Internal Affairs Investigation
19-IA-0001
Deputy [redacted] Statement

Larry Doherty: The following will be a recorded interview conducted by myself, Sergeant Larry Doherty of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, Internal Affairs Bureau. The date is 1/30/2019. Time now, by my watch is 1325 hours. I am presently in one of the conference room with [redacted], and I'm gonna say [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and [redacted], um, for the record, could you say and spell your last name?

[redacted] My last name is [redacted] It's spelled [redacted]

Larry Doherty: And is it all right if I call you [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: And please call me Larry. Um, as I explained earlier, you are a witness to this matter. You understand that?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: So that I'm just gonna ask you to answer all questions honestly and truthfully.

[redacted]: Okay.

Larry Doherty: All right. So, how long you been a deputy now?

[redacted].

Larry Doherty: [redacted]. Congratulations on getting' the job. That's awesome. So, because [redacted], that means you're on the training program.

[redacted]: Yes sir.

Larry Doherty: All right, um, who are you currently assigned to as a, who's your trainer?

[redacted]: Uh, FTO [redacted]

Larry Doherty: Okay, and [redacted] spelled [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Um, what is his shift?

[redacted]: Uh, he works [redacted] with [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay, supposedly.

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: [redacted]. Okay, so [redacted] ?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: So, that's your shift?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, were you working that shift in January of this year?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, how long you been with, uh, I'm gonna just call him [redacted]?

[redacted]: Uh, approximately 3 weeks.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and how long is this phase for?

[redacted]: Four weeks.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, you may not be aware of it, but I'm gonna ask you were you working on January the 11th? And this is the same day that they did a module search in D Mod.

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so you were working that night with [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Um, what phase are you in?

[redacted]: I'm in Phase 2.

Larry Doherty: And, and what, how many are there?

[redacted]: Uh, four.

Larry Doherty: Four phases, okay. Have you gone to the academy yet?

[redacted]: Uh, I have to do the supplemental academy in February.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so on February 11th, you were working [redacted], so your shift started about –

[redacted]: On January 11th?

Larry Doherty: On January the 11th.

[redacted]: Um, it started at approximately [redacted]

Larry Doherty: That was a test. Um, on January 11th about [redacted]?

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Okay, were you aware that you were gonna be helping do a search in D Module?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, what kind of module is D, is D Module, if you know?

[redacted]: Um, D Module, to my best knowledge, houses inmates who are just above male special, so it –

Larry Doherty: Just below?

[redacted]: Or, yeah, just below male special.

Larry Doherty: Male special.

[redacted]: Um, so problem inmates. Um, I know that they limit the out-of-cell activity time to a fewer number of inmates than the other minimum housing modules.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, so they have much for problems than the other housing areas do.

Larry Doherty: So, it's just a step below AD SEG guys?

[redacted]: Yep.

Larry Doherty: Okay, A-D-space-S-E-G. Um, so they're problem children?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so Sergeant [redacted] had made arrangements to do a search of the entire module.

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Do you remember Sergeant [redacted] gettin' you all guys together and talking –

[redacted] Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: – about what your exp, his expectations were?

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: You do remember it? What did he say?

[redacted]: Um, just paraphrasing, we're gonna go in, try and locate any contraband. Uh, D Module inmates were having issues with them arcing in the outlets.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, and starting fires and having wicks, and so there was a lot of electrical problems going on at that time that they were trying to curb. Um, so our purpose that day was finding contraband and also finding evidence of people arcing in the unit.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so all right, how many deputies do you think there was, and you don't have to be accurate, 5, 10, 20?

[redacted]: Probably about seven or eight?

Larry Doherty: Okay, so seven or eight of you were gonna conduct this, so –

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: – how big is that module in regards to the population?

[redacted]: I believe it houses about 60 to 80 inmates.

Larry Doherty: Sixty to eighty, so it's a significant amount for six to eight deputies, so when you guys were doin' the search, you didn't do the whole module at one time, then.

[redacted]: Uh, we did cell by cell.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: So, we were going in, handcuffing inmates, pulling them out, having them seat, uh, seated in the dayroom area.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: And we had another deputy, who was watching them, um, and then, uh, me and FTO [redacted] or me and another deputy, since I'm still on training, would go in and search the cells.

Larry Doherty: Okay, all right, and so when you have them handcuffed –

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: – do you have 'em stand up back to the door and then you put handcuffs on 'em and then move 'em?

[redacted]: Uh, yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so did you become aware of something unusual happening?

[redacted]: Yes, we were down, me and FTO [redacted] were downstairs searching the cell, and we heard a commotion upstairs. Uh, we heard one of the deputies, I'm not sure which one, tell someone to, uh, to turn around and to cuff up, and so you kinda heard the inmate muffled through the door say fuck you and then some other stuff. Um, but essentially if was fuck you, I'm not gonna cuff up. Um, at first, we just continued searching, um, 'cause it didn't, it wasn't escalating at that point, and then all of a sudden, we heard them start yelling in a commotion upstairs, and so we ran upstairs.

Larry Doherty: And the yelling was both the deputy and/or the inmate?

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so do you know what cell you went to and/or who it belonged to?

[redacted]: It was the inmate with the last name [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, I'm not sure what cell it was.

Larry Doherty: That's all right. Um, but you knew you went to the right cell because why?

[redacted]: Uh, because the door was open. Uh, FTO [redacted] went in first, and there was, uh, three deputies already in there or in a physical altercation with him.

Larry Doherty: And do you know who those deputies were?

[redacted]: It was [redacted] and Morfin.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, and [redacted] went in too?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: So now there's five of 'em inside.

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Including the inmate.

[redacted]: Yep.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and, and how much room is in one of these single-man cells?

[redacted]: Not a whole lot.

Larry Doherty: Okay, enough for maybe one person?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, so you've stacked five people in there –

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: – and it gets a little crowded.

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Um, do you know where [redacted] was in relations?

[redacted]: I don't.

Larry Doherty: Okay, do you know where Morfin was?

[redacted]: I, I don't.

Larry Doherty: Okay, do you know where [redacted] was?

[redacted]: I don't.

Larry Doherty: Do you know where, uh, Inmate [redacted] was?

[redacted]: Um, he was in the corner between – so when we came in, he was about right here between the desk and the, uh bed.

Larry Doherty: And the bed. Was he on the floor already, or he was still partially on the bed?

[redacted]: He was still partially on the bed.

Larry Doherty: And then how did he get on the floor?

[redacted]: Uh, when I, when we came in, [redacted] was in front of me, and I saw a leg that went out from [redacted], and I, [redacted] grabbed the leg and yanked him and pulled him on the floor.

Larry Doherty: Okay, pulled him on the floor. Got him on the floor. Um, did you ever see any strikes delivered?

[redacted] Uh, I saw arms flying. I don't know who really hit who.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, when, as soon as he came down the floor – to be honest, that was my first altercation with an inmate during a fight, so I was more focused on trying to control the legs or just do something.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, but I had [redacted] in front of me, who he's probably about 6 foot 2. Uh –

Larry Doherty: He's a big boy.

[redacted]: He's a tall guy, so it was hard to see over him and then see what was happening up at the ****

Larry Doherty: And [redacted] is a big boy. Okay, and then this is taking place, um, at bunk level and/or on the floor.

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: So, okay. Um, and so you were tryin' to control the feet?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Um, how did you know that strikes were being delivered? You just saw elbows flyin'?

[redacted]: I saw elbows flyin' and arms flyin'. Um –

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, were, did, were the deputies, uh, issuing commands to [redacted]?

[redacted]: They were tellin' him to stop resist. Uh, that's the only one that I remember hearing?

Larry Doherty: Put your hands behind your back, maybe?

[redacted]: Yeah, uh, things to that effect, tryin' to get him to stop.

Larry Doherty: Was [redacted] responding?

[redacted]: Uh, I don't know.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um, I just had his legs. He was on his side at, when he first went down, and then he rolled over, so I don't know if he rolled over on his own or if someone kinda pulled him over.

Larry Doherty: So you, so you assume strikes were bein', but you don't know 'cause all you saw was elbows.

[redacted]: Yep.

Larry Doherty: Um, did you recall any knee strikes?

[redacted]: I didn't recall any knee strikes.

Larry Doherty: Did you recall anybody using their shoes?

[redacted]: Uh, I don't recall.

Larry Doherty: Did you see somebody using their shoes?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, eventually they get him handcuffed?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and after he was handcuffed, did they stand him up?

[redacted]: Uh, yes, they stood him up.

Larry Doherty: And then do you know who took him out of there?

[redacted]: I don't. I kinda got off kinda, kinda pushed off to the corner 'cause I'm smaller, so they kinda had, it was, it was two guys had a hold of his arms. I'm not sure which ones they were, but they walked him out first, and then I walked out after.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, once he was taken out, do you know where they took him?

[redacted]: Uh, I believe they took him to booking. They ****

Larry Doherty: Okay, did you know who that would've been, escorting him?

[redacted]: Uh, I know [redacted] was one of 'em.

Larry Doherty: Because you got –

[redacted]: – reassigned to a different, uh –

Larry Doherty: FTO?

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: And then do you know who the other deputy was that escorted him down to booking?

[redacted]: I don't.

Larry Doherty: Okay, um, did you and FTO [redacted] talk about this later on that night?

[redacted]: We, we briefly did. We didn't talk exactly about what happened, but when everything was going on and I was controlling the legs, I heard [redacted], uh, say Morfin, that's enough. Um, and then as we walked out later that day, he basically told me that shouldn't have happened. Do you know what happened? And I kinda made the assumption from there, um, just from the way that he was talking in the cell and telling Morfin to, to stop and that was enough, and then the, what he said as we were leaving.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and what did he say?

[redacted]: Um, you know, that that shouldn't have happened. That's something that I'm gonna have to report. Um –

Larry Doherty: And that shouldn't have happened being what?

[redacted]: Being when he was telling Morfin that he had to stop, so I made that inference that something was happening up at the, the head that I couldn't see the, um –

Larry Doherty: So, he didn't explain to you what Morfin was actually doing?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Other than you know at one point during the, um, situation inside the cell –

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: – he instructed Morfin that's enough.

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Okay, and then on your conversation at the end of the day, he says that kinda thing shouldn't happen and that he was gonna have to talk to somebody?

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: But he didn't further explain as far as what Morfin was doing to you?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Okay, did you guys end up talking about it when you guys returned on Monday?

[redacted]: We talked –

Larry Doherty: 'Cause that was your Friday.

[redacted]: Yeah, we talked about the IA process.

Larry Doherty: Oh, okay.

[redacted]: Um, 'cause [redacted] assumed that that was what it was gonna turn into, so he kind of explained the process to me. Um, we met with, he, I believe he reported it to Sergeant [redacted]

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: And we met with [redacted] later, and she explained the process too and told us not to talk about it, um, and that she didn't wanna get involved in the middle, but if I had any questions about the IA process, that she would explain it to me.

Larry Doherty: Okay, all right. Did he ever, [redacted] –

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Did he ever tell you what he observed?

[redacted]: Not that I remember.

Larry Doherty: 'Cause he, 'cause he went and talked to [redacted] first and then you guys talked together?

[redacted]: Uh, on our way out he, he made that comment that that shouldn't have happened, and that's something I'm gonna have to report. Um, he said he was gonna talk to Morfin as well. Um, but we never actually talked about, to my best recollection about what exactly happened.

Larry Doherty: He observed.

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: About what he observed.

Larry Doherty: But it was apparent that it was something that he was not appreciative of.

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, did you ever talk to Morfin about it?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Did you ever talk to [redacted] about it?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Did you ever talk to [redacted] about it?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Um, did you ever talk to either Sergeants [redacted] and/or [redacted]?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Um, [redacted] is [redacted] no a, [redacted] Um, is there anything that I haven't asked that you think's important in regards to this incident?

[redacted]: No. That's all that I saw for that.

Larry Doherty: Okay, I'm gonna go ahead and end the interview. The time now, by my watch, is 1337 hours. Thank you.

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