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

Larry Doherty: The following will be a tape, uh, 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. The time now by my watch is 0920 hours. I am presently in one of the conference rooms at the sheriff's office with Sergeant [redacted]. [redacted], for the record, could you say and spell your last name?

[redacted]: Sergeant [redacted], last name [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Thank you. Is it all right if I call you [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Please call me Larry.

[redacted]: Okay.

Larry Doherty: Um, [redacted], how long you worked at the sheriff's office now?

[redacted]: [redacted]

Larry Doherty: [redacted]. How many years as a sergeant?

[redacted]: [redacted].

Larry Doherty: So [redacted] okay, [redacted]. Um, current assignment, where do you work?

[redacted]: Uh, I am a custody sergeant or booking sergeant on [redacted].

Larry Doherty: With what days off?

[redacted]: Uh, [redacted].

Larry Doherty: So you work [redacted]?

[redacted]: I am off [redacted] and every other [redacted]. Sorry.

Larry Doherty: Oh, okay. Okay. Um, specialties?

[redacted]: [redacted], uh –

Larry Doherty: [redacted]

[redacted]: –[redacted] It's, uh, [redacted]. Uh, that's all my specialties are at this moment.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And, and then you work out of the main –

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: – adult detention facility, and you'll sometimes hear us say MADF. Um, well, uh, [redacted]. That's awesome. Were you working back on January the 11th, and, uh, and I'll try to help you out here, January 11th was the day they did a search in D-module. Uh, Sergeant [redacted] was responsible for that. So does that help you?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: I was working.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And were you workin' graves that night or –

[redacted]: Uh, uh.

Larry Doherty: – were you workin'?

[redacted]: It was currently still swing shift.

Larry Doherty: Okay. It was swing shift, so you did, went in early?

[redacted]: Uh, my shi, I work 12s so I start work at 7, 1900 –

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: – 7:00 –

Larry Doherty: Oh, okay. All right. So you were workin' on the 11th. You went in at, at, shu, shift starts at 1900 hours but what time do you usually get there?

[redacted]: Uh, about 6:45.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So did you become aware of an incident that took place during that search of D-module that night?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And where did that start from?

[redacted]: In D-mod.

Larry Doherty: Okay . I, I realize that. Where were you when you first became aware –

[redacted]: Oh, I was, I was eating dinner with the other sergeants on duty.

Larry Doherty: And who were the other sergeants on duty?

[redacted]: Uh, Sergeant [redacted], [redacted], and Sergeant Du, uh, [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay. And [redacted]. Um, you guys were eatin' dinner, conversing and what did you hear?

[redacted]: Uh, on the radio someone transmitted Sam 2 87 D David.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And that meant to you what?

[redacted]: Res, respond to D David, respond to the module.

Larry Doherty: D, D-mod. Okay. And did you guys all respond?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And then what happened?

[redacted]: Uh, we, all three of us went upstairs, li, literally we were walking in through the sally port as two deputies were escorting an inmate, uh, out of it.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Who were those two deputies?

[redacted]: Uh, Deputy Morfin and, uh, uh, I don't remember who the other deputy was.

Larry Doherty: Could it have been [redacted]?

[redacted]: Uh, I thought it was, uh, yeah, it could have been [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay. And Morfin, M-O-R-F-I-N, [redacted] So, hmm, what did they inform you and who did it?

[redacted]: Uh, I wasn't informed until we got downstairs to booking after we escorted the inmate down there, um, that there was a struggle with the inmate or a fight with the inmate while the, durin' the search.

Larry Doherty: Well you, so you walked with Deputies [redacted] and Morfin down to booking from D-module?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And the inmate they had you learned they got in a scuffle with.

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: [redacted] was his name.

Larry Doherty: Okay. [redacted]. During your walk from D-module down to booking, was there any conversation that took place?

[redacted]: Uh –

Larry Doherty: Any inmate.

[redacted]: The inmate was constantly, hmm, saying profanities to specifically Deputy Morfin and tell, asking me, "Do you see what they did to me?" And I, you know, would, I told him, "Hey, we'll get this su, scu, uh, we'll talk about this well, after we get you checked out by the medic, get you in a cell and then we'll talk about everything."

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, was, uh, Morfin responding back to [redacted]?

[redacted]: Uh, at ti, uh, yes, at times he was. I don't recall what he was saying to him.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So you don't know if a case – so both of 'em are talkin' to each other. You just don't know really what that exchange is other than [redacted] is using profanity?

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: Was Morfin usin' profanity if you could tell?

[redacted]: Not that I can remember.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Okay.

[redacted]: A lot of the time, uh, actually a lot of the time was tellin' him to shut up.

Larry Doherty: Okay. When you guys got down to booking, what happened?

[redacted]: Uh, I, they sat him down in a booking chair, one of the booking chairs. Um, [redacted] was still runnin' his mouth and, uh, sayin' profanities, so I told Morfin to go into my office and sit, have a seat so it kinda alleviate the situation and take, try to calm [redacted] down so he is just not all hyper and we could have the medic check him out, and just –

Larry Doherty: And just for clarification, so you were Sam 1 that night?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Sam 2 was [redacted]?

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: And Sam 3 was [redacted].

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So you're down in booking. That's where your office is, so you were tryin' to stop that bickering.

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: From [redacted] by gettin' Morfin out of the way?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Go ahead.

[redacted]: And then I had, uh, I told Deputy [redacted] who was there to make sure he takes, uh, uh, photos of [redacted] face and any injuries that he may says he has.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And [redacted]. Um, what did you notice?

[redacted]: Uh, on [redacted]?

Larry Doherty: Yeah.

[redacted]: Uh, that he had a lot of I guess you could say lumps on his head.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, and so you asked Deputy [redacted] to take a photo. Um, I'm gonna show you a picture and I'm gonna ask you if that's, when you say lumps on his head. Is that what you mean? Somethin' –

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: – uh, like two bumps above eye –

[redacted]: Yeah. Two bumps.

Larry Doherty: – either eye?

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, do you know if he made mentions of any other injuries or that was somethin' he would have done with the medic.

[redacted]: Uh, I don't re, recall him saying he had any other injuries.

Larry Doherty: Okay. That, that would have been somethin' he reported to the medic and [redacted] would have taken pictures if in fact he identified any other injuries?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. What happened then?

[redacted]: Uh, he, well [redacted] was seen by the medic and then escorted into Booking Cell 8. The cuffs were removed. He was placed in the cell and then, uh, I went into my office with, where Morfin was, and I asked him if he was okay, if he had any injuries. Uh, he had told me he had a cut on his finger. Uh, so I told him make sure you go see the medic. Um, I also, I believe at that time, uh, Sergeant [redacted] had shown up and we asked him what happened. Um, and he told us the story that they were at the door, uh, at [redacted] door durin' the search –

Larry Doherty: In his cell, of his cell –

[redacted]: – of his cell and [redacted] was yelling at them. I don't know what he's yelling 'cause I was, I wasn't there, and, um, he said that [redacted] they told him to cuff up and he wasn't gonna cuff up, because they were doin' a search, and so he said [redacted] turned around and threw his arms up and took a fighting stance and, uh, Morfin ran in the cell and they started fightin'. I mean he was resisting.

Larry Doherty: Um, when you say they started fightin', did, was he more descriptive of that than just fighting?

[redacted]: Uh, they, he said that when he
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Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, so Morfin took [redacted] down, and when you say down, he could have either taken him down to the bunk and/or to the floor?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Now they started fighting, was Morfin more explicit about they started fighting?

[redacted]: Uh, oh he talked about that, uh, he threw elbow stri, a couple elbow strikes, uh, and a couple fist strikes, closed fist strikes is what he said, and I don't re, uh, I don't recall why he said he – oh, oh, uh, sorry. He, I do recall. He said when he threw his hands up, uh, her, you know, he felt like he was gonna hit him, [redacted] specifically, so he threw an elbow strike at [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay. Did he say where it landed?

[redacted]: He said he, uh, his head –

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: – his face.

Larry Doherty: Um, did he ever tell you that he used any knee strikes?

[redacted]: Yes he did. He, uh, mentioned that he used some knee strikes on the ground because he wasn't giving up his hands.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, did he ever tell you that he, uh, kicked him?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So Morfin is tryin' to either use elbow strikes, fist strikes and/or knee strikes to get this guy to provide him with a hand?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Um, is that usual?

[redacted]: Nu, not usually.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Um, are there other things that, based upon your years of experience, is there other things that we could do to get him to put his hands behind his back?

[redacted]: Uh, you could ask him. Uh, you can just hold him down to the ground 'cause I, uh, uh, if you're getting hit with strikes, uh, that person might be just tryin' to defend themselves and/or cover their face or cover their body so they don't feel the pain anymore. Right. So sometimes if you just stop for a second and tell the inmate put your hands behind your back, they'll comply and they'll put their hands behind their back.

Larry Doherty: Um, did Morfin tell you who other than himself who might have been in the cell?

[redacted]: Um, I know [redacted] and [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay. So you know [redacted] and [redacted] were there. Um, so Morfin gives this account, um, to you and [redacted].

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. And, and he only complained about a little scratch?

[redacted]: Yeah.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So obviously you know that they eventually got him handcuffed because they walked him out of, uh, D-mod.

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Was there any direction given to Morfin in regards to writing a report or anything that you know of?

[redacted]: Uh, it's common practice that you would write a report if there is use of force.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: And I know Sergeant [redacted], uh, Sergeant [redacted] did tell him write your report.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Um I mean it's common practice, especially with somethin' that's use of force, you're gonna get it done before you go home.

Larry Doherty: All right. You've been here a long time. Uh, well how did you feel after Morfin gave you his account of what occurred?

[redacted]: Uh, I didn't feel like he, uh, they had a lot of other options available to them other than goin' hands on with, with [redacted]. Um, from what I understand based on what I was told, hmm, that [redacted] was at the door talking to him, uh, you know, tryin' to get him to cuff up. Um, instead of goin' in and just tryin' to grab somebody and put them in handcuffs, you could, well close the door and wait for a supervisor to come up and talk to the inmate. Um, there is also the, the option hey if you feel threatened by someone or someone takes a fighting stance at you and you have nowhere else to go, you can pull your Taser out and display your Taser somewhat and tell 'em to get on the ground or turn around and cuff up. Um, you don't always necessarily need to go hands on, so that's why I felt like it wasn't the best option, the best route that he took or they took in order to get someone to comply with cuffing up.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Did Morfin tell you who else was in the cell in regards to deputies along with, uh, [redacted]?

[redacted]: Uh, not that I can recall.

Larry Doherty: Okay. So you don't know that [redacted] actually had his Taser out?

[redacted]: I don't recall hear, ever hearin' that.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, so the last thing you know Morfin's leaves because he has been told go write your report?

[redacted]: Mm hmm.

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Yes.

Larry Doherty: Did you end up getting further information that night in regards to what occurred?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, when was the next time you heard about that, um, incident?

[redacted]: Uh, I got a message from Lieutenant [redacted], hmm, I think it was a day or two later. He asked if we had taken more photos of, uh, [redacted].

Larry Doherty: Okay.

[redacted]: Uh, and then I got a phone call from, uh, Captain [redacted] with Lieutenant [redacted] present askin' us, asking me, uh, what had happened, my, my si, my side of the story that, uh, that evening.

Larry Doherty: And, and that account, was it the same account we just discussed?

[redacted]: Correct.

Larry Doherty: Okay. Um, is there anything else that you think's important in regards to what your, uh, relationship in, is regarding this incident that we haven't discussed?

[redacted]: No.

Larry Doherty: Okay. I'm gonna go ahead and stop the interview. The time now by my watch is 0935 hours.

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