



Date: June 16, 2015	Time: 12:29 Hours	Place OPA Offices
Statement of: Captain Pierre Davis		
Statement Taken By: Lieutenant Kevin Grossman		
Transcribed by (Taped/Translated Statements) M. Thompson		

GROSSMAN: Okay. I am Kevin Grossman of the Seattle Police Department. The date is June 16, 2015, and the time is 12:29 hours. The OPA case number is 2015OPA-0160. I am interviewing Captain Pierre Davis, a named employee, and also present is Captain Mike Edwards of SPMA. Interview is taking place at Suite 1800, the Pacific Building. Captain Davis, will you please state your name and spell your last name?

DAVIS: Pierre L. Davis. Last name D-A-V-I-S.

GROSSMAN: Captain Edwards?

EDWARDS: Mike Edwards, E-D-W-A-R-D-S.

GROSSMAN: Interview is being documented by a recording. Do you understand the interview is being recorded, and agree to be recorded?

DAVIS: Yes, sir.

GROSSMAN: Captain Edwards?

EDWARDS: Yes.

GROSSMAN: Have you received copies of the Garrity Advisement and the Seattle Police Officer's Bill of Rights outlined in your collective bargaining agreement, and do you understand them?

DAVIS: Yes.

GROSSMAN: Have you received notification of the allegations made in the complaint?

DAVIS: I have.

GROSSMAN: Under the authority of the Chief of the Seattle Police Department, you are hereby ordered to answer all questions asked of you truthfully and completely. Failure to do so may result in discipline up to and including termination. Do you understand?

DAVIS: Yes, I do.

GROSSMAN: So let's start out with some background stuff. How long have you been with the



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Department?

DAVIS: Probably thirty years now.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And your current assignment is where?

DAVIS: I'm the Precinct Commander of the Southwest Precinct.

GROSSMAN: How long have you been in that assignment?

DAVIS: Oh, about four...three, three months now.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: Excuse me.

GROSSMAN: And before that, what was your assignment?

DAVIS: I was the Precinct Commander for the East Precinct.

GROSSMAN: And how long were you the East Precinct Commander?

DAVIS: Approximately fourteen months.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And when you were assigned to the East Precinct was Chief...Assistant Chief Nick Metz your direct supervisor?

DAVIS: Yes, sir.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And he was the Bureau...the Patrol Ops Bureau Commander at the time?

DAVIS: That's correct.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And while you were assigned to the East Precinct was Officer Cynthia Whitlatch one of the officers also assigned to the East Precinct?

DAVIS: Yes, sir.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So let's, let's kind of turn toward the William Wingate case.

DAVIS: Yes.

GROSSMAN: Can you tell me when you became aware of the arrest of Mr. Wingate?



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DAVIS: I didn't become aware of that entire incident until I received notice from Chief Bailey, which was our Chief. He was just stepping out. And of course, our new Chief, Chief O'Toole, was stepping in. There was a transition there...

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: ...at that time. From, from that...it was just an inquiry at that point in time to see exactly what was going on with that issue. Apparently, Mr. Wingate was stopped by Officer Whitlatch, and he was jailed for some type of issue that occurred out there on the street. Mind you, we didn't know who Mr. Wingate was or anybody else, but given that information I did a little bit of research and did some background on him to see exactly what transpired there. And I did find out that he was, indeed, jailed.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And when you say you got an inquiry from Chief Bailey, was it an email, a phone call...

DAVIS: It was...it was a phone call, and I believe that he had received information from one of his churchgoers that obviously knew Mr. Wingate, that was passing that information on to him.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: So it was kinda like first hand, second hand, third hand type of information.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So what did you...when you, you kind of...you said you researched it, you found that he had, in fact, been arrested...

DAVIS: That's correct.

GROSSMAN: ...and jailed, what did you do then?

DAVIS: At that point in time, I also understood that a Miss Dawn, which was also acting as, I suppose, one of Mr. Wingate's representatives, who wanted to set up a meet with myself and Chief Metz to discuss this issue. And of course we agreed, because we wanted to see exactly what went on with that. But we did our homework, and we wanted to at least have some questions and answers, you know, have that information for them when that meeting occurred.

GROSSMAN: Okay. When you say you did your homework, what...what did you do.

DAVIS: Well of course we, we looked up on CAD, the actual incident, and we pulled up the video as well. There was ICV video on that...the whole entire incident. And I read the report, and I read what Officer Whitlatch had to say about the incident, and I also viewed the ICV.



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- GROSSMAN: So this is...you did all this in preparation for the meeting between Dawn Mason and Chief Metz and yourself.
- DAVIS: That's correct. And I wanted to give the Chief and others a good synopsis of what transpired, because they were totally in the dark as well, 'cause we didn't know exactly what anybody was talking about at that point in time.
- GROSSMAN: Right. So after looking at the video, reading the reports, did...did anything in there raise any concerns for you?
- DAVIS: Not at that point in time. It looked to be like a run in the mill contact with an officer with Mr. Wingate somewhat being a little obstinate to the officer and refusing certain commands which precipitated the negative response, and his jailing of course. His arrest.
- GROSSMAN: Okay. A similar question, I guess. In looking at everything that you did, all the homework you did in preparation for the meeting, is there anything that you identified as potential misconduct in that stuff that you looked at and reviewed?
- DAVIS: No.
- GROSSMAN: Okay.
- DAVIS: Not at all. There were like a concern that we had, like, "Boy, that really took a turn. Let's look at some things as far as things to do better as far as our manner of speaking and things like that and perception." And those were the kind of things that we clue up on, especially as commanders and sergeants and lieutenants, that we want to give officer to make him or her a little bit better going down the road. It's always, you know, try to get them to understand the true dynamic of what's going on, and some of the potentials that could happen down the road.
- GROSSMAN: So not to put words in your mouth, it sounds like the things that you're concerned about are more demeanor-like, like the demeanor of the officer. Is that what you're saying?
- DAVIS: Pretty much. And to sum it up, best practices.
- GROSSMAN: Okay.
- DAVIS: Everything we do, we want to end up with the best practices. And if there's none to be had, you did everything that you can do, that's great. If not, let's discuss it and talk about it.
- GROSSMAN: But in reviewing all that, there's nothing that you saw that you felt was possible



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misconduct or a possible policy violation.

DAVIS: No. Not at that point in time, no.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Okay, so tell me, did you have the meeting with Dawn Mason and Chief Metz?

DAVIS: Eventually. It kept getting put off, and we had it, if memory serves me correctly, in September.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: And yeah...we, we did. Chief Metz and I met with Miss Mason and a couple other...I think it was two, three other representatives that she brought with her.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Was Mr. Wingate at that meeting?

DAVIS: No, sir.

GROSSMAN: And where was the meeting held?

DAVIS: It was held at the East Precinct, in my office.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And tell me about the meeting. What happened at the meeting?

DAVIS: Well...and I'm gonna back up just a little bit. You know, having conversations with Miss Mason, setting...leading up to the meeting and setting this thing up, it ap...it was only apparent to me that the crux of this thing was how can we ensure...because Mr. Wingate is considered a prominent person in the African American community, a church goer, a very good man...what can we do to get this blip, if you will, off of his record? Because it's a person that shouldn't have a police record with anything like that on there. So, what we did...we, we had a conversation with Craig Sims to see exactly what had been done to that point. And obviously, Mr. Wingate at that point, from what we learned, that he pled out to a lesser charge. If you don't do anything for two years, if memory serves me, then this thing will go away.

GROSSMAN: So this is the conversations you were having before this meeting at the East precinct.

DAVIS: Correct. Correct, correct.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: So we learned that bit of information. During the meeting, that's exactly where the conversation led. You know, we need to do what we can because this, quote, Mr. Wingate is one of the good people. He's one of the good ones. What can we do to get



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this off of his record? And basically, that's where the crux of the information came from. And we also viewed the video tape, the ICV footage of the incident as well.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So at the meeting itself, it sounds like the...the push of the meeting was to get this arrest off of Mr. Wingate's record. Is that right?

DAVIS: Of, of course. And of course, when you're looking at the video footage there are concerns that the individuals there at the table had, just looking at this thing...why was he arrested? And we tried to give an objective response to exactly what took place, and why things took place. I even rose the question of, "Well, just looking at what you see, if this individual simply had of done certain things, we might not be here at this point in time." And they were a little animated with that assertion, but that's okay, because I understand ultimately what you're trying to achieve here. And that's pretty much what...the way we left the meeting.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So...so what...can you tell me more...what, what happened at the meeting? What transpired at the meeting?

DAVIS: Basically, that. Different discussion about what they saw, what we all saw in the video. And giving objective explanations. And ultimately saying, you know, we need to get this off of his record.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: And I'm sure...memory serves me correctly, I think Miss Mason said that she'd already been contacted...has contacted the court system, Mr. Sims, and trying to get that done. And I had conversations with Mr. Sims as well, and to see exactly what we can do to get that done.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: And ultimately I believe that happened.

GROSSMAN: Was Craig Sims at the meeting?

DAVIS: No, he was not, sir.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So, so where did the...at the end of the meeting, what did...where was it left. Did you say, I'm going to do these, you know, these things, or did anyone commit to doing cer...taking certain steps.

DAVIS: No, no, no. The meeting, we left. There was really no hostility there. And it was kinda..."Look, we're going to look into this, we're gonna, you know, ask the officers certain things, of course. Best practices things again. And other than that, we're going to look at trying to do something as far as getting this expunged from Mr. Wingate's



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record.” And we made a, a substantial step into doing so. Myself, I contacted Mr. Sims, you know, and asked him, could this be possible? And I think others had done that as well.

GROSSMAN: Did you make any commitments to do anything after the meeting? Following the meeting?

DAVIS: No. No. Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And how about Chief Metz? Did he say he was going to do anything after the meeting?

DAVIS: No. I think his response was pretty much the same as, as mine.

GROSSMAN: Okay. What was the...what was the understanding of what the next steps were going to be, or what was going to happen next?

DAVIS: Well, we left it...it was kind of open ended. We left it, we said, we'll see what we can do with this, and we'll inform our chain of command of exactly what's going on. And we just left it at that, stating that we would contact someone, namely Miss Mason...

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: ...what we were able to do or not able to do.

GROSSMAN: Do you remember who else was at the meeting besides Dawn Mason? You said there was two other people...

DAVIS: There were two Caucasian women there, and one of our pastors, and I can't remember his name.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: But very nice people. They were a little animated, but still, very nice people. But one thing that was odd in the meeting, Miss Mason kept referring to the women as “white women” at the table, which was different. But, I said, “Okay, I think we're away from that. I'm Captain Davis, and this is why we're here, and thank you for being here.” And, like I said, once we got to the crux of exactly what they wanted us to do, we kind of focused in on that.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So during the meeting did, did Miss Mason or any, anyone else who was there, did they make any mention of that they felt that Officer Whitlatch had engaged in any kind of misconduct or inappropriate behavior?

DAVIS: They raised concerns. They raised concerns about the whole entire stop, about why



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this individual was stopped. And at that point in time, we were looking at the ICV, and trying to break it down, you know, piece by piece, and giving some kind of objectivity to exactly what they were saying. There were certain assertions that were made in the paperwork, in Officer Whitlatch's paperwork, of what she saw, what precipitated the stop. And one of the remarks that was made is, "Well, I didn't see that on video." And we brought it back. We said, "Well, understand, because it wasn't viewed on video, you could see the exact verbiage of what this officer was saying, doesn't mean it did not happen. So we have to look at it like that, and inquire further." And that pretty much ended that. I'm sure that their demeanor was kind of like, "Well, we're not sitting real well with that, but we understand." And that was fine, too, because I understand ultimately what the goal was, and that's to basically expunge this issue from Mr. Wingate's record.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Did anyone at the meeting allege that Officer Whitlatch had stopped Mr. Wingate because he was an African American male?

DAVIS: No, I didn't get that at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: I didn't get that at all.

GROSSMAN: Did they...did they...so you...your perception was that no one at the meeting was making an allegation of biased policing?

DAVIS: No. And, we had a discussion...Chief Metz and I had a discussion about that. Only because I know once it reaches a certain threshold, that it's going to get pushed to OPA. Once you start making assertions of bias toward anything, this is exactly where this is going to go, and it's going to be adjudicated other than this office. A different office. So we did discuss that, and we were just waiting for that trigger to transpire. And it never did. Getting back to the main crux of why the meeting took place, and what they ultimately wanted for Mr. Wingate.

GROSSMAN: Okay, so when you say you were waiting for that trigger to...to whatever, you're...you're waiting for someone to make an allegation of bias, basically, is what you're saying.

DAVIS: Correct.

GROSSMAN: And, and again, if I'm saying something that isn't correct...

DAVIS: Yes.

GROSSMAN: ...please correct me. So you're saying in that meeting, no one sitting at that table made an allegation that Officer Whitlatch made a stop of Mr. Wingate because he was black.



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DAVIS: Based on his color, no.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: Not at all.

GROSSMAN: And you...you didn't get the...you didn't get the impression that that's what they were driving at?

DAVIS: No, no. I got the impression that they wanted this to be off of his record. And I got the further impression that they really didn't like the stop, and were looking at the video because of their perception of what they saw. But it never did dive or pull those triggers that Chief Metz and I were just waiting for.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Tell me about the conversation or conversations you had with Chief Metz. Were those before the meeting, after the meeting?

DAVIS: Before and after. We had similar conversations, just like this...what we saw, what we knew, and of exactly what we're going to do if certain assertions were made in that meeting. And he was in agreement with that. And that's pretty much it. And after the meeting, it's kind of like, "Wow, that was different." They were a little boisterous, and they kept making assertions with, you know, "I brought my *white women* in here to give us some traction, because if we had come in without, basically a number of people, maybe nobody would hear us." And of course, we assured them that's not the case. We're here to look at this thing objectively and very fairly, and your concerns are our concerns as well. If there's something, if one of our officers is acting inappropriate, then we want to take care of the issue. And there's obviously other arenas to take this investigation if it triggers that type of response.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So after the meeting, what did you do?

DAVIS: Well, Chief Metz and I escorted the group out and, again, just like we said, we said "Well, we'll look into this and see exactly what we can do," because obviously, if you look at this in silos, the realm of responsibility for SPD has stopped and now it's over in the prosecutor's office. And what they intend to do with it, ultimately...obviously, this individual has gone to court and pled out to a lesser charge or probation, and see exactly how feasible that would be to get that completely expunged. So, and that's where we left it, at that point in time, with the group. And they thanked us. They were happy with that.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And what did...what did you do after they were gone? Did you have any more conversations with Craig Sims, or any more with Chief Metz?

DAVIS: If memory serves me correctly, I may have called Craig one additional time. And as just to see exactly how feasible this was to be able to do. And he was quite amenable to it. He says, "We can do it. We can do it." But I'm not sure exactly what it would



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take for them to do that, or if it's just a stroke of the pen, or what other type of intricacies would have to happen. But ultimately it did. And I'm not sure if perhaps Chief Best or someone else may have...you know, higher command, made that call as well.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Did you ever have any conversations with Chief Best about...

DAVIS: We apprised Chief Best of the situation all through, even before the actual meeting that we had with Mr. Wingate's representative, Dawn Mason and the group. They were well aware of the incident and what was transpiring.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Did you ever have any more involvement with Dawn Mason or any of the members who came to see you?

DAVIS: Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So no further conversations with them?

DAVIS: No.

GROSSMAN: Have you ever had any conversations with Mr. Wingate?

DAVIS: No. Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: Not at all.

GROSSMAN: How about with Officer Whitlatch? Did you ever discuss the incident with her?

DAVIS: Yes we did. Yes, we did.

GROSSMAN: Tell me about that.

DAVIS: Myself and her supervisor, and her lieutenant, Lieutenant Brian Grenon, we did have a conversation with Cynthia, regarding that incident and exactly what she saw, what she thought was happening. And basically she just backed up exactly what she put down on paper, what she saw, and what she thought had occurred. And we said okay, but keep in mind this is the perception...and the perception of...that you stopped this individual. You know, you went out there and stopped this individual, and you didn't have a basis to stop this individual. And they were inflamed about that. So, in the midst of all that, it was about the same time of Ferguson and all of these other things that are out there. And said, "Keep in mind, sometimes these things take a turn, and we don't know exactly how this one's gonna transpire. Right now it sits at this, this is what they want to do, they want to have this expunged off this individual's record. But



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people have different perceptions about the law enforcement and how we're conducting ourselves, and we have to be on the up and up."

GROSSMAN:

Okay.

DAVIS:

And that was pretty much the general sense of the main conversation. And that's a conversation that we would have with practically all of our officers that, you know, had a certain controversy, or dealing with certain things out on the street.

GROSSMAN:

When did you have the...

EDWARDS:

Just a point of clarification as we're getting into this line of questioning...

GROSSMAN:

Yeah...

EDWARDS:

I can tell you from the Association this appears to be outside of the scope of the purpose and intent of the notification that Captain Davis received. We're gonna go ahead and, and obviously let the continuation of the questions, but we may object at some point in time if it...

GROSSMAN:

Understood.

DAVIS:

...continues to go a bit adrift.

GROSSMAN:

Understood. When did you have the conversation with Officer Whitlatch?

DAVIS:

Um, that was a little bit after the meeting with Dawn Mason and the group.

GROSSMAN:

And was the conversation that you and Lieutenant Grenon had with her documented in any place?

DAVIS:

Uh, yes it was.

GROSSMAN:

Where was that?

DAVIS:

Yes it was. Um, if memory serves me correctly, I believe we had instructed Lieutenant Williams...excuse me, Sergeant Williams which is her sergeant, to document it in, I think it's in her PAS.

GROSSMAN:

Is it Joe Williams or...

DAVIS:

Yes. Joe Williams.

GROSSMAN:

Okay.



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DAVIS: And I believe it's in her PAS. But other than that, I mean, it was a very general conversation. And didn't lead one way or another to anything controversial. I just said, "keep in mind that when we do certain things, the eyes are on us because of these issues with Ferguson and all these other things out there. And that's where we left it.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Would you characterize the, the meeting with her as a...like a counseling session, or a...or a reprimand, or disciplinary in...

DAVIS: No. No, no. This was a strict counseling session, and a best practices type issue.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So, you know, after reviewing all the documentation for the stop, In-Car Video, reviewing Officer Whitlatch's report, and then after the meeting that you had with Dawn Mason, was it your understanding that there was any allegations being made against Officer Whitlatch of biased policing or any other misconduct.

DAVIS: No. Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And what was your conversation with Chief Metz about what was going to happen if someone at that meeting had said "I want to...I want to say that I believe that she just stopped him because he's black."

DAVIS: "Boy, that's gonna get pushed right to OPA."

GROSSMAN: Was that the conversation you had with Chief Metz?

DAVIS: That was the brief conversation we had based on what they were telling us. And I said, "You know, if they make certain assertions, we have to bring it over to them." And he agreed, "Yes. You're absolutely right." But, again, the crux of what they really wanted is for this to be expunged off of his record.

GROSSMAN: Okay. So, you didn't...did you make a referral to OPA based on any...any of this incident, or the meeting with Dawn Mason?

DAVIS: No, sir.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Do you know if Chief Metz made a referral to OPA?

DAVIS: Not that I know of.

GROSSMAN: And, you've kind of already explained this, but tell me why you did not make a referral to OPA about this.

DAVIS: At that point in time, didn't feel that it met the criteria that would reach the trigger of



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bias or anything else. Obviously, if they said, “hey, we believe that this individual did this because Mr. Wingate is black, or whatever,” then that’s an obvious trigger for us. And we’d say, “Okay, this is exactly what we’re going to do from here on out.” And that was the mindset of Chief Metz and myself.

GROSSMAN: Okay.

DAVIS: But, again, you know, the original assertion was what can we do to get this off of this individual’s record because, quote, like I said, Mr. Wingate is one of the good ones. He shouldn’t have to go through this. Okay. Well, we don’t know Mr. Wingate from anybody, but we’ll take you at face value and we’ll work with you and see exactly what we can do.

GROSSMAN: Okay. I can’t think of any other questions to ask you. Is there anything I didn’t ask you that you think I should know?

DAVIS: No, sir. Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Is there anyone that you think I should talk to that would have more information about...?

DAVIS: Other than Chief Metz, and possibly Deputy Chief Best, that’s about it.

GROSSMAN: Okay. And the Association?

EDWARDS: Yeah, a couple of...just a couple of very short questions. And, I don’t want to belabor this, but you had stated that the...that your initial understanding of the intent of this inquiry was in regard to expunging or clearing Mr. Wingate’s record.

DAVIS: That’s correct.

EDWARDS: And is that...is that what you got from Chief Bailey, or did he just ask you to look into it?

DAVIS: He’d asked me to look into it. Like I said, Chief Bailey was in transition; I think he was almost gone at that point in time. And information that he received I believe from a church member to us, was kind of like, “Okay, this is a heads up. Can you look at this because this had come to our office.” “Okay. We’ll take a look at that and see exactly what everyone’s talking about.”

EDWARDS: So that started your research. And then did the framing of the purpose behind it, did that come from Chief Metz?

DAVIS: Yes.



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EDWARDS: And so, as that framed your research, and that was your understanding of what the meeting was going to be about, was that also the focal point of your research? To take a look at the...the legal aspects of the arrest and, and booking of Mr. Wingate?

DAVIS: Yes.

EDWARDS: And so you were nearly constr – constructed (sic) to doing that because that's what you were asked...

DAVIS: That's correct.

EDWARDS: ...to look at. Did that purpose or understanding change? During the meeting, or as a result of the meeting?

DAVIS: No, not at all. The focus was still the same. And obviously it would have shifted if there were certain assertions made by the group, but again, the assertion was what can we do to get this "blank" of off Mr. Wingate's record? Okay, we can look at that.

EDWARDS: And then after the meeting, you had a discussion with Chief Metz. Was it part of that discussion, about making an OPA referral? Did that come up in that discussion?

DAVIS: That did come up. And, again...

EDWARDS: Was there a decision made in regard to making an OPA referral?

DAVIS: Didn't reach that threshold at that point in time. And, again, both of us were waiting for those triggers.

EDWARDS: Did you or Chief Metz, in that meeting, say an OPA referral is not necessary?

DAVIS: No. Not, not directly. But we looked at it and, kinda like, okay, well let's see what we can do to make good on the wishes of the group, and see if...make a couple phone calls to Craig and see if we can get Craig Sims to do something with this and get this off his record. Hopefully that will satisfy the group, and they'll have their wishes taken care of and we'll be good to go there.

EDWARDS: So the OPA discussion, or I don't know, it was part of the discussion...

DAVIS: That's correct.

EDWARDS: And would you say then that it was mutual agreement on your part and Chief Metz that it did not need to go there?

DAVIS: That's correct.



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EDWARDS: And so, with Chief Metz there, your understanding was that that was his position.

DAVIS: Yes. That pretty much fortified exactly where we wanted to go with the meeting, and accomplish what we accomplished there.

EDWARDS: That's all I have.

GROSSMAN: Okay. Anything else?

DAVIS: No, sir. Not at all.

GROSSMAN: Okay, so to maintain confidentiality of the investigation, you are advised not to disclose the information discussed during your interview, except with your representative or attorney. Do you understand?

DAVIS: Yes.

GROSSMAN: Okay. It's still June 16th, 2015, at 12:55 hours.