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**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
**INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW**  
**Confidential Taped Statement**  
**Investigator Eric Berry**

7 **Interview Date:** 10/28/2016  
8 **IPR #:** 2016-B-0030  
9 **IPR File Name:** steinbronn.rich.10.28.16.int.trs  
10 **Complainant:**

11  
12 **Interviewed:** Rich Steinbronn  
13  
14

15 **PASHLEY:** All right, this is GREG PASHLEY. It is October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at about 8:30 in the morning.  
16 We are in the Internal Affairs office. Present RICH STEINBRONN, ERIC BERRY, DEIRDRE  
17 PEREZ, DARYL TURNER. We are here to discuss IPR case number 2016-B-0030. Are there any  
18 other cases?

19 **BERRY:** No we're just going to interview him for the thirty case.

20 **PASHLEY:** Okay, no associated Portland police case number.

21 **BERRY:** No.

22 **PASHLEY:** Sergeant STEINBRONN has been advised that his – his conduct and or the conduct of  
23 any bureau member present on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at about 1800 hours at East Precinct, is the subject of this  
24 investigation. Sergeant STEINBRONN has reviewed information necessary to be reasonably apprised  
25 of the nature of the allegation of the complaint. Sergeant STEINBRONN has been informed that he's a  
26 witness in this case and that IPR director CONSTANTIN SEVERE is in charge of the investigation. I  
27 have advised Sergeant STEINBRONN that he can have representation present during the interview and  
28 DARYL TURNER is here in that capacity. Sergeant STEINBRONN under the authority of Captain  
29 BELL I'm ordering you to answer all questions fully and truthfully. If you fail to respond fully and  
30 truthfully you may be disciplined up to and including dismissal. Do you understand?

31 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, sir.

32 **PASHLEY:** Thank you.

33 **BERRY:** Good morning Sergeant STEINBRONN.

34 **STEINBRONN:** Morning.

35 **BERRY:** Thanks for coming in today, President TURNER, nice to see you. I appreciate how much  
36 work you put in to schedule this interview. It's nice to do it. Thank you very much, so I'll just do a  
37 brief little preamble of my own. I'm interviewing you under 2016-B-0030. That's the investigation that  
38 comprises the city's review of the actions of the then ACs after they learned of Chief O'DEA'S  
39 shooting incident. As well as the PSD Captain RODRIGUES.

40 **STEINBRONN:** Okay.

41 **BERRY:** During the course of that investigation you were identified as a witness to a conversation. I  
42 hope to ask you about the conversation if you can remember it now at this late date.

43 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, sir.

44 **BERRY:** I don't think I have any real surprising questions. I'll just get you through it as quick as I  
45 can. Do you have any questions for me before we get started?

46 **STEINBRONN:** No, sir.

47 **BERRY:** Okay, you know, I'm embarrassed to say I can't remember; how long have you been with  
48 PPB?

49 **STEINBRONN:** Since 1996. Start of my twenty first year.

50 **BERRY:** Oh my gosh, and are you currently assigned to patrol sergeant out of east?

51 **STEINBRONN:** That is correct.

**CONFIDENTIAL TAPED STATEMENT**

**IPR #2016-B-0030**  
**/ Rich Steinbronn**

**October 28, 2016**  
**Page 2 of 5**

52 **BERRY:** Okay, can you just very briefly describe your duties and responsibilities as a patrol  
53 sergeant?

54 **STEINBRONN:** As a patrol sergeant out at East Precinct I have seven employees under my purview,  
55 but I'm also responsible for a shift. myself and two other sergeants from seven AM to 1700. We are in  
56 charge of probably about 20 officers, so we respond to any force incidents and conduct 940  
57 investigations. I'm also the scheduling sergeant, so I do all scheduling of vacations, scheduling of  
58 assignments during the week. I'm also responsible to understand and know what's going out on the  
59 street. I respond to any sort of tactical incidents as a patrol supervisor. Answer any questions that  
60 officers may pose or may present to me. It's just basically running a patrol shift on a daily basis to  
61 include the paperwork, to include the supervision of officers responding to 911 calls and responding to  
62 any sort of a tactical incident that may arise during the shift.

63 **BERRY:** Do you think it's fair to say you're kind of running from one end of the shift to the other?

64 **STEINBRONN:** It gets a little busy. It gets a little busy.

65 **BERRY:** All right, well, so here we are in October, do you remember when you first learned of Chief  
66 O'DEA'S negligent discharge incident?

67 **STEINBRONN:** I was out on a homicide scene up on Glisan. It was the day that the newspaper  
68 reported it.

69 **BERRY:** That Willamette Week article?

70 **STEINBRONN:** The Willamette Week article.

71 **BERRY:** Okay, all right, well to jump right into the matter at hand. Was there ever a time where you  
72 had some conversation with then AC DAY about the incident?

73 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, sir. East Precinct had scheduled a supervisor's staff meeting. We do that  
74 usually quarterly or bi-annually, so present at East Precinct in the community room was all the  
75 sergeants from each shift at East Precinct, the lieutenants from each shift at East Precinct, captain was  
76 there, the commander was there, AC O'DEA was there or AC DAY was there, and I believe  
77 Lieutenant ANDY SHEARER was there. I believe.

78 **BERRY:** Okay, and commander was that Commander HENDRIE?

79 **STEINBRONN:** Commander HENDRIE, yes.

80 **BERRY:** June 6<sup>th</sup>, does that sound about right to you for the day of the meeting?

81 **STEINBRONN:** I don't recall the exact date.

82 **BERRY:** Yeah.

83 **STEINBRONN:** But it was sometime early summer.

84 **BERRY:** All right, I won't hold you to an exact date. Well, will you describe how AC DAY or what  
85 AC DAY said at the meeting?

86 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, sir, so obviously, everybody had known about the incident during, you know,  
87 that staff meeting and one of the reasons that he did come out was, you know, to address some of what  
88 was going on. Since it was an ongoing case —

89 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

90 **STEINBRONN:** — not too much was mentioned, but several of the items that he did mention were  
91 that the assistant chiefs were notified after the mayor and that Captain RODRIGUES was notified. The  
92 assistant chiefs were notified after that of the shooting incident. The incident that happened. He  
93 explained why the — it was not broadcast in the news, you know, at the time. Of the time of the  
94 incident. And, you know, he kind of explained that, you know, not all officer-involved investigations  
95 outside of duty are necessarily a press release put out by the Portland Police Bureau, it just depends on,  
96 you know, the situation. We did talk a little bit about the directives and how the directives apply to the

**CONFIDENTIAL TAPED STATEMENT**

**IPR #2016-B-0030**  
**/ Rich Steinbronn**

**October 28, 2016**  
**Page 3 of 5**

97 chief and whether necessarily, you know, they apply. So what he said was the directives may not  
98 necessarily apply to the chief. That was one of the statements that he made. I did not take it as the  
99 directives do not apply to the chief. What I took it as the wording of the directives are a little vague  
100 when it comes to the chief. Does that make sense?

101 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

102 **STEINBRONN:** I firmly believe that AC DAY understands that the directives apply to the chief.  
103 Sometimes they're just not worded the most appropriately.

104 **BERRY:** Okay, let me just catch up on my scribbling here for a second. Okay, well, in particular was  
105 there a particular directive that you all were or that you had asked about or talked about?

106 **STEINBRONN:** One of the questions – I have a little bit of knowledge since working up here for two  
107 and a half years.

108 **BERRY:** Right.

109 **STEINBRONN:** Of the process and I certainly had some questions about how the process was  
110 handled.

111 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

112 **STEINBRONN:** And some concerns about how the process was handled, so I was looking for some  
113 clarification, so one of the questions that I asked was about the reporting requirement under the  
114 directive when you become subject of a criminal investigation and my understanding is whether  
115 charges are going to be filed or not, it's still a criminal investigation. The investigation of the negligent  
116 wounding of another person.

117 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

118 **STEINBRONN:** So I believed that that was a criminal investigation and for the directive a direct  
119 supervisor needs to be immediately notified when you become the subject of an investigation.

120 **BERRY:** Okay, well I feel like you've addressed most of this already, but just to specifically ask, did  
121 you ever ask AC DAY a question about whether or not directives apply to the chief?

122 **STEINBRONN:** I didn't ask it that way. What I was trying to get at is, was there two standards? Was  
123 there a standard for the chief and was there a standard to the officer and how do we reconcile that and  
124 is – if there's a change, then our officers need to know that there is a change. That it's not immediately  
125 a reporting requirement. What I'm trying to get at is, my officers had a lot of questions as to this  
126 immediate reporting requirement and why it wasn't done immediately. Why did it wait four days, so  
127 does that mean they don't have to? I thought it was a fair question. I was trying to review the directives  
128 and I was trying to apply them evenly from the officer to the chief of police and I was trying to get  
129 clarification on that procedure.

130 **BERRY:** Yeah, well here we are at the end of October. Do you remember AC DAY's exact words  
131 when he responded to that?

132 **STEINBRONN:** I don't remember his exact words, but it was – and again, I preface this with I don't  
133 believe this is what he meant. I believe his response was something to the effect of the directives don't  
134 necessarily apply to the chief, but again, I go back to I think it was nonintentional wording. I don't  
135 think it was the – his intent behind that statement was that when you're the chief of police and you're  
136 required to report your direct supervisor, the direct supervisor would – in his words, you know, would  
137 be the mayor and, you know, he did that four days, you know, later. There is no well, should I report it  
138 to my assistant chief even though he's not my direct supervisor. Should I report it to a supervisor? It  
139 gets a little – I believe that there was a little bit of a grey area.

140 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

**CONFIDENTIAL TAPED STATEMENT**

**IPR #2016-B-0030**  
**/ Rich Steinbronn**

**October 28, 2016**  
**Page 4 of 5**

141 **STEINBRONN:** There, so I don't believe he – I'm trying to clarify. I don't believe that he meant the  
142 directives do not apply to the chief. I just think he believes that he meant that the direction and method  
143 that that is made differs when you're the chief of police because your only boss, your only direct  
144 supervisor is the mayor of the city of Portland. I truly think it was just wording and not intent or  
145 meaning.

146 **BERRY:** Okay, was there kind of a – was there a reaction in the room in the meeting participants  
147 after he made that kind of poorly worded or misworded statement?

148 **STEINBRONN:** I believe there was surprise.

149 **BERRY:** Surprise? Yeah.

150 **STEINBRONN:** That that's the case because, you know, the directives do say members and we are  
151 all sworn members and the directive is very clear on members will.

152 **BERRY:** Okay.

153 **STEINBRONN:** So there was a surprise, but again, I don't believe – in talking to others, I believe  
154 from what I heard everybody believes that it was just miswording. It was not intent at all.

155 **BERRY:** Well and do you recall after – so he says his thing. Maybe doesn't express it well, kind of a  
156 reaction, did he go on to clarify his statement? Did he talk more about what he meant?

157 **STEINBRONN:** No, we talked a little bit more about what happened afterwards and then we moved  
158 on to actual, you know, the reason that we were there at the staff meeting. Supervisors staff meeting  
159 for East Precinct.

160 **BERRY:** Okay, and did commander HENRY ever – HENDRIE ever say anything about what AC  
161 DAY might have meant about that statement?

162 **STEINBRONN:** No, there was no specific clarification. Just that – and again, I – Commander  
163 HENDRIE at the time did say a few things, but it was more along the lines of trying to clarify and try –  
164 his statement that that was not necessarily the intent, but that the directives can be a little vague in  
165 direction when you are the chief of police.

166 **BERRY:** Kind of the further up you go the pyramid?

167 **STEINBRONN:** Exactly, exactly.

168 **BERRY:** All right, do you remember how that portion of the conversation in the meeting concluded?

169 **STEINBRONN:** No, it was – we took a break and then we came back and we moved on to the actual  
170 staff meeting relating to East Precinct.

171 **BERRY:** Okay.

172 **STEINBRONN:** It was fairly short. It wasn't that long.

173 **BERRY:** All right, did you ever have any follow up with anyone at PSD about AC DAY'S statement  
174 following that meeting?

175 **STEINBRONN:** PSD?

176 **BERRY:** Professional Standards Division, sorry.

177 **STEINBRONN:** Oh, no.

178 **BERRY:** No.

179 **STEINBRONN:** No, just this interview. It definitely got out. I was out on a CNT – several CNT  
180 callouts and people come up to me and asked, was this really said during that staff meeting and the  
181 whole telephone game throughout the Portland Police Bureau, so I've heard many a thing come back.

182 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

183 **STEINBRONN:** Somethings, you know, were brought up in the meeting, some things weren't  
184 brought up in the meeting. It's the whole, you know, rumor mill type of thing.

185 **BERRY:** Oh yeah.

**CONFIDENTIAL TAPED STATEMENT**

**IPR #2016-B-0030**  
**/ Rich Steinbronn**

**October 28, 2016**  
**Page 5 of 5**

186 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, so I have heard many times from many people that they heard about this  
187 meeting, but weren't there to actually hear and know exactly what was said.  
188 **BERRY:** All right, and I've been asking everyone, I've been talking to about this, have you yourself  
189 had any contact with anyone from Harney County Sheriff or Oregon State Police, Oregon DOJ about  
190 this thing?  
191 **STEINBRONN:** No.  
192 **BERRY:** No?  
193 **STEINBRONN:** Nobody.  
194 **BERRY:** About this thing? No, all right. Do you have an opinion about what AC DAY'S obligations  
195 were after he learned about the negligent discharge?  
196 **STEINBRONN:** No, and the only reason I don't have an opinion about that is I'm not privy to all the  
197 facts of the case. I – it would be remiss of me to apply the directives to only a limited number of facts.  
198 That's why I was trying to get some clarification, but again, I don't know the whole story, so I can't  
199 offer a valid opinion just due to the lack of information.  
200 **BERRY:** Okay, all right, I feel like I got a handle on the things I hoped to ask you today. Investigator  
201 PEREZ anything you want to add?  
202 **PEREZ:** Hm-mm.  
203 **BERRY:** No? You know, I do have one dumb clarification question. You told me that you don't  
204 remember the exact date that you learned about the negligent discharge. Just to clarify this meeting  
205 took place after you learned of the negligent discharge?  
206 **STEINBRONN:** Yes, yes, yes, sir.  
207 **BERRY:** Yeah, I feel like it was pretty clear from what we talked about. All right, Sergeant  
208 PASHLEY is there anything you'd like to ask or clarify? No? President TURNER anything?  
209 **TURNER:** No.  
210 **BERRY:** No? All right, I think that's everything. Thanks so much for coming in.  
211 **STEINBRONN:** Cool, thank you very much.  
212 **PASHLEY:** Interview concluded at 8:48.  
213  
214 RUSH steinbronn.rich.10.28.16.int.trs  
215 Transcribed 10/31/2016 @ 5:00 p.m. Halla Stonehouse