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CITY OF PORTLAND
INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW
Confidential Taped Statement
Investigator Deirdre Perez

Interview Date: 06/01/2016
IPR #: 2016-B-0014
IPR File Name: 16-B-0014 wessonmitchell.deanna.06.01.16.int.trs
Complainant:

Interviewed: Deanna Wesson Mitchell

PEREZ: The time is 10:06. This is IPR investigator DEIRDRE PEREZ, I'm with DEANNA WESSON-MITCHELL. I'm conducting an interview into case 2016-B-0014. It is June 1st, 2016, so what do you do for the mayor's office?

WESSON-MITCHELL: I am the Public Safety Policy Director.

PEREZ: Okay.

WESSON-MITCHELL: Which is for fire and police, but I don't do much with fire.

PEREZ: Okay, can you give me kind of a general overview of your daily activities?

WESSON-MITCHELL: I work on – I'm like the project manager for the DOJ – implementation of the DOJ settlement.

PEREZ: Mm-hm.

WESSON-MITCHELL: So from the city perspective I kind of am – not a representative of, but I do – I work on behalf of the council.

PEREZ: Mm-hm.

WESSON-MITCHELL: To – and I'm a liaison between the city attorney, COCL, the Police Bureau, the DOJ, so that's a big part of my time. I also work with the – I go to all the performance review boards, and I advise the mayor on the letters that come over for proposed discipline from the chief. We – let's see, working on the strategic equity plan for the Police Bureau, trying to actually get that off the ground, working other – no that's DOJ, too, that the discipline process redo that we're working on, so there's a multitude of the – oh, body cameras policy, there's a lot.

PEREZ: That's a lot.

WESSON-MITCHELL: Staffing the mayor ready events, not very many of those anymore thank goodness.

PEREZ: Okay.

WESSON-MITCHELL: Working with communications team, on communications about Police Bureau matters and with the Police Bureau, you know, organizing statements.

PEREZ: Mm-hm.

WESSON-MITCHELL: Yeah, a variety of things.

PEREZ: Sounds like a complex job. And I understand that before you were with the mayor's office you were with the Portland Police Bureau as an officer?

WESSON-MITCHELL: Yes, for almost ten years.

PEREZ: Ten years?

WESSON-MITCHELL: Well nine and three quarters.

PEREZ: We can round up. Can you tell me some assignments that you had while you were with the bureau?

WESSON-MITCHELL: Yup, patrol, the vulnerable adult elder crimes unit, I did financial fraud investigations, and the personnel division recruitment coordinator.

PEREZ: Okay.

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52 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I was also on the Community Police Relations Committee, CPRC.
53 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
54 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And the Racial Profiling Committee. Racial Profiling Committee first then
55 CPRC and that kind of led into the work with the equity training.
56 **PEREZ:** Okay thanks, and in your current position on a regular basis who do you have contact with
57 within the bureau?
58 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Chief O’DEA, VINCENT WOODS, ELLE WEATHEROY, MIKE CREBS,
59 somewhat KEVIN MODICA, somewhat TIM EVANS, and then like, randomly as different issues
60 come up the commanders and the captains of the precincts.
61 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
62 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** When we, you know, someone calls the mayor’s office and complains about
63 something that doesn’t – it’s like a service complaint, not really – I also send things to you guys, but
64 when it’s like, a service, you know, lower level something or there’s just some confusion about what a
65 police officer said regarding homeless people.
66 **PEREZ:** Okay.
67 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Then I forward those back to the captains and commanders because there’s
68 some communication issues around making sure officers know how they’re supposed to be handling
69 certain things.
70 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
71 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So when it comes to a clarifying direction that comes out of the mayor’s
72 office, I provide that feedback and try to help with the leadership in the precincts to do that.
73 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, okay.
74 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And also people will bring GET occasionally, like Lieutenant KRANTZ.
75 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, can you describe your working relationship with both Chief O’DEA and some of
76 the assistant chiefs that you mentioned?
77 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Oh and I left off SARA WESTBROOK.
78 **PEREZ:** Okay.
79 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Sorry I forgot about that, but I’ve had a really good working relationship
80 with LARRY.
81 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
82 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** He was the only champion in the Police Bureau for any of the equity work
83 and that started in 2010, 2009 or 2010, and so I’ve worked really closely with him since then because
84 he was on CPRC also and at my, you know, then also with my current job. Yeah, it’s been amazingly
85 frustrating.
86 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, so in your current position how often do you speak directly with the mayor?
87 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That varies.
88 **PEREZ:** Yeah.
89 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Not very often. I mean, we have staff meetings, if that counts.
90 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
91 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So, you know, we each – but that’s, you know, the entire staff together and
92 we all get a couple minutes to talk about our issues. Policy meeting is once a week and those happen
93 off and on in the hall randomly on different things. Like, if there’s a question that comes up – like if I
94 give him something to sign and he’s got a question about it we’ll have a conversation, that doesn’t
95 happen too often. Not a lot. Kind have like, you know, case by case.
96 **PEREZ:** Okay, so there’s not really a standing one on one type of meeting with him?
97 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No, no, I do have a weekly one on one with O’DEA.

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98 **PEREZ:** Okay, and in the weekly one on ones with Chief O'DEA what do you all usually discuss?
99 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Whatever the hot topic of the week is.
100 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
101 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** What – if there's anything coming to council, strategies for working with
102 commissioners, if there's any questions on a discipline letter or concern, like if the mayor had a
103 question about something.
104 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
105 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** How to handle whatever issue of the day is coming up. Communicate –
106 public communications about different issues. How things are going with various, you know, projects
107 like the equity training is starting at in-service.
108 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
109 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And that's been pushed back multiple times. Planning around staffing has
110 been a big discussion. How to budget, yeah.
111 **PEREZ:** And do you often keep the mayor advised in regards to administrative investigations or
112 criminal investigations involving PPB members?
113 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Well, I'll do a heads up. I mean, we do – our role is not to be involved in the
114 investigation phase, so generally either – usually its O'DEA or DEREK occasionally, CONSTANTIN,
115 sometimes another – like, I think Assistant Chief DAY did once, but it was kind of like a heads up that
116 – or – and CREBS like, oh, you know, this issue is – has come up. It will be coming your way in case,
117 but mostly that's because, you know, if media hears about it we're prepared.
118 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
119 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So we have an idea and our general response is, you know, it's an open
120 investigation, we're not going to say anything.
121 **PEREZ:** Yeah.
122 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** But usually that's pretty much the extent until they're done.
123 **PEREZ:** Okay.
124 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And once they're done I go to the PRB'S, either myself or I have a
125 representative from the mayor's office go.
126 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
127 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And then also attend the due process hearings if the requested due process.
128 **PEREZ:** Okay, so how did you first learn about the shooting involving Chief O'DEA?
129 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** When he let us know on Friday that the Willamette Week had sent a media
130 request.
131 **PEREZ:** Okay, and he had never mentioned it in any of your weekly one on ones?
132 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Nope.
133 **PEREZ:** Okay, can you give me a timeline – like, what approximate time on Friday did you find out
134 about it?
135 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** At 2:30.
136 **PEREZ:** In the afternoon?
137 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** May 20th, mm-hm.
138 **PEREZ:** Okay, and how do you think this incident compares with other criminal investigations that
139 you've either seen or been advised of due to the public communications process involving other
140 Portland Police Bureau members?
141 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Can you say that again?
142 **PEREZ:** Yeah, so how would you say that the handling of the Chief O'DEA shooting–
143 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Mm-hm.

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144 **PEREZ:** –compares to other criminal investigations that you might've been advised on due to the
145 public communications part involving other Portland Police Bureau members?
146 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** There is – generally I'll get a heads up. There are some that get completed
147 that I don't find out about until I get the PRB.
148 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
149 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** The – all the documentation for PRB and there are others that I am told that
150 hey, this happened and its being investigated. Both, you know, someone's facing criminal investigation
151 plus internal investigation.
152 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
153 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And then there are others – if someone is arrested, those automatically get in
154 the media because there was an actual arrest, or charges filed. There are some where if the person is
155 not arrested it doesn't get into the media.
156 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
157 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So there's – it varies.
158 **PEREZ:** Okay.
159 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** As far as from our perspective – the thing in the mayor's office, we don't – I
160 mean, our standard line is well, the mayor did make a comment he said like early on that he put out
161 information that investigators were like, oh why did you – so we're very strict on our response that
162 there's an ongoing investigation and we refer people to the Police Bureau for any details. For internal
163 ones we definitely its – like, we don't – we have this personnel issue, there's an investigation, we're
164 not going to make any comments, so from that perspective I think the oddest thing about it was that I
165 didn't know about it.
166 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
167 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** But the – and I think that would've come down to a discussion about
168 whether or not to go to the media.
169 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
170 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I mean, that would've been our question in our office was, how do we
171 handle this from a public relations perspective because we're not going to get involved in the – either
172 of the investigations, yeah.
173 **PEREZ:** Okay, and did you meet with Mayor HALES after the shooting had become public?
174 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Actually I haven't really talked with him about it.
175 **PEREZ:** Okay, so there hasn't been much discussion between you two on this incident?
176 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No.
177 **PEREZ:** Okay.
178 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** He I think was traveling. I've been out, [REDACTED]
179 [REDACTED]) and I talked with SARA.
180 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
181 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And JOSH and TERA.
182 **PEREZ:** Okay.
183 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And a lot of that was Friday. It was like–
184 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
185 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** –what happened? How do we – okay, so what do we, you know, what are
186 we saying about this because it's going to be in the Willamette Week, so we have to have something
187 ready to say, so I think I actually wrote the statement was about, you know, we're not making a – it's
188 an ongoing internal and criminal investigation because at that time I thought it was an internal
189 investigation going on because why wouldn't there be, and so that's what we put out on Friday and

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190 then the mayor had his, you know, supportive words for LARRY, and the work that he's doing and
191 that we're not going to make any further comment because it's an ongoing investigation. Which is, you
192 know, a decision was made earlier about not putting that statement out, which I wasn't a part of a
193 month before and then, so we put out – I mean, honestly the statement probably would've been the
194 same either time. Yes, so that was all – that was Friday afternoon. That was the rest of our afternoon
195 on Friday.

196 **PEREZ:** Fun. Did JOSH ALPERT give any indication that he had known about the shooting prior to
197 the Willamette Week?

198 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Mm-hm.

199 **PEREZ:** Okay, did he tell you when he found out about it?

200 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** The mayor – to my understanding was that the mayor told JOSH and SARA
201 that morning when they came into work.

202 **PEREZ:** The morning of the 20th or the morning–

203 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No, no, no the morning of the–

204 **PEREZ:** April 25th, the Monday?

205 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Whenever – yeah, whenever O'DEA told the mayor. The mayor told JOSH
206 and SARA.

207 **PEREZ:** Okay.

208 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And were expecting their side, so what they told me.

209 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

210 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That they were expecting media to contact them, so it was kind of in the
211 context of, hey, I have to get a statement all ready on this one and then media never contacted them.

212 **PEREZ:** Okay, so they were expecting the media to call – contact them that Monday morning in
213 April.

214 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Or at some point soon.

215 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

216 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Because–

217 **PEREZ:** Did the mayor in any e-mails or phone conversations or through JOSH and SARA give you
218 any idea on how to proceed with this incident or any action to take?

219 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Beyond the statement?

220 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

221 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No, I found out Monday or maybe it became clear on Tuesday that there
222 wasn't an internal investigation. CONSTANTIN called me on Monday saying he was going to open up
223 an internal and I thought that was about the why didn't it go public.

224 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

225 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I don't know if it fully clicked to me until Tuesday when I talked to
226 CONSTANTIN again that wait, there was no internal investigation going on, so then an internal
227 investigation is going on which is where the – where mayor – the mayor and JOSH and TERA –
228 SARA not TERA. SARA were thinking well this is – and that's how we handle all bureau things.
229 There's a process, it goes through the process and the mayor gets the letter to sign.

230 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

231 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Did I receive instruction? I don't think so. We had – I have complained a
232 lot. That's a good question. I don't think so.

233 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

234 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** If something comes to me, I'll let you know.

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235 **PEREZ:** Okay, and when you say that you've complained a lot do you mean in regards to how this
236 situation has been handled?

237 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Yes.

238 **PEREZ:** Can you tell me some issues that you have with the way this investigation has been handled
239 or lack of investigation?

240 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That there was no investigation.

241 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

242 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That I didn't find out about it was, you know, and JOSH apologized for that
243 and I understand. I actually understand how that happened. My understanding of how that happened is
244 – I mean, at the time we were all about budget, PPA contract. I was actually doing the mediation for
245 ██████████ so I mean, there was a lot going on.

246 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

247 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And they thought it was being handled because it always is.

248 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

249 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And so when that was communicated to me on Friday I also thought, okay,
250 it's all being handled, the media portion, it's like this just looks bad, so how do we mitigate the public
251 perception side of it; so that was kind of with the crafting of the statement of okay, so how do we –
252 yeah, that was Friday. Okay, the rest of the day Friday, how do we deal with this part and it's like,
253 okay, so it is – we are where we are, lets – it's out there now okay, and then when CONSTANTIN
254 issued his communication restrictions then it was like, okay, now I don't even know anything and I
255 still don't know anything and it's very frustrating.

256 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

257 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And so that I've been complaining about. It would've been nice to know
258 something up front. Yeah, I'm not understanding how this played out. I don't understand what the
259 communications were that led it to be handled in the way that it was handled.

260 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

261 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Or rather with the lack of communication or what types of communications
262 were happening, because I have a picture in my mind of the way that things generally happen.

263 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

264 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** There's an officer, a sworn member, officer or not, who's involved in a
265 criminal – any kind of criminal activity where there's any kind of police investigation. ██████████ No
266 spraying the lady with the water. Detectives actually went out on a harassment thing because that's
267 what we do.

268 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

269 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And when it's another agency, detectives contact that agency and it's like,
270 hey we're not getting involved. Please keep us up to date, let us know, we'd like to get your reports
271 when you're done. If there's any way, we can be of assistance.

272 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

273 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That's my understanding of how things generally happen when there's
274 another agency that's investigating a sworn Police Bureau member. My understanding is that didn't
275 happen.

276 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

277 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Like, how did that not happen? I don't understand, and then on the internal
278 side, I'm not sure what communications were happening where that didn't happen. I don't know how I
279 didn't know about this and I don't know how CONSTANTIN didn't know about this and it's
280 confusing.

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281 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, so Internal Affairs was supposed to start the investigation. Have you had any
282 contact with Captain RODRIGUES about this incident?

283 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Yes.

284 **PEREZ:** Can you describe that for me?

285 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That from the information he had he didn't feel there was – that he needed
286 to open an investigation.

287 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

288 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And then communication restrictions came out and I – and I will admit I
289 think the Friday when I found out about it my mind was just spinning.

290 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

291 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I was literally in a place where first – my first thought was, damn this is
292 the best kept secret ever. How did DEREK or CONSTANTIN not say something. How did LARRY
293 not say something and I was mad about, you know, I was – I wouldn't say mad, but I was frustrated
294 that people in my office didn't say something.

295 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

296 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** But not as frustrated as – because they don't really deal with police process
297 issues like, down in the weeds.

298 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

299 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I'm the one who does that the most in the office, and I talk with DEREK
300 and CONSTANTIN and LARRY and this is what we do, and so that part was very confusing and I was
301 like, so what – and then I can't get information which is also frustrating. Okay, so what did LARRY
302 say to DEREK that he was able to walk away thinking that he didn't need to call CONSTANTIN or
303 didn't need to – or that did he think that CONSTANTIN had already been notified, because my
304 understanding that it would actually be IPR who would open up the investigation because it's a captain
305 or above. It's not a use of force related to work, which is done by IA and that's I think that honestly
306 DEREK is the one person in the bureau or the chief is the one person in the bureau that DEREK would
307 not be doing an investigation on.

308 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

309 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** It's his only boss, so at that – to me I was like, okay, so DEREK must have
310 – did he think that CONSTANTIN knew and then it's like, well, but if CONSTANTIN and DEREK
311 didn't talk – that just seems to me – because we don't talk about details on cases, but there is usually
312 some kind of communication that something is going on.

313 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

314 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Especially when it's something big because none of us want to get
315 blindsided.

316 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

317 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So – yeah, I'm not – I am not – I don't know what those communications
318 were and that part is – yeah, I don't know what the communications were with HENDERSON or
319 BURKE about why detectives weren't following up on this.

320 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

321 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Those are two places that I'm not – I don't understand what the
322 communications were and I don't now because I can't talk to anybody about it, but those are my two
323 biggest concerns.

324 **PEREZ:** Okay.

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325 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Is what was – what was that communication. Why did things not happen
326 and for me personally, and this is the hardest part for me, is that how did so much time go by and I did
327 not know about this from the Police Bureau side.

328 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

329 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Because I honestly think the people in my office were like, oh its being
330 taken care of and they, you know, they're running the city. There's a whole bunch of stuff that's going
331 on. There's always an investigation at the Police Bureau as you guys know. There's always many of
332 them, and the thought that it would just never make the media I don't think occurred to them, and that
333 it would come out quickly was kind of where they were thinking and then I'm assuming they must've
334 just kind of been like, oh, it's – investigations ongoing and we don't have to deal with the media.
335 Okay, we'll find the results of the investigation when it's done and make decisions then.

336 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

337 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That's the only thing I can assume that they were thinking and – because
338 that's generally how we deal with investigations. The mayor doesn't put people on leave. That's – the
339 chief does that.

340 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

341 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I don't believe that the mayor – I mean, he obviously didn't have an
342 understanding or belief that he needed to put him on leave, so again, I'm just like, what – I don't know
343 what these conversations were, I think for me that's the most frustrating part is what were these
344 conversations like?

345 **PEREZ:** And in your experience whenever there is a negligent discharge in which someone is
346 wounded, is a criminal investigation opened up by whichever department the shooting happened in?

347 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** In my experience I have no idea because I've never dealt with that, but I
348 would assume that it would be.

349 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

350 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Well – well we just had one that came to – was there a – I don't think there
351 was a criminal one when there was a negligent – no, there was a negligent discharge at work, when
352 there's Taser's or – or a gun, I don't believe there's a criminal investigation when it's at work. Like, if
353 somebody shoots the chair or something.

354 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, but if it hits an actual human being?

355 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That's an excellent question. I don't know what normal would be.

356 **PEREZ:** Okay.

357 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I would – if it's at work with another employee, I don't know.

358 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

359 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** If it were not at work I would imagine there would be a criminal
360 investigation, because someone's going – someone was shot, there would be an investigation.

361 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

362 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** There was someone who got hit with a Taser. I don't think they had a
363 criminal on that one, but that was another officer who Tased another officer by accident. I'm going
364 through all the reports in my mind.

365 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

366 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I don't believe there was a criminal investigation on that.

367 **PEREZ:** Okay.

368 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** But I could be wrong.

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369 **PEREZ:** So in the brief time period where you were able to speak with Captain RODRIGUES before
370 he received the CRO, you had mentioned that he indicated that he didn't feel it rose to the level of
371 needing to be investigated. Did he give you any more—
372 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Or that he didn't need to.
373 **PEREZ:** He didn't need to notify CONSTANTIN.
374 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** He didn't say notify.
375 **PEREZ:** Okay.
376 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** He said didn't need to open an investigation it was some – it was something
377 like that, so I'm – and again, I was – my head was literally spinning. I was like, what the hell. I didn't –
378 it was very – everything was very vague.
379 **PEREZ:** Okay.
380 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I – not – I didn't understand.
381 **PEREZ:** Was it just the one conversation about it?
382 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Yes.
383 **PEREZ:** And was it a brief conversation?
384 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Very brief, that was like the extent of it.
385 **PEREZ:** He just—
386 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Because we generally don't talk about specifics because I do my best to not
387 get involved in the investigation phase. I think on this one I was dumb founded that—
388 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
389 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** –there was no – I wanted to know about it.
390 **PEREZ:** Yeah.
391 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** But nobody that – yeah, I was – lots of things have become more – I've had
392 more questions developing over the last week.
393 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
394 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I've been off. I was off on Thursday and Friday. Tuesday I was
395 supposed to be off. I ended up being here for a few hours. Wednesday – I haven't actually been in the
396 office a lot. Just been dealing with home stuff, and so I'll be thinking, it's like what about this and
397 what about that conversation and what about – how did this not come up at this time and how did this
398 not come up at this time, and how did – how did this not come up?
399 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, and what are some of those – the biggest questions that you have in regards to—
400 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** How did this not come up?
401 **PEREZ:** In all of your meetings with Chief O'DEA?
402 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** With O'DEA, my phone calls with him, texting, meetings, random
403 conversations about random things. I actually don't talk with DEREK as often as I used to outside of
404 meetings. Yeah, we like see each other after PRBs and actually in this room or the discipline things. I
405 rarely talk with HENDERSON or DAY or more so – more with CREBS. Occasionally with MODICA,
406 but it's like, how did this never come up.
407 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
408 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And then in my office also, like, how did this not come up and I'm thinking
409 somebody must have thought that someone else had told me or I – yeah.
410 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, yeah, so I know you had mentioned that you rarely speak to Assistant Chiefs DAY
411 and HENDERSON and we have a little bit of contact with Assistant Chiefs MODICA and CREBS.
412 After the incident had become public, had you – and before they were also hit with the communication
413 restriction orders, did you have conversations with any of the assistant chiefs about it?
414 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I spoke with MODICA before he – I think I start – I was pissed.

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415 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

416 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I was just – I was venting on him and then he said I have a
417 communication restriction, I was like, oh, okay, I'll stop. He didn't really – he didn't share anything
418 with me because he'd already gotten his communication restriction, so that just actually pissed me off
419 more. I go, but I want information. I haven't talked to CREBS about it at all. My conversations with
420 DAY and HENDERSON – and I won't say I rarely talk with them; I will talk with them topically.

421 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

422 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So if there's something current going on with one of them then I'll work
423 with – if there's some project we'll be having a lot of conversations and communications about that for
424 that short period of time and then I'm off to the next topic. Lately, I haven't had many topics with
425 them, but my conversations with DAY since – I haven't actually talked to him. Actually I don't think I
426 talked to any of them other than MODICA and that was me talking.

427 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

428 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Oh yeah, we went to – MODICA went to the – Tuesday night there was an
429 advisory – community advisory meeting. It was like, the first joint for all the chief's advisory boards to
430 get together and figure out how they can do things more effectively and efficiently to do community
431 relationship and engagement. This is like, this would've been a perfect meeting for O'DEA to be at.

432 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

433 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Oh where's HENDERSON? Oh that's our acting chief, okay.

434 **PEREZ:** And besides Captain RODRIGUES had you spoken to anyone at Internal Affairs or
435 Professional Standards?

436 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No.

437 **PEREZ:** And–

438 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I never do that.

439 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, do you often meet with the public information officer, PETE SIMPSON?

440 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I don't meet with him, but we talk.

441 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

442 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** If there's – and again that's topically.

443 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

444 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Usually it's when there's something that comes up and I think I gave him
445 the bad information that there was an internal investigation going on.

446 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

447 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Because then after I found out that there wasn't, then I read an article where
448 PETE was quoted saying there was. and I called him up. I'm like, hey, is there an internal going on?
449 He's like I have a communication restriction. I'm like, okay, I get that, but it says you're saying there's
450 an internal going on. I now know there wasn't and I think I'm the one who told you there was an
451 internal going on because we were assuming there was, so no, when I talk to PETE it's about talking
452 points for whatever event is coming up and then if there's communication strategies on whatever topic
453 of the day that there is. We'll send – LARRY'S pretty good about sending me – us his talking points as
454 – so we can write the mayor's. We had one embarrassing thing where we went to the PPB awards
455 ceremony the last year or the year before and they're talk – they basically said the exact same thing
456 because we didn't communicate about it and I was like oh, let's not do that again, so–

457 **PEREZ:** All right, and throughout this entire – this is about a month and a half time period. Has the
458 mayor given you any indication as to his feelings on the incident?

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459 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** He supports LARRY. He wants the – to find out from the, you know, what
460 the investigation shows before making a decision. That it was really unfortunate. He felt bad for
461 LARRY that, you know, this happened. Obviously this was a traumatic incident.

462 **PEREZ:** And has JOSH ALPERT mentioned any conversations that he has had with the assistant
463 chiefs since the information became public and also if he's had any contact with the assistant chiefs
464 before the information became public?

465 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I didn't know about any since the information has become public. DONNA
466 HENDERSON came over for a meeting after she became acting chief and that was with the mayor and
467 TERA and JOSH on multiple things. I wasn't in the meeting, I had to go – well like, things that are
468 going on that need to continue going on. Like, one of the, you know, the equity training that she hadn't
469 been involved in at all. We've got people who are – yeah, just kind of throws things into a – it's very
470 unbalanced.

471 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

472 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** In trying to move things forward when the person who was leading the
473 charge isn't there, so it's like this vacuum for various efforts that people don't believe in, so in
474 communicating to her that this is important to the mayor that these things continue in the meantime
475 and whatever other topics they were talking about. I wasn't at the meeting.

476 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, is there anything that I haven't discussed that you would like to talk about in
477 regards to this incident?

478 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** It's just disappointing. Yeah. And I can't think of anything specific. Just
479 horrible timing. I mean, horrible timing, the Police Bureau is just – there's so much going on right now
480 that's difficult to deal with and it's hard to work there. It's hard to get things done and then this is just
481 a huge amount of upheaval and uncertainty. Yeah, I – it – I'm just – what were the communications
482 that were happening?

483 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

484 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** That didn't end up with CONSTANTIN and detectives.

485 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

486 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Somebody got shot.

487 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

488 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Literally somebody got shot. CONSTANTIN, detectives–

489 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

490 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** –DEANNA.

491 **PEREZ:** And have any rank and file members of the Portland Police Bureau contacted you about this
492 incident?

493 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** My sister. I was like what the shit. I don't – I'm really trying to think of
494 that.

495 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

496 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** TIM sent me a text just asking how I was doing. I don't think so.

497 **PEREZ:** Okay.

498 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No and I'm assuming that they all think that I knew about. I didn't know.

499 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

500 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I don't talk regularly with a lot of – I mean, again it's – my interactions
501 with various officer level folks and sergeants are very transactional.

502 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

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503 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So if there's a certain project going on with a group, I'll see people and talk
504 to people a lot about that for awhile and then it's on to the next project. I'm not a project manager, but
505 I'm just involved in different various things at different points.

506 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

507 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And then I'm guessing people who normally might've talked to me about it
508 aren't talking to me about it because—

509 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

510 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** —they're like oh this is a hot mess; I'm staying out of it. Not even getting
511 into that one.

512 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

513 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** So no, I can't think of anything that you haven't asked or that I want to
514 share and I'm still thinking. Its like, have I gotten any instructions. That's a good question. I don't
515 think I have – I think I've been asking the most questions.

516 **PEREZ:** And who have you been asking questions to?

517 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** JOSH, SARA, actually I guess it's pretty much the same question. How did
518 I not know about this?

519 **PEREZ:** And did they tell you that they assumed that you had known about it or—

520 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I think they forgot to tell me about it and then when literally the media
521 didn't contact them—

522 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

523 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** it – there had been so many things that have happened since then.

524 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

525 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And our office is non-stop, everyday non-stop. There is some – if it's not
526 police related, today, it will be police related the next day or it will be PDC or it'll be the safe sleeping
527 policy.

528 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

529 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Or it'll be we're getting sue – who are we getting sued by this week? I
530 mean, there is so much media relations issues and public communications and, you know, which group
531 is mad about this and how do we deal with that and then with the commissioners and trying to, you
532 know, make people happy and get the budget through.

533 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.

534 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** I mean, that was – that was massive. I mean, it's like there's two things that
535 happen each year that are just ridiculous is the state of the city speech and the budget and then after
536 that it's all kind of downhill and then we start on the state of the city speech again, and so – but those
537 are the most crazy times and the most busy and we had the PPA contract coming up at the same time
538 as the budget, and so it was all about organizing like the, you know, the budget going public, how are
539 we going to do this, we're coordinating which community members are going to be at the speech. I'm
540 dealing with a myriad of DOJ things, [REDACTED] mediation, the budget, the budget, and the budget,
541 and I honestly think they just forgot.

542 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm, yeah.

543 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Because who – I mean, that was kind of my thing with SARA when I was
544 like, so how – how did this stay quiet?

545 **PEREZ:** Yeah.

546 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** She's like, I know, but like, they – they literally thought like, aw fuck – aw
547 shoot, sorry. It's like this – well this is going to be a mess saying this is – they were figuring out how
548 to prepare. What are they going to say?

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549 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
550 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** It's going to be very short and sweet and then it – no one ever asked.
551 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
552 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** And I think they just moved on to the next thing. It's just like, but he shot
553 somebody.
554 **PEREZ:** And were you notified when he was going to be placed on administrative leave?
555 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Oh yeah, yeah.
556 **PEREZ:** Yeah, okay.
557 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** No there were – there were discussions about how to – I guess we were –
558 that was another discussion is how do we – how do we handle this, city attorney's for – discussion of
559 city attorneys. What's even the process?
560 **PEREZ:** Mm-hm.
561 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** It's like, you know, we've never done it before. Met with LARRY and
562 JOSH and TERA when he received his, you know, official notification of administrative leave and
563 then DONNA came in, worked out our statements, press releases.
564 **PEREZ:** Okay, well I really appreciate your meeting with me and giving me all this information.
565 **WESSON-MITCHELL:** Thank you.
566 **PEREZ:** It's super helpful, so the time is 10:50 and I'll be concluding this recording.
567
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