

Confidential
Internal Affairs Investigation; 20-173
July 7, 2020; 4:04 p.m.

1 **Duncan**: This is Sergeant Mareshah Duncan with the Colorado Springs Police
2 Department Internal Affairs Section. Today is Tuesday, July 7, 2020 and the time
3 is 4:04 p.m. I'm interviewing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in regards to Internal Affairs
4 Case Number 20-173.

5 Do you have any questions before we begin?

6 [REDACTED]: No.

7 **Duncan**: Please state your full name with the spelling for the record.

8 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

9 **Duncan**: How many years have you worked for CSPD?

10 [REDACTED]: Almost 13 now.

11 **Duncan**: And what is your current assignment with CSPD?

12 [REDACTED]: I'm currently assigned as a [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED].

14 **Duncan**: How and when did you come to be aware of the information regarding
15 Sergeant Keith Wrede that we are discussing today?

16 [REDACTED]: So I was handling the inquiries on Friday, July 3rd and it was around
17 about 4 o'clock in the afternoon; I'm not exactly sure on the time, but a little bit
18 around the 4 o'clock time period. [REDACTED], he's a reporter with KRDO, he
19 called me asking some questions regarding another incident. I can't even
20 remember what it was about honestly. So after I filled him in, did a news media
21 brief, he said, "Hey, did you get my message from Thursday night about the
22 Facebook post?"

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23 And I said, "No, I didn't get any message." I thought maybe he left it on
24 Lieutenant Sokolik's phone.

25 And he's like, "Oh."

26 And I said, "Well, tell me about it. I can—

27 He's like, "Well, during our live"—so then ██████ started going through
28 the situation. He said, "During a live feed of Tuesday night's protest on I-25, we
29 had comments being made and one of the comments," he said "said kill them
30 all." And he said it came from what they believe is a police department officer, a
31 police employee's Facebook.

32 And he told me—I said, "Well, how do you know that?"

33 He said, "Well, an anonymous tip came in on Thursday saying that Steven
34 Eric, the guy who apparently made the "Kill them all" comment was a police
35 officer for our department.

36 So I asked ██████, I said, "Could you take me through"—so I had opened
37 up Facebook on the department's Facebook and I said, "Can you tell me the
38 name?" So I typed in the name he told me which was Steven Eric. And I went to
39 the account and I saw on the account it was like a profile picture and it said
40 "Police lives matter" on the picture on the shirt and it was--all you could see was
41 kind of like a chest of somebody in a shirt. You couldn't see a head or anything.
42 And I started scrolling through the Facebook feed and I saw some pictures of
43 officers from our department and several of them were of Sergeant Wrede.

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44 And [REDACTED] said, "Yeah, I took screen shots," and one of the screenshots
45 he took I said was Sergeant Wrede being tagged at the Medal of Valor ceremony
46 a couple of years ago and it had the pseudonym that he was using, Steven Eric,
47 and it was a picture that was tagged with that and it was Wrede's wife and
48 himself in that. So I told him, I said, "It appears those are pictures of a current
49 police sergeant." And then I asked him if he could send me all that information
50 and I told him that we take these things seriously. And that's when he—well, 4:24
51 p.m. he had sent me the email that I forwarded to you with the Facebook
52 screenshots and kind of his accounts of what happened and how he got the
53 information.

54 **Duncan**: What did you do with that information?

55 [REDACTED]: So after I got off the phone with him, I was waiting for—I went to—the
56 only people that were in the building were myself and the commander. So
57 Commander Velasquez, I went down and talked to him, explained the situation. I
58 said, "Hey, this is what we got." And it was kind of right on the—it was right on
59 the aftermath of the Aurora incident so we were basically dealing with media calls
60 on that because Aurora officers were fired for some inappropriate pictures and so
61 I knew I had to go take it to him. So I took it to him; my lieutenant was gone and
62 he said, "Hey, let's get what we have. Let me start making some notifications and
63 let's open up a Blue Team."

64 So immediately, I went back and I told [REDACTED], "Hey"—after [REDACTED]—I
65 got the email, I went into Blue Team and started to enter in the Level 2 for this

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66 incident because we needed to make sure it got entered and I made sure that I
67 had the screenshots that he had sent me.

68 And then I went back to—later that night, I went back to get—to go
69 through the Facebook page to grab more screenshots but the account was
70 already deleted by that time so I wasn't able to get anything else from the
71 account. But I was able to scroll through the account and I didn't take
72 screenshots at the time because it was like happening. And there were pictures
73 of the, you know, sergeant and other officers in our department. So it appeared
74 to be his Facebook but I couldn't—I obviously don't know if it was or not.

75 **Duncan**: Did you conduct any additional research into the circumstances being
76 reported to you besides going back and trying to take screenshots and being
77 unable to do so?

78 [REDACTED]: No, just what I got from—just what I got from [REDACTED]. Basically, I
79 asked him to type up everything and he sent me that email and that's—that just
80 started it and put it in there basically because I know—the Commander said he
81 was—I guess they were making notifications on that end. And so he just said,
82 "Put what you have in right now and start it."

83 I was--like I said, I was going to go back and get the screenshots of the
84 Facebook but by the time I got back, apparently whoever the account holder is
85 already knew and deleted everything from it.

86 **Duncan**: Do you have any recollection of about what time it was you went back
87 to look for the account?

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88 [REDACTED]: No. It was later in the evening. I honestly don't remember the time. I
89 was here until—because I was talking to the Mayor's Office. We were trying to
90 get a statement ready because it was that impactful to the department and to the
91 city and so I was working with the Mayor and so I was in the—it was like 7:00 or
92 8:00 at night when I remember going back.

93 **Duncan**: Do you have any idea how the account holder would've come to be
94 aware of an investigation and/or chosen to delete their profile?

95 [REDACTED]: I believe there was communications with the Command Staff, and this
96 is just my belief. I do not know for sure. But I believe there was a notification to
97 the person that was the account holder asking if he did it and he gave verification
98 that he did. And that's just what I heard through—but I do not know for sure but
99 clearly—and that's kind of what tipped KRDO off because they even put it in their
100 article, "Hey the account was deleted," and that's what sent them—enough to
101 push it forward.

102 Because I went back—I kind of forgot about it over the weekend and I
103 went back on Monday to try the account again and I thought maybe I typed it in
104 wrong or something like that and it was totally gone. I couldn't even find any
105 pictures that were tagged. So that's—and then, after that KRDO published the
106 article because they saw the account was deleted so that was their confirmation
107 that—so it was kind of unfortunate because we could've held it a little bit longer
108 but I don't know how that communication went from the Command level. So I
109 can't address—I can't really—that would be all speculation, sorry.

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110 **Duncan**: Other than the information and the screen shots provided to you, do
111 you have any knowledge of any alternate names or aliases that Sergeant Keith
112 Wrede's uses as a Facebook profile?

113 [REDACTED]: No, just this one. I do know when that article came out on KRDO, I was
114 contacted by a cop that said, "Oh, I know who that sergeant is. I know their
115 Facebook page." And so they appeared to be—and I looked and I was—I wasn't
116 friends with him on my personal but there was friends of friends. I'm friends with
117 a lot of cops. And so I did see his page come up at times with pictures tagged
118 over the years; didn't ever think about it because it wasn't really important at the
119 time. I don't know any other names that he would use.

120 **Duncan**: Would you say then that people by and large knew Steven Eric as a
121 Facebook profile to be Keith Wrede?

122 [REDACTED]: Yeah. It's pretty—like when I—I remember logging on that night before
123 (inaudible 8:39)—and saw there was multiple people that were his friends that
124 were all cops. I mean, in the 30 to 40 numbers. So yeah, a lot of people knew
125 that it was--his account was linked and I knew right when [REDACTED] called me
126 when I was scrolling through, I was like *Aw, shoot. This is totally his page.* Of
127 course I wasn't going to confirm with the media because I still—everybody has
128 the right to due process and figured maybe it was being faked. But over the
129 years, there was numerous pictures from ceremonies, parties, and stuff that were
130 tagged.

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131 **Duncan:** So if someone were to look at Steven Eric's profile, would it be fairly
132 obvious that that person was a police officer and that they were with Colorado
133 Springs Police Department?

134 [REDACTED]: Yeah. And the hard part comes as, it's not—so just knowing social
135 media so well being up here is, it wasn't like if you're just a general citizen and
136 you type in Steven Eric.

137 Now the "Police lives matter", probably tipped off somebody as--they're
138 saying an anonymous source. I don't remember who [REDACTED]—I don't know if [REDACTED]
139 will give you his source or not; probably not, but he might. Somebody was smart
140 enough to figure it out because all you have to do is when you went—before the
141 account was deleted, if you just typed in Steven Eric, and you saw that "Kill them
142 all" and you typed it in, a picture that was tagged would come up and it would be
143 this picture that shows him in uniform and it would show *I'm a cop* and there was
144 dozens others. And it wasn't what the officer was doing and the sergeant was
145 doing. It was what other people were tagging him in and that's what kind of made
146 it so easily to find for the news that it was a legitimate police officer's page
147 because there was more than just one and they weren't just professional photos
148 that we put on the web. It was personal photos. So I think it would be pretty easy
149 for someone to figure out which they did unfortunately.

150 **Duncan:** Do you have any other information you feel is important or relevant to
151 this investigation that we have not discussed?

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152 [REDACTED]: No. I mean, my basic involvement was just getting that and getting the
153 Blue Team entered and I did—like I said, I did scroll through and see that all the
154 social media stuff before it was deleted and it was—I didn't see any other
155 comments, but it was just a lot of police stuff and unfortunately that comment
156 kind of directed people back to the page so...

157 **Duncan**: This investigation is on-going. In order to ensure the investigation stays
158 confidential please do not discuss it with anybody, and this will conclude this
159 interview. The time is 4:15 p.m.

K. Mareshah Duncan / 1755

Sergeant Mareshah Duncan
Internal Affairs
Professional Standards Division

/pm