About work-related info?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:01):
Sometimes, sir. Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:10:03):
Okay. Do you use your cell phone to exchange or get messages from any other coworkers?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:10):
Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:10:10):
Okay. Are they personal in nature or work?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:14):
Both, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:10:15):
Okay. What's your personal cell phone number?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:18):
[redacted]

Craig Junginger (00:10:25):
How long have you had that cell phone or that cell phone number?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:33):
Maybe since college, sir. So maybe 2004, 2005.

Craig Junginger (00:10:44):
Okay. Does anyone else use your phone to text messages or anything like that?

Brian Kawamoto (00:10:54):
Maybe my wife periodically, but it's primarily me, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:10:57):
So it's safe say that most all messages and everything are yours?

Brian Kawamoto (00:11:03):
Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:11:04):
Okay. Do you have a work cell phone?

Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:24:27):

So In 2019 on Christmas Eve, you sent this message to Tomsic, Weldin, and Alonso. Do you remember sending that.

Brian Kawamoto (00:24:49):

Yes, sir-

Craig Junginger (00:24:50):

This is the photo that was from that message.

Brian Kawamoto (00:24:56):

Yes, sir, I do. There's no excuse. I understand it's offensive and ...

Craig Junginger (00:25:04):

Okay. So there's no disputing that you sent that text message-

Brian Kawamoto (00:25:08):

No disputing it, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:25:08):

... with that photo?

Brian Kawamoto (00:25:10):

Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:25:11):

Okay. And then Weldin responds, "I done nearly pissed myself." And then you followed it up with, "Happy Kwanzaa." What were your thoughts when you sent that photo and followed it up with, "Happy Kwanzaa?"

Brian Kawamoto (00:25:40):

I sent the photo because I thought they might find it funny. I understand now it's extremely inappropriate, and I shouldn't have done it.

Craig Junginger (00:25:52):

Why did you think they would find it funny?

Brian Kawamoto (00:25:58):

All of us had somewhat of a dark sense of humor. I guess it's just one of those things where it's just so egregious if you have a dark sense of humor, you might find it funny, but ...

Craig Junginger (00:26:22):
Do you think the text message containing that photograph was disparaging or discriminatory towards Black people?

Brian Kawamoto (00:26:32):
I feel like it was offensive to Black people.

Craig Junginger (00:26:36):
Why do you believe it would be offensive to Black people?

Brian Kawamoto (00:26:41):
Because it's making references to when Black people had been hung in the perspective.

Craig Junginger (00:27:00):
Made references to maybe lynching of Black people?

Brian Kawamoto (00:27:03):
Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:27:03):
Okay. Do you think that photo or that text message was appropriate to send to any coworkers?

Brian Kawamoto (00:27:11):
No, sir. It wasn't appropriate.

Craig Junginger (00:27:12):
Why don't you think it was appropriate?

Brian Kawamoto (00:27:15):
Unprofessional, offensive. Unprofessional and offensive, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:27:31):
Okay.

Brock Avery (00:27:32):
Can I ask a question? I wanted to get the definition of your dark sense of humor. What does that mean?

Brian Kawamoto (00:27:39):
Dark humor is, to me, when I guess people make light of events that could be negative events or things that are potentially politically correct. That's, I guess, what it means to me, sir.

Brock Avery (00:28:25):
Okay.

No, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:53:43):

Okay. Then you responded, "Ha-ha. Yeah, I got a water heater box, that's just as good. Can sell you that for half the price if you want." So is there any doubt by you responding that you saw this message from... was it Weldon?

Brian Kawamoto (00:54:11):

Looks like it's from Weldon, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:54:12):

From Weldon?

Brian Kawamoto (00:54:12):

No, it looks like I received it, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:54:13):

Okay. What was your thoughts when you read that? For all the nigglets we put down.

Brian Kawamoto (00:54:40):

I mean, I understand that he was trying to be funny, but-

Craig Junginger (00:54:44):

How do you interpret that comment?

Brian Kawamoto (00:54:49):

It sounds like he's talking about being for all the black children that he said we've put down.

Craig Junginger (00:55:01):

Okay. How do you interpret the use of the word, nigglet?

Brian Kawamoto (00:55:07):

It's offensive, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:55:09):

No. How do you interpret it? What does it mean?

Brian Kawamoto (00:55:12):

I think it refers to black children. I think he's mixing the N word with piglet type of thing.

Craig Junginger (00:55:20):

Do you refer to them at work with coworkers?

Okay. So let me ask you about this text message exchange on March 25th, 2019. Weldon sent you a text message, just had a shooting and then you responded by saying, fuck, and then I didn't get a good picture of that, but this is right after you sent that. Read to me what that says.

Brian Kawamoto (00:59:07):

I trust you all have them moon crickets in custody in no time.

Craig Junginger (00:59:12):

What did you mean by that? Well, first of all, is there any doubt that you sent those messages?

Brian Kawamoto (00:59:20):

I don't think so.

Craig Junginger (00:59:23):

You don't think you sent them, or you don't think there's any doubt?

Brian Kawamoto (00:59:25):

I don't think there's any doubt. I'm sorry, sir.

Craig Junginger (00:59:26):

Okay. So you did send it. What did you mean by that?

Brian Kawamoto (00:59:34):

So moon crickets is a word that... I heard it like in training or something once that I thought was funny, but refers to black people and I don't know why specifically I said that, but yeah, I shouldn't have sent that either, sir. It's offensive.

Craig Junginger (01:00:00):

Okay. So you think moon crickets, you were referring to black people?

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [01:00:04]

Craig Junginger (01:00:00):

Okay. So you think moon crickets, you were referring to black people?

Brian Kawamoto (01:00:06):

Yeah, I think so, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:00:07):

Do you use that amongst your coworkers?

Brian Kawamoto (01:00:10):

Not frequently.

Craig Junginger (01:01:42):
Do you think the term's disparaging or discriminatory towards black people?

Brian Kawamoto (01:01:50):
Yes, sir. It could be.

Craig Junginger (01:01:52):
Have you ever looked up on the internet what moon cricket means?

Brian Kawamoto (01:01:55):
No. Or not that I remember released.

Craig Junginger (01:01:58):
Okay. But they told you in the training that it was a racial slur against black people or did they?

Brian Kawamoto (01:02:04):
I don't know if you said it was a slur. I think it was a class participation exercise where you were just asking for different names. You've heard different races called over the years.

Craig Junginger (01:02:17):
Did anybody in that training say that they thought moon cricket was an offensive term to black people?

Brian Kawamoto (01:02:23):
No, not that I remember. I think it got a laugh from the classroom. To be honest with you, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:02:30):
Have you been involved in other messages with coworkers where the moon cricket's been involved?

Brian Kawamoto (01:02:36):
I don't know, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:02:37):
Okay. Do you think you have?

Brian Kawamoto (01:02:40):
I don't know, sir. Maybe, maybe not.

Craig Junginger (01:02:42):
Do you think this is the only time that you ever used the term moon cricket when you're referring to black people?

Brian Kawamoto (01:02:51):
Probably not sir.

If it's any consolation, I like sober beating up savage monkeys, Brian and I also like drunk hood rat shit with my friends, Brian.

Craig Junginger (01:34:44):
Okay. And then you followed up, well, I appreciate that, bro. Do you remember that?

Brian Kawamoto (01:34:56):
Yeah, I'm not disputing that I received it, but I don't specifically remember it, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:34:59):
Okay. Is there any disputing that you were involved in this...

Brian Kawamoto (01:35:03):
No.

Craig Junginger (01:35:03):
Text message exchange?

Brian Kawamoto (01:35:04):
No, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:35:07):
Okay. Tell me how you interpreted that message from Weldon, if it's any consolation and I like sober beating up savage monkeys, what does that mean? How did you interpret that?

Brian Kawamoto (01:35:22):
Sounds like he's referring to beating up black people, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:35:27):
Okay. Is that how you interpreted that?

Brian Kawamoto (01:35:29):
Yes, sir.

Craig Junginger (01:35:31):
Okay. When he says, beating up savage monkeys, you interpreted that to mean beating up black people?

Brian Kawamoto (01:35:40):
Yeah. I guess predatory, unruly black people or whatever, but either way, not necessarily a good thing.

Craig Junginger (01:35:48):
Okay. So you already said that savage doesn't specifically refer to black people?