



STATEMENT FORM

OPA-IS FILE NUMBER 2015OPA-0229

Date: 3-23-2015	Time: 1322 hours	Place OPA Offices
Statement of: Officer Anthony Reynolds		
Statement Taken By: Sergeant Susanna Monroe		
Transcribed by (Taped/Translated Statements) J. Wicklund		

MONROE: I am Sergeant Susanna Monroe of the Seattle Police Department. Today's date is March 23rd, 2015, and the time is 1322 hours. The OPA case number is 2015-0229. I am interviewing Officer Anthony Reynolds, a named employee. Also present is Officer—oh, my goodness, I just totally went blank. Please say your name.

SMITH: Ron Smith.

MONROE: Thank you, Ron Smith for SPOG. This interview is taking place at Suite, Suite 1800, in the Pacific Building. Officer Reynolds, could you please state your name and spell your last name?

REYNOLDS: Anthony James Reynolds, R-E-Y-N-O-L-D-S.

SMITH: Ron Smith, S-M-I-T-H.

MONROE: Thank you. This interview is documented by a recording. Officer Reynolds, do you understand this interview is being recorded, and agree to be recorded?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

SMITH: I do.

MONROE: Officer Reynolds, 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?

REYNOLDS: I haven't received them. I do understand them.

MONROE: Were they attached to your OPA interview notice or mailed to you in the mail?

REYNOLDS: They may have been. I don't remember.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: I'm sure they were.

MONROE: Do you—I have the Garrity Advisement here. Do you wanna see that before we continue the interview?



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REYNOLDS: No, that's all right.

MONROE: 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?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Officer Reynolds, how long have you worked with the Seattle Police Department?

REYNOLDS: Five years, I think, going on six.

MONROE: And what was your assignment?

REYNOLDS: Patrol.

MONROE: Where, where was that?

REYNOLDS: First watch, South.

MONROE: How long were you there?

REYNOLDS: The whole time, five years.

MONROE: Okay. And what is your current assignment now?

REYNOLDS: The same.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: First watch, South.

MONROE: And are you on Administrative re-assignment at home?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Okay. This, this complaint stems from apparently activity that you have had Twitter and a blog of some sort. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: Yes.



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MONROE: Okay. Can you explain to me what it is, how you do it, how long you've been doing it?

REYNOLDS: I...maybe a year. I don't know. I just write opinion articles and publish them online. That's basically it.

MONROE: Okay. And the opinion articles, under what name do you post?

REYNOLDS: My name.

MONROE: Is it this Tony Reynolds or is (*unintelligible, both talking at the same time*)?

REYNOLDS: It's Anthony James Reynolds.

MONROE: Okay, Anthony James Reynolds. And so I have copies of—I'm going to call it a blog for...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...lack of a better term, Anthony James Reynolds, and it's the greatest WordPress.com site in all the land. Is that the...?

REYNOLDS: That's, that's default.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: That's just what WordPress put there.

MONROE: Okay, so it's WordPress is the...

REYNOLDS: That's the post, yes.

MONROE: ...is the post. And you, you stated you began this blog approximately a year ago or so.

REYNOLDS: I think so. I'm not sure.

MONROE: And how often would you post or publish stories on here?

REYNOLDS: It varied a lot. Just whenever I got around to it. Maybe once a month, on average.

MONROE: Okay. And is it, is it blog that's open to the public or how, how is this—?



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REYNOLDS: It was. It's not any more.

MONROE: Okay. It was, prior to this complaint?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: And now it is private?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Is that, and so how does that work? Who can see it if it's private?

REYNOLDS: Only me.

MONROE: Only you.

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: Prior to this though, it was public, and anyone could see it?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: And how would they find an article that you would post?

REYNOLDS: Usually through me either texting a link to it or, or posting a link to it on Facebook or Twitter.

MONROE: Okay. And would you do that? Would you post a link to Facebook?

REYNOLDS: I did a few times, yes.

MONROE: Okay. And aside from that, could I go to WordPress and put in like a key term or something like that and search out a document?

REYNOLDS: You might have been able to. I'm not sure...

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: ...how that works.



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MONROE: In several of these, and the ones that I have, I can certainly read off the...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...titles, one particular one is regarding May Day. It dated May 1st, 2014 and it's regarding May Day and a City Council member...is it Kshama Sawant, I believe is her name?

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: Another one is the dismissal of the Use of Force lawsuit and update dated October 21st, 2014. Another one is dated October 30th, 2014 and it's titled *Open Season on Police Officers*. And I guess my question is can you verify that you authored these?

REYNOLDS: Yes, I did.

MONROE: Okay. And then I think there's another one dated January 14th, 2014, *Who is Merrick Bobb*, also written by you.

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Okay. Do you know if any of these, these four articles were ones that you posted to Facebook or linked to Facebook?

REYNOLDS: I don't know.

MONROE: Okay, so in these particular blogs, tell me why you would post these or write these.

REYNOLDS: Well, I feel very strongly about my job, and I also feel that it's, that it's being ham-strung by certain individuals and I wanna be able to do my job to the best of my ability, which I don't feel like I've been getting support for that. And I think a lot of it is because of misinterpretation of information and political ideals.

MONROE: Okay, and so you feel...I mean is this like an online journal? Is that sort of what it is?

REYNOLDS: I guess you could call it that, yeah.

MONROE: Okay. So you, you put, you put your frustrations down in writing?

REYNOLDS: Correct.



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- MONROE: From what you've written in the blog, and obviously these are subject matters that are pertinent or have occurred within the Department, correct?
- REYNOLDS: Correct...or the City.
- MONROE: Or the City, okay. Do you feel that any of these are disparaging to the Police Department?
- REYNOLDS: No.
- MONROE: There's a reference and policy here. To make it... (*Sound of shuffling paper*). Okay. And I'm specifically referencing policy in 5.001, which covers Professionalism, and Subsection 10, which is Criticism of Orders and Others. Were you aware of this policy prior to this complaint?
- REYNOLDS: Is that the new policy, the...?
- MONROE: This is the policy in regards to criticizing, publically criticizing or ridiculing verbally or in writing, the Department, it's policies or other employees, other law enforcement agencies or the criminal justice system or the police profession generally, while on duty or in uniform, where such expression is defamatory, obscene, unlawful, undermines the effectiveness of the Department, interferes with the maintenance of discipline or has made reckless disregard for truth.
- REYNOLDS: My understanding was the policy you follow the bright line rule is I'd have to be identified as an officer in some way in order for it to be subject to the policy.
- MONROE: Okay.
- REYNOLDS: Otherwise, it's my own personal thoughts and feelings *not* as an officer.
- MONROE: Okay, so in any of these articles, did you identify yourself as a police officer?
- REYNOLDS: I don't believe so, no. I imagine someone would be able to infer that from the way that I wrote it, but I never identified myself that way.
- MONROE: In one particular article, *Who is Merrick Bobb*, you state this is an article I wrote for the Seattle Police Officer's Guild newspaper, the Guardian, the article was never published, it was since posted by fellow Officer Steve Pomper, on StevePomper.com *Who is Merrick Bobb*. Would you gather from that particular line that a person could conceive that you are Seattle Police officer?
- REYNOLDS: I imagine so, yes.



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MONROE: Okay. But you never directly stated I am...

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: ...Seattle Police Officer Reynolds?

REYNOLDS: That's correct.

MONROE: Okay. In this particular article where someone could surmise that you are a Seattle Police officer, did you disparage the Department or police profession or the criminal justice system or some other law enforcement agency?

REYNOLDS: I don't believe so. Of course, it's been a long time since I've read that, too.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: I don't remember exactly what it says.

MONROE: And essentially this *Who is Merrick Bobb*, it does actually surround Merrick Bobb and his previous dealings with other agencies.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay. When you're on the WordPress site, does it show you how many people have viewed your articles?

REYNOLDS: I can look that up, yes.

MONROE: Okay. Do you know how many followers you have, or does it log that?

REYNOLDS: I do. I have zero.

MONROE: Now?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Do you know how many you had previously?

REYNOLDS: I didn't, I didn't have anybody actually following it. People would just go and read it, but nobody, nobody was a quote, "follower" of it.



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- MONROE: Okay. Have I missed any questions on the WordPress issue?
- SMITH: No. And it, it is a blog. And just what I'd like to point out, that he did not write these blogs nor post these blogs while he was on duty and in uniform.
- MONROE: Okay. Do you think that any of your articles undermine the effectiveness of the Department?
- REYNOLDS: I don't think so, no.
- MONROE: Okay. Let's go on to Derogatory Language. So policy in sub-section 6 prohibits derogatory language. And now I'm gonna be referring to some screen shots of Twitter. And explain to me how Twitter works.
- REYNOLDS: Twitter is similar to Facebook. You can post statements but I think there's a character limit and how much you can write. And most of the statements, the majority of the statements are public, to be seen by everyone else, so a lot of people use it as a way to communicate with and keep up on news and communicate with celebrities and stuff like that. I think that's about it.
- MONROE: And how did you become involved posting on Twitter?
- REYNOLDS: I don't know. It's just something that my friends do, something that I thought I could use to follow the news and stuff like that, so.
- MONROE: Do you have to sign up as a user of Twitter...
- REYNOLDS: Yes.
- MONROE: ...to be able to post on it?
- REYNOLDS: Yes.
- MONROE: Okay. So you signed up under Tony Reynolds. Is that correct?
- REYNOLDS: Yes.
- MONROE: Okay. At any time, have you identified yourself as a police officer...
- REYNOLDS: No.



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MONROE: ...on Twitter?

REYNOLDS: No, never.

MONROE: There's a picture here. Is that an actual picture of you?

REYNOLDS: Yes, that's me.

MONROE: Okay. Did you ever post any pictures on Twitter of you in uniform or associated with the Police Department?

REYNOLDS: No, that's only picture I had on there until recently.

MONROE: Okay. On—I have a screen shot here of March 27th of 2013, and it's a post by you. And I'm assuming the ampersand appears at every tweet.

REYNOLDS: That's...

SMITH: Your handle.

REYNOLDS: That's, yeah, that's how you identify who you're talking to.

MONROE: Who you're talking to?

REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: So that was directed at Joe Rogan well, at just the post that Joe Rogan made. That would be my...so if someone wanted to respond to me, they'd have to type that in.

MONROE: Okay, so Joe Rogan is just another Twitter user?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: And Joe Rogan posted something about just call, just got called a homophobe because I said signing the Monsanto Protection Act is proof of that the government sucks Satan's cock, L-U-L-Z, which I don't...what does that stand for, do you know?

REYNOLDS: I don't know.



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MONROE: Okay. And then you responded to him. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: And your response was Joe Rogan, what a fag.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: What did you mean by that?

REYNOLDS: Well, it was, it was supposed to be sort of an ironic joke because he was called a homophobe by someone. I don't know who that person is. This part where it says his name, Joe Rogan, that's just so that that is directed not *at* him, but it's a response to what he said.

MONROE: To his feed?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: So this is the, you know, just *what a fag*, that was the...really all that I wanted to say mostly because I thought it would be funny. It seemed like something that Joe Rogan would say himself. He's a comedian.

MONROE: Okay. Okay, so you're making an ironic joke towards or in response to Joe Rogan's post...

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: ...or Twitter post. Were you calling Joe Rogan a fag?

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: Absolutely not.

MONROE: And when...what do you mean by "fag"? Under what, what context are you using this?

REYNOLDS: As in a gay person, I guess.



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MONROE: Okay. And this is a response to the fact that Joe Rogan tweeted that he was called a homophobe?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay. So I'll just ask you to clarify.

REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MONROE: When you wrote this tweet, which went out to the public...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...were you meaning to call anyone a "fag" as in a homosexual?

REYNOLDS: No, absolutely not.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: It's, it was, what he was talking about was somebody that I don't even know and he doesn't identify, so for all I know, it's an imaginary person that we're talking about. And the point was to point out how ridiculous homophobia is, in general. That's why...that's the irony. It's a satirical remark.

MONROE: Okay. Moving on to another screen shot. This is in response to a Henry Rosoff, who I believe is a TV reporter for KIRO.

REYNOLDS: I guess. He works for KIRO in some regard. I don't know what he does.

MONROE: Okay, promising to engage the African community, Mayor Ed Murray and Seattle PD on the south end. And then you respond Henry, KIRO-7, no, you don't have a dictionary. What Mayor Ed Murray is doing is segregating by race, by definition, racist at Seattle PD. So again, the ampersand is...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...the person that you are...

REYNOLDS: Basically it sends it to them so they can see it.



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MONROE: Okay. And so this was sent to Seattle PD's twitter and Mayor Ed Murray's twitter and this Henry KIRO-7 twitter.

REYNOLDS: Right.

MONROE: Okay. And what do you mean by this comment?

REYNOLDS: The point was that I didn't think it was fair that the, the Mayor was, is meeting with people because of the color of their skin. That's the point. That, specifically, was...I said something earlier to Mr. Rosoff, and another twitter person responded to that asking me to define a term. I don't remember what it was, exactly, so that's why I asked him if he doesn't have a dictionary.

MONROE: Okay, and that was in response to another person?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: And so your, your response, you, you're pointing out the, your belief that the Mayor meeting with a specific race group is in *itself* racist?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Do you believe that that comment was disparaging or...well, or takes away from the effectiveness of the Department?

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: Okay. Let's go on to a twitter dated February 7th of 2015, in response to...well, it's in the feed of the Seattle Police Department and it states, the Seattle Police Department states, I-C-Y-M-I, fixed one of the worst moments in this year's big game, make crime prevention happen. And you respond Seattle PD, that's right, it's the victim's fault, criminals have no responsibility for their crimes, in fact, they're the real victims. What do you mean by that?

REYNOLDS: That's also a satirical comment. The, the video the SPD posted on this tweet, I guess, was a video of a person getting their car stolen because they forgot to lock it, which I felt was victim blaming, and I didn't think that was fair to people who get their vehicle stolen.

MONROE: Okay, and so...

REYNOLDS: And the, the responsibility for whoever steals the vehicle lies on that person, the person who actually stole the vehicle.



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MONROE: Okay, and so that's why you say criminals have no responsibility for their crimes. This is...you're making an...

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: ...ironic statement. Okay. Again, do you believe that this is disparaging or reduces the effectiveness of the Department...

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: ...in your comment? On I think its November 25th of last year, you had posted a WordPress article and you sent a tweet about it?

REYNOLDS: Un-huh.

MONROE: Is that, is that the Anthony J Reynolds at WordPress.com?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Okay. And it's cut off, but do you know the, the title of that article?

REYNOLDS: I don't.

MONROE: I wanna make sure it's not one of the ones I have. *How to Avoid Being Shot by Police, a Guide by an Armed Young Man*. Is that a snapshot of your article?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: And what was the gist of this article?

REYNOLDS: It was in response to some trends that I've seen on the news where people are claiming that being shot by police is a matter of time for a young man of color, which I disagree with. I think it's conduct-based, so that's what the article is about.

MONROE: Okay, and so follow up to this, actually, I guess it was the evening before, this must be a continuation of this tweet here.

REYNOLDS: Yeah, I think this is what my original statement was on that other one.

MONROE: Here we go. So this is how they occurred. You sent another tweet that day regarding November 24th and 5th, regarding Ed Murray meeting with the community, African American community. No, you don't have it? No, that's not it. Special treatment for a



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specifically race is not racist *how?* Again, that is in regards to the Mayor meeting a specific group.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay, so then I'm gonna you the question, when you sent these tweets...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...I'm assuming that you can do this from any mobile device or computer...

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: ...did you send them when you were on duty?

REYNOLDS: I don't know.

MONROE: Okay. Did you...is participating in Twitter, is that generally an on-duty or off-duty activity for you?

REYNOLDS: I'd say off-duty.

MONROE: Okay. And did you ever identify yourself as an officer on Twitter?

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: I probably asked that already, but I'm gonna ask it again. Have you ever posted anything that would've shown you in uniform or associated with the Department?

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: Do you think you ever posted anything that would've led a person to believe that you're a Seattle Police officer?

REYNOLDS: Yeah, I think someone could figure it out.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: And I don't feel like I should hide my profession, but I didn't make it obvious either. I avoided it.



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MONROE: You avoided it? How?

REYNOLDS: I avoided identifying myself as a police officer.

MONROE: Why would you, why would you avoid identifying yourself as a police officer and make efforts to do that?

REYNOLDS: Because that would violate policy if I did.

MONROE: Okay. Do you...are the things—and I realize that you’ve already said that these are your opinions...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...do you feel any of these opinions or articles were in violation of policy?

REYNOLDS: I don’t think so, no.

MONROE: Do you think that if a person in the public, if they were to read these things—and I, I believe that a reasonable person would probably surmise that you’re a police officer...

REYNOLDS: Um-hmm.

MONROE: ...from your articles and your tweets—do you think that a reasonable person would lose faith in your ability as an officer based off of your articles or comments?

REYNOLDS: I think they might disagree with me.

MONROE: Okay.

REYNOLDS: I’m not sure if that would shake their faith in my, in my professional ability.

MONROE: How about the abilities of other employees at the Department?

REYNOLDS: It’s possible, I suppose, but I don’t know.

MONROE: When you sent the Joe Rogan what a fag comments, do you agree that that is, could be considered derogatory language?

REYNOLDS: Yes.



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MONROE: Did you do that during the course of your duties?

REYNOLDS: Send that tweet?

MONROE: Yes.

REYNOLDS: I don't know. It was years ago.

MONROE: Okay. Are you a homophobic?

REYNOLDS: No, absolutely not.

MONROE: I know that you said that you made the WordPress articles not public. How about Twitter? Have you utilized Twitter since the complaint?

REYNOLDS: I haven't used it, no.

MONROE: You have not used it.

REYNOLDS: I made it as private as I can, but being, you know, the public nature of it, I couldn't make it completely private without deleting the entire thing, so I **did** put restrictions on it and I haven't used it since.

MONROE: And the reason why you wouldn't just delete it, do you still...you can see other people's tweets.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Is that why?

REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MONROE: The WordPress blog, you said you're the only person that can see that now.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay. You're still utilizing it for your own, for your own purposes.

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Did I miss any questions regarding Twitter?



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SMITH: No.

MONROE: Is there anything else that you think I should know regarding this complaint?

REYNOLDS: No.

MONROE: I don't wanna stick any words in your mouth, but I just wanna surmise what you've told me.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

MONROE: You utilized, you utilized Twitter in the past to comments and you utilized WordPress to post articles. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: Okay. And I know many of these articles were in regards to occurrences on the Police Department or within the City government.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: These are your opinions. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: And your opinions don't necessarily align with, I guess, public opinion. Do you agree with that?

REYNOLDS: Yes, very much so.

MONROE: Okay. You did *not* identify yourself as a police officer directly on Twitter or WordPress. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: That's correct.

MONROE: But you agree that some things that you wrote, a person, a reasonable person could surmise that you are a Seattle Police Officer.

REYNOLDS: Yes.



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MONROE: It's your belief that you did not disparage the Department or create an environment where the Department...effectiveness has been reduced by what you put out there.

REYNOLDS: That's correct.

MONROE: Since this has occurred, the complaint, you have been put on Admin re-assignment at home. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: How long have you been there?

REYNOLDS: I think it's almost been two months now.

MONROE: And since then you have ceased your activity on Twitter except for being apprised of tweets coming in, but not sending tweets out.

REYNOLDS: Correct.

MONROE: And you have not—you made your WordPress so it is not public to anyone except for yourself.

REYNOLDS: Yes.

MONROE: Okay. I didn't, I didn't get any of the information wrong. Is that correct?

REYNOLDS: No, that's all correct.

MONROE: Okay. I believe that's going to end our interview then unless there's anything else.

SMITH: I have a few questions.

MONROE: Please.

SMITH: Was it your intent at any time to bring discredit to the Police Department?

REYNOLDS: No, absolutely not.

SMITH: Was it your intent if anybody read the Joe Rogan tweet, that you would offend Joe Rogan?



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- REYNOLDS: No. I thought he would think it was funny.
- SMITH: Okay. I'd like to state for the record that this complaint did not, in fact, arise from somebody in the public becoming alarmed and worried about the Department's effectiveness. It was an internal complaint generated by a complainant who had to dig very, very deep into the, the tweets of Officer Reynolds to locate the Joe Rogan situation. Mr. Rogan did not complain to the Police Department, Kshama Sawant did not complain to the Police Department, Merrick Bobb did not complaint to the Police Department, Ed Murray did not complaint to the Police Department...others. It just came from inside the Department. So nobody that I know of is aware of this but within the Department, so there's been no image damage from this to the Department.
- MONROE: Okay. All right. 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?
- REYNOLDS: Yes.
- MONROE: This completes the interview. The time is now 1355 hours and the date remains March 23rd, 2015.