Internal Affairs Investigation
19-AR-0007
SPD Office Ethan Stockton Supplemental Protocol Interview

Detective Vickers: Okay. So, um, I'm gonna start off with one kind of open-ended question. Uh, but, you know, we, we talked about in the beginning of the interview, you, you've been a police officer for approximately 1 year of full active duty all the time.

Ethan Stockton: Hmm.

Detective Vickers: Right? Um, in, you know, si, situations like this, I mean it probably hasn't happened to you that many times in your 1-year career.

Ethan Stockton: No.

Detective Vickers: So, I mean you had to have been feeling, feeling some kind of fear, right, during this situation. So I just wanted you to, uh, give you an opportunity to talk about if at any point you felt fear and when that might have been and why.

Ethan Stockton: Um, definitely during the, the second PIT, where the on Sutton, um, once I exited my vehicle and everything appeared slightly more static, every time he was instructed to put his hands up, he would, but he would immediately go back towards his lap and his waist, and with the fact that we had been told that there was possibly a firearm involved, I definitely feared that at any point he might pull a, a firearm out of his waist, out of his lap, uh, around the seat area and that I might have to use deadly force at that time.

Detective Vickers: And in your training and experience if you know or if you hear that a vehicle or someone, uh, that may be associated with a vehicle is armed or wanted and that vehicle begins a pursuit, does that ring any bells for you? Does that, does that, uh, are those indicators for you?

Ethan Stockton: It might be a, a more heightened level of awareness, um, based on the, the fact that a firearm had been mentioned. Um, but just the fact that a pursuit is occurring, also kinda heightens all of those possibilities to me.

Detective Vickers: Okay. Um, and so based on where you work and the nature, um, of the shifts that you work, is it, uh, out of the norm for you to assist deputies or deputies to assist you?

Ethan Stockton: It happens from time to time, um, but it's not something that we're doing on a daily basis.

Detective Vickers: Okay. Um, okay. So now I wanna go back to the end of the pursuit, the termination of the, the pursuit. Um, yourself and, uh, Deputy Little and Officer Bauer –

Ethan Stockton: Mm hmm.

Detective Vickers: – are there and you, you had mentioned that a, a, a second deputy comes in who you, who you weren't familiar with –

Ethan Stockton: Mm hmm.

Detective Vickers: – and you all make your way towards the vehicle. Did you hear any coordination – uh, you mentioned that there was none with you – did you hear any coordination between the deputies before they moved forward onto the vehicle?

Ethan Stockton: I could not.

Detective Vickers: Okay. And then you mentioned that the suspect was pulled out of the, uh, vehicle later, right?

Ethan Stockton: Yes.

Detective Vickers: Okay. Did you assist with that?

Ethan Stockton: Do you mean when he was removed from the passenger side of the vehicle?

Detective Vickers: Uh, yes.

Ethan Stockton: Okay. Uh, I did. Um, and I am trying to recall my direct involvement with that. I, uh, I believe it was brief because I had started to try to collapse my baton first, um, and then he was, I believe he may have been most of the way out of the vehicle when I put my hands back on him and I, bel, I don't recall if I grabbed, uh, a leg or his arm first. I do know that very, basically as soon as he was out of the vehicle I had ahold of his right arm. I believe he was pulled out on his back and I had ahold of his right arm, rolled him over onto his stomach and then placed his right hand in the handcuffing position.

Detective Vickers: Okay. And I think that was another question is what you meant. You said you had moved him to a handcuffing position. Um, were you referring to him being on his stomach and moving his –

Ethan Stockton: Yes, so –

Detective Vickers: – hands behind his back?

Ethan Stockton: – yes, so he was on his stomach and I moved his right hand into the small of his back.

Detective Vickers: Okay.

Ethan Stockton: Yeah.

Detective Vickers: Um, all right. Now I wanna go back to when you first contact him and he grabs your leg when you're in the front of the –

Ethan Stockton: Mm hmm.

Detective Vickers: – when he is comin' out I guess the driver's window. Um, can you just can describe one more time your positioning and the positioning of anyone else that was involved in that?

Ethan Stockton: I was slightly ahead of the A-pillar or right around the area of the mirror. Um, I believe Deputy Little was immediately adjacent to me.

Detective Vickers: What does that mean?

Ethan Stockton: Uh, just shoulder to shoulder, uh, uh –

Detective Vickers: On your right shoulder?

Ethan Stockton: – yes. On my right –

Detective Vickers: Okay.

Ethan Stockton: – shoulder. Um, and then I believe the second deputy was to his right, to Deputy Little's right, um, with the suspect immediately in front of them, uh, as I was facing the, the driver's side of the vehicle.

Detective Vickers: And do you recall what Deputy Little was doing at that time –

Ethan Stockton: I don't –

Detective Vickers: – uh, at this point when, when he has got the, the driver, I guess, out of the driver's window, you, you're, you have in, uh, some kind of hold. He is grabbin' your leg, uh, is Deputy Little or the second deputy putting their hands on the suspect in any way do you recall?

Ethan Stockton: I believe they were but I, hmm, don't recall any details of that.

Detective Vickers: Okay. You mentioned, uh, as you were, uh, watching the Taser deployment and you saw the second deputy do something that you thought looked like it would have been a carotid. What about what he was doing maked it, made it look to you like it could have possibly been a carotid?

Ethan Stockton: I could see his forearm in the vicinity of the suspect's neck, um, and it appeared to be below the chin but I couldn't see clearly what part of his arm was there. I, I couldn't tell if it was the middle of his forearm, the elbow. It just, I could see a forearm near the neck.

Detective Vickers: Okay. So I just wanna clarify a question. In the beginning of the interview, um, we talked about, um, had you had any alcohol –

Ethan Stockton: Mm hmm.

Detective Vickers: – right, and I was referring to just to clarify prior to this interview.

Ethan Stockton: Yes.

Detective Vickers: All right. So your answers were consistent with it being prior to this interview?

Ethan Stockton: Yes.

Detective Vickers: Okay. And have you reviewed anything other than your body-worn camera footage, uh, prior to this interview?

Ethan Stockton: Uh, I believe I took a peek at a, the supplemental reports in our, uh, computer system at work that, uh, I believe one by Sergeant Gin basically just saying he collected my body camera and I, I looked at one from Lieutenant DeVore but I have on it no recollection of what it said. I think it was just that he was notified of the incident.

Detective Vickers: And did you write supplemental reports to the sheriff's office case or did you pull your own report number for this?

Ethan Stockton: We have our own case for the assist. Um, I have not written my report for that yet.

Detective Vickers: And who wrote the main report?

Ethan Stockton: Uh, it'll be probably between myself and Officer Bauer but we have not written our narratives yet to my knowledge.

Detective Vickers: Okay. So you, uh, looked at two supplements that were written on the Sebastopol PD report writing system?

Ethan Stockton: Yes.

Detective Vickers: And those were one about evidence collection and another about?

Ethan Stockton: I actually don't recall.

Detective Vickers: Okay. Do you have anything else?

Other Speaker: Uh, I do not.

Detective Vickers: Okay. I don't have anything else ****. Let me just confirm we're done. I'll be right back.

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