INTERVIEW WITH DEP. MATT WHITE
HAYNES=SGT. ANDREA HAYNES
SHELTON=SGT. KENNY SHELTON
WHITE=DEP. MATT WHITE
HOFFMANN=ATTY. JOSEPH HOFFMANN

HAYNES: Today is Tuesday, July 8, 2025. The time is 2:08 pm. I am Sergeant Andrea Haynes of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Bureau. With me is Sergeant Kenny Shelton, also with the Internal Affairs Bureau. We are at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center located at 12500 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove. We are here today with Deputy Matt White. Also present is Attorney Joseph Hoffmann, who will be representing Deputy White during this interview. This interview is regarding Internal Affairs case 2024PSB-421, where it is alleged that on August 4, 2024, Deputy White exhibited signs of driving while under the influence and was subsequently arrested for California Vehicle Code 23152(A), driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, and California Vehicle Code 23152(B), driving while under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol concentrate of 0.08 or greater. Prior to going on record, I provided Deputy White with an administrative admonishment and a Lybarger warning explaining his Miranda rights. Deputy White has invoked his Miranda rights. He has been ordered to make a truthful statement regarding this investigation. Deputy White has read and signed the Lybarger warning. Deputy White also read and signed the Administrative Admonishment Form. Deputy White, you are advised this administrative internal investigation is confidential. Prior to beginning the interview, I will have everyone present introduce themselves in their own voice for transcription purposes. I am Sergeant Andrea Haynes.

SHELTON: Sergeant Kenny Shelton.

HOFFMANN: Joe Hoffmann with Mastagni.

WHITE: Deputy Matt White.

HAYNES: Deputy White, can you spell your first and last name?

WHITE: Matt -- M-A-T-T -- White -- W-H-I-T-E.

HAYNES: Deputy White, do you understand this conversation is being recorded?

WHITE: Yes, I do.

HAYNES: By whom are you employed?

WHITE: The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

HAYNES: How long?

WHITE: For 22 years.

HAYNES: And what is your current rank?

WHITE: I'm a Deputy Sheriff.

HAYNES: Okay. Where are you currently assigned?

WHITE: The Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center.

HAYNES: And how long have you been with the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center?

WHITE: For approximately 11 months now.

HAYNES: What shift are you assigned to?

WHITE: A-Days.

HAYNES: Prior to the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, where were you assigned?

WHITE: To our Sheriff's North Patrol.

HAYNES: And what shift were you assigned to?

WHITE: Boy Watch.

HAYNES: Prior to this interview, were you able to review Folsom Police Department's Report 24-3123?

WHITE: Yes, I was.

HAYNES: The in-car camera and body-worn camera footage associated with your arrest?

WHITE: Yes.

HAYNES: Your DMV printout?

WHITE: Yes.

HAYNES: Sacramento County Sheriff's Standards of Conduct Policy?

WHITE: Yes, I had.

HAYNES: And the Sacramento Sheriff's Office Vision, Mission and Values?

WHITE: Yes, I did.

HAYNES: Were you driving your personal vehicle on August 4, 2024 in the vicinity of Folsom-Auburn Road and Folsom Dam Road?

WHITE: Yes, I was.

HAYNES: And what type of vehicle were you operating?

WHITE: A 2005 Mercury.

HAYNES: Was anyone in the vehicle with you?

WHITE: No.

HAYNES: Can you tell me where you were going?

WHITE: I was heading home.

HAYNES: And where were you coming from?

WHITE: The Folsom Hotel Bar.

HAYNES: Who were you with at this location?

WHITE: Friends and family.

HAYNES: Okay. Had you consumed any alcohol prior to driving that night?

WHITE: Yes, I did.

HAYNES: And do you recall what you were drinking and how much?

WHITE: I was drinking Jim Beam. I don't recall how much. I know I initially took a shot of Jim Beam approximately three hours before this incident. And then I know I waited an hour. And then while leaving the bar, closing out my tab, I took one more shot.

HAYNES: Okay. Were you feeling the effects of the alcohol?

WHITE: Yes.

HAYNES: And based on how much you had to drink or based on the effects of the alcohol, do you feel like you should have been operating a vehicle?

WHITE: You know, the interesting thing about alcohol is it really impairs your judgment.

HAYNES: Mm-hm.

WHITE: So I can say with confidence that I felt in that moment that I was capable of operating a vehicle and traveling home.

HAYNES: Okay.

HOFFMANN: But in retrospect, do you have a different opinion?

WHITE: Absolutely. In retrospect, because of that impairment, I was over the legal limit.

HAYNES: So when asking you why you made that decision to drive home that evening, you would say it's because at that moment, you felt like you were okay?

WHITE: I did.

HAYNES: Okay. Were you stopped by a Folsom police officer?

WHITE: I was.

HAYNES: Where at?

WHITE: Right before the dam, or right at the dam, right past Natomas Crossing, which is on Auburn-Folsom Boulevard.

HAYNES: Did you know at the time why you were stopped?

WHITE: Did I? I'm sorry, did I understand the reason I was stopped?

HAYNES: Mm-hm.

WHITE: He said that I weaved in my lane.

HAYNES: Okay. Did you recognize that you had too much to drink?

WHITE: I had an instant regret and a fear that I may have overdrank.

HAYNES: Did you identify yourself as a Sacramento County Sheriff's deputy?

WHITE: Yes, I did.

HAYNES: Did the Folsom police officer request that you conduct field sobriety tests?

WHITE: He did.

HAYNES: And did you cooperate with these tests?

WHITE: I did.

HAYNES: Can you describe these tests to me?

WHITE: Yeah, I recall that he did, I'm going to say it wrong, horizontal nystagmus gaze or whatever, with my eyes to follow his pen and also a Romberg stand and a breathalyzer.

HAYNES: Do you recall the results of the PAS?

WHITE: Yes, I believe I was 0.11.

HAYNES: And as a result of the traffic stop and DUI investigation, were you arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol?

WHITE: I certainly was.

HAYNES: Having reviewed the police report and the associated camera footage, is there anything that you believe is inaccurate or should be clarified?

WHITE: No, I don't.

HAYNES: What were you charged with?

WHITE: 23152 vehicle - driving while intoxicated over a legal limit of 0.08.

HAYNES: And how did you plead your charges?

WHITE: No contest.

HAYNES: What was the outcome of your plea?

WHITE: I received 4 years of probation.

HAYNES: And what are the terms of your probation?

WHITE: To sustain from all alcohol and alcohol possession and consumption or where it can be consumed.

HAYNES: Was there any other results of your plea besides the 4 years of probation?

HOFFMANN: I can shine some light on it because there were some technical terms that were deemed satisfied.

HAYNES: Mm-hm.

HOFFMANN: So what I conveyed was it was 10 days of jail but credit time served to include giving him credit for the time that he did at a treatment facility.

HAYNES: Mm-hm.

HOFFMANN: Four years of informal probation. Take the 18-month DUI course. And for the duration of probation - I'm sorry, it was 14 days credit time served.

HAYNES: Right. Okay.

HOFFMANN: During the course of probation, he can't have any alcohol, any measurable amount of alcohol and drive a vehicle or other standard terms and conditions like obey all laws. So.

WHITE: Thank you.

HAYNES: Okay. And what is the status of your driver's license currently?

WHITE: It's currently suspended or revoked.

HAYNES: And is there something that you have to do in order to get your driving status back?

WHITE: Yes. November 25 will be the date I can have it reissued as long as I'm signed up for the 18-month DUI program and also kind of show a SR-22 for insurance.

HAYNES: What is SR-22?

WHITE: It's a completion of insurance that you actively have insurance and that it's on record with DMV that if you ever miss a payment or any type of declinement of that insurance, or I didn't pay it that they would automatically suspend my license again. So I must currently have insurance.

HAYNES: And once you get your driver's license reissued, does that put you back into a valid status or does that...

WHITE: It does.

HAYNES: ...give you back just driving to and from work?

WHITE: No, it'll be a valid status.

HAYNES: Okay. And I guess this answers my next question. Were you court ordered to take any classes?

WHITE: Yes.

HAYNES: And what class is that?

WHITE: An 18-month DUI completion of classes.

HAYNES: And you said you start that class when?

WHITE: I have not signed up yet, but I have until August 3 to sign up and complete.

HAYNES: Okay. Since this incident, have you reached out to any department resources

for support relating to your alcohol use?

WHITE: Oh my gosh. Yeah, it's been quite the experience. Immediately after being booked into jail, you know, [redacted] was able to give me a ride home and was the first of many beginnings of addressing alcoholism and my status at the Sheriff's Department and then also the conduct of what is expected. And since then, that has led into the following morning, I spoke with [redacted] about this same incident and so forth. But since then, I've reached out to Peer Support and also continue doing therapy, which I explain later. But yeah, I've talked to several people.

HAYNES: Okay. Any other programs?

WHITE: Yeah, I've, you know, there was a - this incident happened on August 4. And in my past, I've been through AA meetings, I've continued to do that off and on. And so I jumped right back into AA and started going through there. And since August 4 to January 12, I had two drinks. And I knew that there would be this moment that I was sitting across from an Internal Affairs investigator. And I remember thinking, why am I drinking? What is going on with me? And I knew that this moment was pretty significant for me that I knew that I had to say, Am I good? Am I not good? And what have I done? And AA wasn't cutting it at the time, I didn't understand why I was still having, in this case, two drinks over four months. So 1st of year, I decided I'd look into outpatient programs or attempts to really counter my own internal problems with alcohol. So I began to look at outpatient programs in the area. And they were pretty sufficient, you know, they were all generally like six to eight weeks and outpatient therapy, or they were all alcohol counselors. And the one thing I really settled in kind of stuck my teeth in I was, like, I wanted therapy, I wanted something to really address past traumas, and everything the reasons I was drinking, that was really important to me.

HAYNES: Mm-hm.

WHITE: So with that said, I was able to through therapy found [redacted] My research to my insurance and also the union to know what type of systems was available. And I believe my insurance covered all of it. And it's a bit of a sacrifice. [redacted] And the big selling point for me was two to three times a week, you did meet one on one with the therapist. And that it was, again, [redacted], but it was one of the most beneficial times in my life where I realized why I was drinking for things and the causes of those things

and how to overcome addiction, trauma, and overall happiness with what I was doing [redacted], I've met with her for once a week and talk to her and continue to see her. And probably about one of the best experiences I've ever had. It was very challenging, but I was very thankful I did it.

HAYNES: And when did you complete this program?

WHITE: April 29.

HAYNES: And just to clarify, since completing this program, on April 29, you're continuing to talk to one of the counselors from this program?

WHITE: Yeah, and also remains sober, since January 12 I've not drank and done anything like that, nor ever desired to go back, and maybe it's a moot point, but really I know I've told Joe this and other things, if I had known how well I could feel now, I would almost get another DUI just to do it again. Because I know how that sounds terrible. But if I had known how great I felt now, I would have done anything possible to be how I feel now.

HAYNES: Right. I understand what you're saying.

WHITE: Yeah. Yeah.

HAYNES: Okay.

WHITE: Yeah. Thank you.

HAYNES: Are there any other programs? I mean, I know you said you attempted AA. You went to AA off and on for a while. Are there any other programs? You said you looked into outpatients programs, are there any other programs that you completed?

WHITE: No, [redacted] I continue to go to AA meetings now twice a week.

HAYNES: Okay.

HOFFMANN: And so your aftercare is two AA meetings a week and then a weekly counseling session...

WHITE: Yes.

HOFFMANN: ..[redacted]

WHITE: Yes.

HOFFMANN: Okay.

WHITE: And I have a sponsor through AA that I continue to talk to.

HAYNES: Okay. Are your AA meetings, are they in person? Are they online?

WHITE: There in person.

HAYNES: Okay.

WHITE: Yeah. They fortunately right by my house. I walk there.

HAYNES: Okay. And then is this meeting you have with the counselor through the what's it called again, the...

WHITE: [redacted]

HAYNES: [redacted]

WHITE: Yeah.

HAYNES: Is that over the phone or Zoom?

WHITE: It's either Zoom or FaceTime.

HAYNES: Okay. And we talked a little, had you attended any programs related to alcohol prior to your incident on August 4?

WHITE: Yeah. For the last I would say 5 or 6 years I've been on and off with AA, and never obviously had in and outs of it. But that was the only thing I had attempted prior.

HAYNES: Okay. Being that this isn't your first DUI conviction since being employed with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, what are you doing to ensure this type of incident or behavior won't happen again in the future?

WHITE: You know, I really appreciate that question because I think I personally I've been struggling with that for years now. And when you go through a DUI, there's a lot of peaks and valleys and a lot of good days and bad days and always a challenge of something whether it's your driver's license, your employment or your status or a criminal case or jail time. And I think in my case, I really have conquered all those things, and the last regrettable thing I have is guilt and shame that will not really shake. And as I continue to go through therapy, I've found ways to cope with that and move forward. So since the first DUI or the second one, I've learned that I'm moving forward. I am being someone that has been knocked down and continuing getting to back up and that this time I'm finally standing and that I'm also a lot more mature than I was prior - before now that I'm married and also have a child now, and there's a lot more at stake. And I think going through this process on a personal note to the Sheriff's Department has been so wonderful to me that this will never happen again and, nor will I ever be an alcoholic or be alcohol related problems.

HAYNES: Okay. Looking back at this entire situation, is there anything you would have done differently?

WHITE: Absolutely. You know, I think it should be at least mentioned that, like, prior to this, I did have, like, 50 days sober and was trying to do best. This was not a throw up my hands and don't give a heck about it. You know, I went there to this bar, drove because I had full intentions of not drinking and that I fell short. And even in my midst of falling short, I had a ride that lined up, and I called several times they unfortunately didn't answer. I did wait an hour. And the mistake I made was taking that last drink while I was closing out. And I do live 5 minutes away and I had some music equipment in the car that I didn't feel like leaving, and it was a poor lapse of judgment. But in hindsight, I wish I would have all done it completely different. There was no reason at all for me to drive.

HAYNES: Okay. In this situation, do you feel you followed department policy and procedure?

WHITE: No.

HAYNES: Do you believe your actions brought discredit upon our agency and profession?

WHITE: 100%.

HAYNES: Okay. Do you feel you conducted yourself appropriately and within the Sheriff's Office Vision, Mission and Values?

WHITE: No.

HAYNES: Sergeant Shelton, do you have any questions?

SHELTON: I do. Referring to your plea deal, your probation status is informal. Is that searchable or non -searchable?

WHITE: Searchable.

SHELTON: And then your...

HOFFMANN: Well, so it's searchable in the sense of he would have to submit to search and seizure by a police officer who wants to check his bodily fluids for the presence of alcohol. But I don't believe it's searchable in the sense of where they can just go in and toss his house in the middle of the night as a pretext or whatever.

SHELTON: And then for your driver's license is currently suspended until you complete your class, correct? Or is it revoked?

WHITE: No, it's suspended until I sign up for the class. The classes will be 18 months, but I will have it prior.

SHELTON: Okay, so you'll - I guess my ultimate question is, is there a work exemption? Or when will you be able to operate a motor vehicle in the course of your duties at work?

WHITE: Well, I'm eligible for a breathalyzer now, but that would obviously not be accountability for work. November 25 will be reinstated fully for my driver's license.

SHELTON: Okay. And prior to November, are there any kind of exemptions that allow you to drive to and from work?

WHITE: Yeah, with a breathalyzer, I would be able to.

HOFFMANN: So if he has an IID installed in his vehicle, he can get a restricted license where he can drive his private vehicle with the breathalyzer in it, anywhere he wants any time. If he goes that route, then there's a notice form that he could provide to his employer that would allow him to drive a county vehicle that does not have the IID installed in it so long as the employer receives the notice. So there is another route to go if he needs to drive in the course of his duties, we can get him there.

SHELTON: Okay, if need be?

HOFFMANN: Yes.

SHELTON: And then my last question, just one more. Have you learned from this incident? What I mean by that is, have you learned in a way that will make you a better employee in the future? And if so, how?

WHITE: Thank you for asking that because, like, [redacted] that I had, it ultimately led me to better happiness and to be a better person. So not only am I a better employee, but also a better father, better husband. But as far as my work status, I've come to terms of gratitude, and that I will continue to sustain from alcohol. And I've learned [redacted] coping skills of stress management, personal defect. And I also believe I have a great outpatient program for that with a therapist online. And I've been very open to friends and contacts too that I've been able to rely on that honestly, before I didn't care to have nor did I have, unfortunately. That's all I have.

HAYNES: Attorney Hoffmann, do you have any clarifying questions?

HOFFMANN: No.

HAYNES: Okay. Deputy White, is there anything important to this investigation that I have not asked?

WHITE: No, I don't think so. I appreciate your thorough investigation and the questions asked. I think the only thing I would add is that, I'm very proud of the Sheriff's Department, very proud that I've been here. It's not only provided me a lifestyle and everything I have, but it's pro- provided me integrity, and it's provided me professionalism and how to overcome things. And I'm deeply, like, very shameful and apologetic of how I reflected that it's something that I

really cared about. And my personal reflections of how I feel about myself during that time will always be a little bit damaged towards the Sheriff's Department. So I'm very sorry for the incident. And I hope to spend the rest of my career, continue to be a advocate for the Sheriff's Department and to help other employees avoid the situation.

HAYNES: Thank you. If no one else has anything else, this will end our interview. The time is 2:30 pm.

This transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate transcription.

Signed 