing it...

Sasek: You're good.

Lefdal: Mr Baird.

Baird: William Baird, with Mastagni Holdstedt, representing Officer Sasek.

Lefdal: Officer Sasek. We are here so that I can reinterview you and ask some clarifying questions based on your interview from October 19th of last year. Before we go any further and do that, I want to remind you that I am compelling you to speak here. The rights that you had in your previous in interview on that date are still in full force. Those are known as the Lybarger warning and your Miranda rights.

So I think your attorney will probably want to put something on the record and I give him first opportunity to do that.

Baird: Sure. This is William Baird again with Mastagni. Officer Sasek, I've spoken with him about this. He wishes to assert his right to remain silent, not make any statements. If he's going to make statements today, he's doing so under the understanding that he's being ordered to do so under the threat of further disciplinary action, including insubordination.

Lefdal: Okay. And so Officer Sasek, just as protocol I'm going to ask you. Keeping all those rights in mind that you have, do you wish to speak to me?

Sasek: No.

Lefdal: Okay. Do understand that I am ordering you to speak to me?

Sasek: I do understand.

Lefdal: Okay. Alright. And that if you don't comply with that, that that would be insubordination.

Sasek: Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay. Mr Baird, are you satisfied with that?

Sasek: Yes, sir.

Lefdal: Okay. So, specifically, I want to bring you back to the interview from October 19th of last year where I was talking to you about [redacted] compl And specifically, the point in that contact with [redacted] compl where you're transporting her, what you thought, to Chico at the time.

And I had asked you, what made you choose that spot? And I'm paraphrasing. But essentially you told me that while on transport, as you approached the intersection of Neil

Road on 99, she wanted out of the car..

Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: And you didn't feel comfortable leaving her on the side of the 99, so you drove up to a wider spot off of Neil Road.

Sasek: Correct.

Lefdal: And then I had asked you some clarifying questions after that. And I did that for a reason. You had made a statement that she started kind of MFing you, quote-unquote, "motherfucking" you, for nothing that you had done. You have no idea why. She just kind of did a complete 180. And according to your transcript here, I use the term "180" and you agreed with that. She just kind of did a complete 180.

Since your interview, it's come to light that, actually, some statements were made previously in the evening, right before you transported compl about, quote-unquote, "dumping her" on Neil road.

So I want to revisit this.

Sasek: Okay.

Lefdal: Is there anything from your statement -- and you've had a copy of this transcript, right?

Sasek: Mhm.

Lefdal: Okay. And you've read it.

So let me ask you, were you present for any statements being made about quote-unquote, "dumping" compl out on Neil road?

Sasek: No, I was not.

Lefdal: Okay. So you never heard that statement?

Sasek: No, I did not.

Lefdal: From anybody?

Sasek: From anybody.

Lefdal: Okay. This... So this is the first time that you've heard that?

Sasek: No. I was...

Lefdal: Can you clarify that?

Sasek: I was advised by Officer Herrera that he was going to be interviewed and he didn't want to feel as I was going to betray him -- or not betray him -- as in, he was going to betray me. Because he said that he made a distasteful joke and he was going to let you know about it, or let the investigator know about it.

Lefdal: Okay.

Sasek: And then he basically told me that he made some kind of joke about -- while you're on the way, drop her off on Neil Road.

Lefdal: Okay.

Sasek: So I heard about this after our interview. I understand that we're not supposed to discuss this, but he did reach out to me and just let me know, hey, I don't want you to feel like I'm betraying you, but I did make a joke and, heads up. So when this does come up, you're not getting hit out of left field.

Lefdal: Okay.

Sasek: So, when the joke was made, I was unaware of it. I did not hear it. That was the first I had heard of it was when Officer Herrera told me that, hey, man, just a heads up. If this comes back, this is what I said.

Lefdal: Okay. So is it... So this is a coincidence?

Sasek: 100%.

Lefdal: 100% a coincidence?

Sasek: 100%, I had no intention of dumping somebody off at anywhere.

I do this job to take care of people. My brother-in-law lives in the field. You know where the olive orchard is up on Table Mountain? Right up here?

Lefdal: Yeah.

Sasek: My brother-in-law has schizophrenia, and uses methamphetamine. I come from a family of addiction. I'm literally here to help people. I'm not here to do anything bad to people.

Lefdal: Okay. Just for the record. I don't think that there was any malice in this either. I don't want you thinking that I'm walking around thinking that. There's nothing that indicates that.

I think my bigger concern, Robert, was the appearance. Right? You work at a very busy department?

Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: With a lot of needs. And we ask a lot of you. My concern was, is that if at that point you had other things to do and you just made a decision.

Sasek: No. That was not the decision that happened. It wasn't, oh, I've got better things to do.

I know that if things would have changed, Sergeant Tom would have called me in, and be like, hey, you need to get back here now. And then the things that would have changed is I probably would have done a code run to the closest place, that was the AM/PM or the CHP station, and then let her out and gone from there.

So it wasn't one of those decisions where, hey, we're busy, let me shorten my trip. We knew this was a long trip. Going to Chico is something that happens occasionally and we understand that our officers are going to be out for a small extended period of time.

Lefdal: So, purely a coincidence that Officer Herrera said this and you did not hear that at the hospital.

Sasek: I did not hear that at the hospital. This is 100%. Just, a very bad hand that was dealt in coincidence.

Lefdal: Okay. Alright. Is there anything else that you would like to... I'm not going to keep beating on this. Is there anything else that you would like to clarify from your last statement?

Sasek: No. I mean, I told how it is. Like, this is where we're at. It's just a whole lot of...

Lefdal: I'm not going to lie. The timing and coincidence on this sucks.

Sasek: Oh, 100%. I've been trying to play it over in my head, over and over and over and over again. So, no.

Lefdal: Have you come into possession of any other evidence or any other knowledge that I can use to help exonerate you in this?

Sasek: Not that I know of, not that I can think of. And if I do think of it, I'll reach out to him, we'll reach out to you.

Lefdal: Please do. Okay.

Standard admonition that I give everybody again. Please don't talk to anybody about this. I understand that not everybody else played by those rules. And if you do have any information that I can use, please let me know.

Sasek: Most definitely.

Lefdal: Mr Baird, do you have anything you would like to add for the record?

Baird: I don't. But, before we stop, do you mind if we have --

Lefdal: Absolutely. I'm going to turn this off for now. Alright, time is 12:07.

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Lefdal: Okay, we're back on the record. It's 12:09. You two have had a chance to talk. Is there anything else that anybody would like to state?

Baird: I don't have anything.

Lefdal: Officer?

Sasek: No.

Lefdal: Alright. At this time, it's 12:10, I will end the interview. Thank you.