



STATEMENT FORM

OPA-IS FILE NUMBER 2015OPA-0117

Date: 5-11-2015	Time: 3:00 p.m.	Place OPA Offices
Statement of: Sergeant Joe Lam		
Statement Taken By: Sergeant Krista Bair		
Transcribed by (Taped/Translated Statements) J. Wicklund		

BAIR: I'm Sergeant Bair of the Seattle Police Department. The date is May 11th, 2015 and the time is 3:00. The OPA case number is 2015OPA-0117. I'm interviewing Sergeant Joe Lam, who is a witness employee. Also present is Mike Solan, who is his Guild representative. This interview is taking place at Suite 1800 Pacific Building. Please state your name and spell your last name.

LAM: Joe Lam, L-A-M.

SOLAN: Mike Solan, S-O-L-A-N.

BAIR: This interview is being documented by a recording. Do you understand this interview is being recorded and agree to be recorded?

LAM: Yes.

SOLAN: Yes.

BAIR: 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?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: Have you received notification of the allegation made in the complaint?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: 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?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: Sergeant Lam, you are a witness in an incident that occurred on July 14th, 2014 involving Mr. William Wingate. Do you have independent memory of this incident?

LAM: No.

BAIR: Okay. Do you know what incident I'm referring to?



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LAM: From the media, yes.

BAIR: Okay. And the report that was written, was written by Officer Coles. And in Officer Coles report he wrote that he screened the incident with Sergeant Lam.

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: Okay. Have you had a chance to review this report?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: So the allegation...there's several allegations made against Officer Whitlatch and I just need to get some clarification from you as a witness. You screened it. Can you tell me if Officer Whitlatch briefed you on this incident?

LAM: I, I don't really have independent recollection of this incident. And the, I wasn't even aware I was the screening sergeant until the media event came out, and I just, out of curiosity, wondered who is the individual who actually screened the arrest. And I looked up on the Internet and my name pops up and that's when I realized I, I was the screening sergeant. And I subsequently read the report as well as my supplemental of the arrest screening.

BAIR: Okay, the Supervisor's Screening report?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: And does that help jog your memory at all?

LAM: No.

BAIR: Okay. So you don't recall who screened the arrest with you?

LAM: No.

BAIR: Do you recall having a conversation with Officer Whitlatch regarding this incident?

LAM: We had conversations about that, but it's, it's nothing in-depth.

BAIR: So I mean at the time of the arrest.

LAM: At the time of the arrest? I remember they came to me, but I can't remember whether it was Officer Whitlatch or Officer Coles.

BAIR: Okay.



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LAM: Yes.

BAIR: And do you remember, do you remember anything about it this incident?

LAM: No.

BAIR: Okay. Do you remember if you ever spoke to Mr. Wingate?

LAM: Yes.

BAIR: You remember or did you speak to him?

LAM: Well, I don't remember, but according to my report I stated I, I do. And I screen all my arrests in person and I have a set of questions to ask them when I, when I interview each detainee.

BAIR: Okay, and can you recall how that conversation went?

LAM: Not this one specifically. But I always screen the arrest by asking them do you have any medical issue or concern I should have, and are you injured, do you know the reason you've been arrested, and is there anything I can do for you before we book you.

BAIR: Okay.

LAM: (Coughs) Excuse me.

BAIR: And do you remember his answers?

LAM: Not independently. I didn't put anything on my supplemental. I assume that she didn't say—I mean he didn't say anything to me.

BAIR: Okay. So if he made an allegation of sorts...

LAM: Um-hmm.

BAIR: ...if he, for instance, if he were to say that Whitlatch arrested him based on a bias, that's something that you would've noted?

LAM: That would be absolutely...trigger, per policy, that I have to have an additional investigation, additional General Offense report taken and as well as notification.



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- BAIR: Okay. So because you're looking at your supplemental and you're not noting that that's anywhere in there, or that, that allegation was made, would it be safe to assume that he did not make that known to you at the time of the arrest?
- LAM: Yes.
- BAIR: Okay. And do you recall discussing with either Officer Coles or Officer Whitlatch, a possible alternative to booking Mr. Wingate?
- LAM: No.
- BAIR: Okay. That's all I have.
- SOLAN: No questions from the Guild.
- BAIR: Do you have anything else?
- LAM: No.
- BAIR: And I, I just wanna make sure I understand. You don't have independent memory of how that conversation went, whether if you screened it with Officer Coles or Officer Whitlatch—you're not sure which one—you're not sure what was exactly said other than looking at your report, and the same with Mr. Wingate not...you don't know what he answered you on your list of questions, but if it was something of note, you believe you would've written it down. Is that accurate?
- LAM: Yes.
- BAIR: Okay. I have nothing else. To maintain confidentiality of this investigation, you are advised not to disclose the information discussed during your interview except with your representative or attorney. Do you understand?
- LAM: Yes.
- BAIR: This completes the interview. The time is 3:10.