

Confidential
Commander Interview
July 28, 2020; 1:24 p.m.

1 **Whittington**: This is Commander Scott Whittington. I'm in my office with
2 Sergeant Keith Wrede and his attorney John Newsome. The date is July 28th.
3 The time is 1:24 p.m. We're here reference IA Case 20-173.

4 Keith, we talked just real briefly beforehand and I want to ask you a
5 question about the song "Kill 'Em All" that you, in your original interview, said
6 Metallica had a song of that. We couldn't find a song from Metallica. Do you have
7 any other thoughts?

8 **Wrede**: It's--It's going to be—it's the album name. So if I said song, I misspoke.
9 It's the album name that--I was listening to the entire album. It's part of my
10 playlist.

11 **Whittington**: Okay. So it wasn't specifically a song that repeated, kill 'em all, kill
12 'em all—

13 **Wrede**: No, no—

14 **Whittington**: --kill 'em all or anything like that because that's kind of the
15 impression I got in your first interview.

16 **Wrede**: That was probably just (inaudible)

17 **Whittington**: Okay. All right.

18 **Wrede**: Misspoke.

19 **Whittington**: I have before you and John scheduling. I'll go through this kind of
20 briefly for you. So the week before—I just started on the 20th. The 26th is when
21 things really started going there.

22 **Wrede**: Uh-hm.

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23 **Whittington**: So the week before, you worked a day; took a little bit of personal
24 time. Then you had some holidays and then you had three days off.

25 Now, your schedule says on the 26th—

26 **Wrede**: Uh-hm.

27 **Whittington**: --you took a personal holiday.

28 **Wrede**: Yep.

29 **Whittington**: All right. So, that would mean you worked three days, so you
30 worked 15 days straight instead of 16.

31 **Wrede**: Sixteen, yep.

32 **Whittington**: Okay. I just wanted to make sure.

33 **Wrede**: Yep.

34 **Whittington**: So then you worked after the personal holiday, you did work 12
35 days straight—

36 **Wrede**: Yep.

37 **Whittington**: --for that. It was one day, five hours; one day, three hours but you
38 still had to come in. You still had to go work and that kind of stuff.

39 **Wrede**: Yes.

40 **Whittington**: And then after that, you had three days off.

41 **Wrede**: Yep.

42 **Whittington**: Then you worked—

43 **Wrede**: Modified schedule.

44 **Whittington**: Then you worked four?

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45 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

46 **Whittington:** Then you were off three.

47 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

48 **Whittington:** You work four, plus another 2 1/2 hours another day.

49 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

50 **Whittington:** Then you were off three.

51 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

52 **Whittington:** And then, the next day was the day that you came back to work on

53 June 30th.

54 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

55 **Whittington:** That's the day of the protest.

56 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

57 **Whittington:** And the—on I-25 where they stopped the traffic and that.

58 **Wrede:** Uh-hm.

59 **Whittington:** Okay. I just wanted to make sure because in your original

60 interview, it almost seemed like you worked 16 days straight or 15 days straight

61 and—

62 **Wrede:** Yeah and that was hard to clarify.

63 **Whittington:** Very quickly after that was this watching I-25. But actually there

64 was about three weeks---

65 **Wrede:** Yeah, yeah.

66 **Whittington:** In between the stretch.

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67 **Wrede:** Okay.

68 **Whittington:** Then the last real question I have for you is the terrorist statement.
69 Can you tell me when, what the context was, of that statement; and if you need
70 the whole statement I can give it to you.

71 **Wrede:** No, I mean I read through more where I posted it and I don't remember
72 when that was and that was—that was before...several days before—and it
73 maybe have even been before all the big protests broke out here. I don't
74 remember the date. But—and that was in response to just nationwide stuff. And
75 just let me give you some background on that and I didn't get to clarify that real
76 well during my IA interview.

77 In 2010, I came up to Intel and then domestic terrorism and terrorism was
78 a big, big thing. The department sent me through a lot of training; spent a lot of
79 money on Keith Wrede to ensure that I could recognize terrorism and we did
80 some work with the FBI and stuff.

81 Anyway, the definition of terrorism is imposing your values, your will, or
82 your political beliefs upon others through force, violence, intimidation, or threats.
83 So the movement, despite what the movement is; whether it's Black Lives Matter
84 or anything the violence, force, threats, and intimidation is being used against
85 citizens. You know, you got cars trying to drive through. They're getting beat up.
86 People are being pulled from their vehicles. I'm talking nationwide. I'm not just
87 talking Colorado Springs. Businesses are being looted, people are being shot at
88 and I'm like *Well, here's a political belief or an ideology and they are imposing*

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89 *their beliefs on the citizens through force, violence, threats, and intimidation. So it*
90 *just met the very definition of domestic terrorism.*

91 *Don't read this book. You can't watch this show. This statue, we're pulling*
92 *this statue down because it's not in line. And I started thinking, I'm like This is*
93 *what men and women are over in Iraq trying to do right now. You got ISIS and*
94 *Al-Qaida, Don't read this. Don't believe in this. This is a false God. You can't*
95 *watch this. And it just—it just clicked as to why are we calling this "protests" here*
96 *but overseas we're calling it terrorism?*

97 *So I was just making that connection in my mind based on what I've seen*
98 *and that was it.*

99 **Whittington:** Okay.

100 **Wrede:** It was the basis of it all.

101 **Whittington:** All right. I don't have any specific other questions.

102 *I'm going to let Keith talk, but John do you have anything you want to say?*

103 **Newsome:** (Inaudible)

104 **Whittington:** Okay. Anything you want to say to me and/or staff?

105 **Wrede:** Yeah, I mean...Commander, nobody is more sorry or remorseful or
106 regretful of what I did then than me, obviously. I know this has caused some
107 issues with staff. It's caused some issues with the city and for that I'm—I'm more
108 apologetic than you'll ever know. I always tell my kids, "Watch what you say,
109 dang-it, because words have meaning." Well, my words had meaning and I'm
110 eating my own words right now.

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111 I am not a racist police officer. There's not a racist bone in my body so I
112 don't want you to think that there's hours of video footage of me out there
113 interacting with these demonstrators. I don't know if you've watched any of that or
114 not; stopping by city hall, we spent 2 1/2 hours approximately out there one night:
115 me and Drew and some other guys just talking to them; interacting with them.

116 During the nights of the protests when things were really sporty there's
117 video footage of me arresting or deciding not to arrest people. It had nothing to
118 do with them being Black, White, or Hispanic. Maybe there was times I could've
119 made an arrest and then didn't make an arrest and I said, "Hey, man. Can you
120 just get the heck out of here?"

121 So I don't want you to think that this—my outburst was not driven at all
122 towards a bias or—or racists views. It was driven by just the violence of the
123 criminality of what's been happening.

124 So I apologize for the headaches this has caused with the Chief, the
125 Deputy Chiefs, you, and John. You guys got a division to run. As a supervisor, I
126 know I'm held to a higher standard and that's just something I'm going to have to
127 eat crow myself and move on, you know. I made a mistake. I have a good 20-
128 year-run. This is my first time ever in the hot seat. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. I
129 did it. I own it. I take 100 percent responsibility for whatever happens.

130 Good things have come out of it as far as personally as it has to do with
131 [REDACTED] and you know things that I've learned [REDACTED].
132 You know, at 17 I saw [REDACTED] And she's like "[REDACTED]." Then she

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133 called out the [REDACTED]." And it's kind of the end
134 of an...kind of done.

135 Whittington: So when you say [REDACTED] it was the [REDACTED]—

136 Wrede: [REDACTED].

137 Whittington: --[REDACTED]?

138 Wrede: Not our [REDACTED]. And then I think [REDACTED]

139 [REDACTED]

140 [REDACTED]

141 [REDACTED]

142 [REDACTED]

143 [REDACTED]

144 [REDACTED]

145 [REDACTED]

146 [REDACTED]

147 [REDACTED]

148 So this was a one off incident. I don't see it occurring again, especially
149 now that I've got these tools in place.

150 As far as my position at SIU, I hope you consider that I get to keep this
151 position; you and the Chiefs. This was an off-duty incident at my house, on my
152 computer, under an assumed identity that I thought was pretty private and fairly
153 locked down. Clearly it was not. It doesn't matter how private it was anyway. The
154 statement shouldn't have been made. This does not at all reflect in my

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155 performance at work. It doesn't reflect the fact that I've been, you know, nearly 20
156 years without an incident. Stats are good. The team is good. The comradery is
157 good and I would just hope that you and the Chiefs, the Deputy Chiefs, consider
158 allowing me to remain in this position. And if you don't, I understand. I hold no ill
159 will one way or the other.

160 That's it.

161 **Whittington**: Okay. The time is 1:33 and we'll go off the record.

Commander Scott Whittington
Metro VNI Division
Investigations and Special Operations Bureau

/pm