

TAPED INTERVIEW
OF
POLICE OFFICER ROBERT SINGH, DSN 6357
DATED
MARCH 15, 2007

- SGT. PEARSON: This is Sgt. Sheila Pearson, Investigator, of the Internal Affairs Division. Today is Thursday, March 15, and the time is approximately 10 uh 34 a.m. This interview is being conducted in the office of the Internal Affairs. Conducting this interview will be Commander of Internal Affairs uh Capt. John Hayden; uh Deputy Commander Lt. Jack Huelsmann; Sgt. Sue McClain and myself. Also present in the room is Officer Robert Singh, DSN 6357, and his attorney Brian Mulligan. This interview is being conducted regarding an allegation of uh conduct unbecoming stemming from arrests made during the ticket scalping detail throughout the St. Louis Cardinals World-Series in October of 2006. Officer Singh I see that you have signed the Advise of Rights Form. Did your attorney have the opportunity to explain them to you?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: You do understand if you refuse to answer any questions, if you lie during this interview or give any misleading answers it will lead to departmental charges and possibly discharge?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Uh firstly I would like to draw your attention to an arrest that you made on October 25, 2006 and it's bearing complaint number 06088953. Can you give us ah brief summary of this arrest?
- P.O. SINGH: Uh it was a ticket scalping arrest uh. Individual approached and wanted to sell baseball tickets for the World-Series over face value and after, after that we identified ourselves as police officers and placed him under arrest.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok. You say we, uh who was your assist on this?
- P.O. SINGH: Michael Ehnes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok and was he with you during the time of this arrest?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: So he was present, by your side, when you made the arrest of Mr. Johnson?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: And um who actually placed Mr. Johnson under arrest?

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P.O. SINGH: I did.

SGT. PEARSON: You did? And uh who seized evidence from Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: I did.

SGT. PEARSON: Yourself and exactly what evidence was seized off of Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: Uh two baseball tickets.

SGT. PEARSON: Two World-Series baseball tickets?

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: And um what else if any was seized from Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: Nothing else.

SGT. PEARSON: Nothing else? Was there any money that was taken from Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: There was no money taken from Mr. Johnson at all.

SGT. PEARSON: Ummmm

LT. HUELSMANN: Where, were you, your, so this not confused, I mean let's talk about property seized as for evidentiary value in the case. Ok and the police report's in front of you and we're talking about two World-Series tickets, ok.

P.O. SINGH: What was the question again?

SGT. PEARSON: What property was taken from Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: Property related to the...

SGT. PEARSON: Arrest

P.O. SINGH: evidence.

LT. HUELSMANN: Of evidentiary value. Now the arrest register, which we have a copy of we'll talk about the property that was packaged you know from him during the

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booking process. So maybe, when you said no money was taken from him you might have been thinking in terms of evidence.

- P.O. SINGH: Correct. That's what I, I meant.
- LT. HUELSMANN: Ok.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And, um so the only thing taken as evidence is the two tickets. Am I right?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um at the time of arrest, was he arrested or summonsed?
- P.O. SINGH: He was arrested.
- SGT. PEARSON: And at the time that you were arresting Mr. Johnson where were those two tickets placed?
- P.O. SINGH: I had just held on to them.
- SGT. PEARSON: As in your pocket, on your person, you held on to the tickets?
- P.O. SINGH: Yeah on my person.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And at the time of arrest was he making anyyy comments regarding money?
- P.O. SINGH: He, he wanted us to count his money at the uh scene and then he uh he was upset about his tickets being seized. He was out money cause of that.
- SGT. PEARSON: And what do you remember specifically what he said about that?
- P.O. SINGH: He said that uh to, he talked about saying how much he paid for the tickets. He paid like a \$1000 for a ticket he was trying to sell them to us for \$2000 and then uh he just, he once we told him that these tickets were being seized as evidence, he basically got very upset knowing that we, he wasn't gonna be able to sell them.
- SGT. PEARSON: And, so again with you during this entire time with uh your assist, Officer Ehnes, is that correct?

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- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Uh where was Mr. Johnson booked?
- LT. HUELSMANN: Sheila let's back up to what you had said earlier. Uh detective about uh he made a comment or requested you to count his money. Where was that request made, and, duh the follow-up would be is what did you do about his request?
- P.O. SINGH: We he just asked if, if we would count his money and then we just counted it.
- LT. HUELSMANN: But where was that?
- P.O. SINGH: At the arrest location down off of Broadway right there. Down by, by by the hotel and then we he asked to count it. We just counted it there and placed the money back in his pocket. And then eventually took him back to Central Patrol and that's where we booked him.
- LT. HUELSMANN: And then how much money did you find?
- P.O. SINGH: It was life 500 and 30....6, 39 dollars. Whatever, whatever was on, documented on the uh on the arrest register.
- LT. HUELSMANN: And then you, did, did you or uh Officer Ehnes, or Off, Johnson, did you say what you did with that money? Did you give it back to him or did you keep the, was it in his wallet or in his, you said a pocket?
- P.O. SINGH: Yeah it was just in his pocket.
- LT. HUELSMANN: Did you give it back to him?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes we gave it back to him after we counted it at the scene.
- LT. HUELSMANN: Right. Ok, then you took him to, did, did you convey him to Central Patrol or did uh somebody else?
- P.O. SINGH: It was myself and Michael Ehnes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Uh now while at Central Patrol Station um what his money again counted there at the station?

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- P.O. SINGH: yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok and where were you at when you counted the money at the station?
- P.O. SINGH: We went, we were in the holdover area.
- SGT. PEARSON: And, um who counted the money at the station?
- P.O. SINGH: I did.
- SGT. PEARSON: You counted the money there. Um....now when you counted the second time was Officer Ehnes present?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: He was present again. Throughout the arrest even though he, he was, he was indicating that he was unhappy about money situations and how much of the price of the tickets. Was your sergeant notified at all?
- P.O. SINGH: He was at the scene. We, we notice, uh we notified him of the arrest.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok and was anything said to your sergeant that he was complaining about money or price of the tickets uh any complaints whatsoever.
- P.O. SINGH: He didn't make any complaints about missing money or anything he just wanted us to count the money at the scene and then, there, there was really a nonissue at the time. He didn't make anymore complaints to us about money missing or anything like that. Once we counted the money he was, he seemed like he was satisfied.
- SGT. PEARSON: So after you completed the booking of Mr. Johnson, um, what happened with the tickets after you completed the booking?
- P.O. SINGH: Eventually they ended up in the uh in our vehicle.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok and then what happened with the tickets?
- P.O. SINGH: Uh Det. Ehnes uh asked if his son and I believe wife could go to the baseball game and at that time didn't think anything of it. He got the tickets.

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SGT. PEARSON: So when your talking about they, you're talking about two tickets that were taken as evidence. He asked you if he could have the tickets?

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Is that correct? And what was your response?

P.O. SINGH: I gave them to him.

SGT. PEARSON: Did you object in any way to his request?

P.O. SINGH: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Sooo at that point you handed over the tickets to your partner, Officer Ehnes?

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: And what did he in turn do with the tickets?

P.O. SINGH: I....I'm not sure. I believe he gave them to his wife and son.

SGT. PEARSON: You're not sure? Do you know for sure what he did with the tickets?

P.O. SINGH: I don't know for sure what exactly was (inaudible). Once they were in his possession I don't know.

SGT. PEARSON: Once they were in his possession

P.O. SINGH: I don't know.

SGT. PEARSON: you didn't keep track of them is that what you're saying?

P.O. SINGH: No he...he was gonna give them back to me after his wife and uh son went to the baseball game.

SGT. PEARSON: Um were you with him when he met with his wife?

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: And did you see him hand over the tickets to his wife?

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P.O. SINGH: I didn't see him hand over nothing. He met with his wife.

SGT. PEARSON: And where did he meet with his wife?

P.O. SINGH: It was downtown somewhere.

SGT. PEARSON: At the ballpark, somewhere else?

P.O. SINGH: I'm....I don't wanna say...I'm not exactly sure honestly.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So to your recollection he did give the tickets to his wife and um it was to attend the game. Is that what he stated to you, for the, the his wife and son to attend the game. Is that correct?

P.O. SINGH: Yeah those was the intentions. I don't know if he actually gave them the tickets I'm assuming he did. So, so I, I never saw him hand the tickets over.

SGT. PEARSON: Do you recall when he made the phone call to his wife about the tickets?

P.O. SINGH: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Had you guys made, had the discussions prior to the arrest about what was gonna be done with tickets that you seized?

P.O. SINGH: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Um so later that evening did you sergeant at all question you about Mr. Johnson's arrest?

P.O. SINGH: Uh he just stated uh he just asked about the arrest, what had happened. That was uh later in the evening.

SGT. PEARSON: So your sergeant is, and your sergeant is who?

P.O. SINGH: Joseph Crews.

SGT. PEARSON: So Sgt. Crews where were you, where were you at when he asked you these questions?

P.O. SINGH: We were downtown at the is that the sold, soldier's memorial

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SGT. PEARSON: Ok.

P.O. SINGH: where the uh, where they had em blocked off for the uh, I guess for the common van, command van and all that.

SGT. PEARSON: So Sgt. Crews came up to you while you were there at the soldier's memorial and specifically what did he ask you?

P.O. SINGH: I think he just asked about the arrest, what happened. That was it.

SGT. PEARSON: So did he ask you if you had taken \$2000 from Mr. Johnson?

P.O. SINGH: I believe he did ask I guess he did mention uh that he was complaining about some missing money and uh we just told him we didn't take any money from him.

SGT. PEARSON: Um, from that um....did you or Officer Singh attend the baseball game?

P.O. SINGH: I am Officer Singh.

SGT. PEARSON: I'm sorry.

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Ehnes. Did you or Officer Ehnes attend the baseball game?

P.O. SINGH: No.

SGT. PEARSON: So uh-----this day that you seized the tickets you did not attend the baseball game at all?

P.O. SINGH: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Um when was your did, to your knowledge was your sergeant aware of what had happened with these tickets?

P.O. SINGH: I don't know.

SGT. PEARSON: Had you ever discussed with your sergeant what happened with the tickets?

P.O. SINGH: Uh I think later when this investigation came up in discussion.

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- SGT. PEARSON: So that was the first time that you had discussed it with your sergeant was after this allegation came out?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: And when were you aware that your sergeant, your lieutenant was aware of this uh of what had happened with the tickets?
- P.O. SINGH: Same as the sergeant it's when the investigation came about.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um have you ever been contacted by anyone on this department, police officers, commanders about receiving tickets from scalping details?
- P.O. SINGH: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: No. Um. In speaking with some of the other officers in Narcotics office it said that um for lack of better word that it's common knowledge that you could do this with tickets. Had you ever heard of that in the Narcotics office.
- P.O. SINGH: I've never heard of it but, I mean if you, you, I think if you know if the tickets had scanned I think people just assume that they scan the tickets they get the ticket back. I, I don't know if its common knowledge. No one, no one talked about it at least not to me.
- SGT. PEARSON: So you never heard conversation in the Narcotics office about that?
- P.O. SINGH: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um...Lieutenant do you have any questions?
- LT. HUELSMANN: No.
- SGT. MCCLAIN: No.
- CAPT. HAYDEN: I just want to know uh detective when uh Rich Johnson asked you to count his money on the scene did he say why he wanted money counted at the scene?
- P.O. SINGH: He, he felt like the police, I guess maybe he thought the police had stole money from him before so he said...I mean he was pretty irate he just said I want you guy, I know how you guys are. I want you, I want you to count my

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money. And I didn't have a problem counting his money so I counted his money from him and you know sent him along his way after we counted the money he was he seemed satisfied he wasn't unhappy until we got back to the station. Seems just that uh we, we told him he was getting booked and the tickets were being seized. He didn't seem unhappy about that.

SGT. PEARSON: Uh and when did you receive these tickets back?

P.O. SINGH: (gasp for air) Later on in the evening. Or, or after the baseball game.

SGT. PEARSON: So later that evening after the game....

P.O. SINGH: I believe.

SGT. PEARSON: you received the ticket back.

P.O. SINGH: But I'm not sure it could have been the next day.

SGT. PEARSON: And what was done with those tickets after you received those tickets back?

P.O. SINGH: I believe they were put in the uh safe at the Narcotics office. I think the supervisor's safe.

LT. HUELSMANN: Well according to the police report you can look at it. You're, you're listed on the property screen as being the seizing officer so I assume then that you would have been the packaging officer.

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

LT. HUELSMANN: Is that right?

P.O. SINGH: Yes.

LT. HUELSMANN: Based on from what you....from what you remember. Or are you using the police report as to uh help you with your memory?

P.O. SINGH: I'm using the police report to help me with my memory, but I was the seizing officer.

LT. HUELSMANN: Alright.

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- SGT. PEARSON: Now we're gonna uh move to the uh second arrest that you took part in. You were actually the assisting and that arrest was took place on October 25 and the complaint number 06088366. Um can you give us some details about that arrest as you remember it?
- P.O. SINGH: We were working the undercover uh ticket scalping detail and were approached by uh individual who wanted to sell tickets at over face value. And we placed him under arrest and then I believe he uh we released him on summons.
- SGT. PEARSON: And uh at the time of arrest or during the summons who actually is the seizing officer on this?
- P.O. SINGH: Michael Ehnes.
- SGT. PEARSON: And during the time of the summons what was done with those tickets?
(clears throat)
- P.O. SINGH: I don't know. I, Det. Ehnes took 'em so I assumed they were in his possession.
- SGT. PEARSON: Do you have any um are you aware of what was done with the tickets after the summons?
- P.O. SINGH: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: You're not aware of what happened with those tickets at all?
- P.O. SINGH: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: Did you and Office, Officer Ehnes have a conversation about uh his intentions with those tickets?
- P.O. SINGH: Uhhhhhh, I think he, he was gonna end up giving 'em to his wife and kids, ur wife and son.
- SGT. PEARSON: So you were aware of what he was gonna do?
- P.O. SINGH: Yeah later.

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- SGT. PEARSON: So there was a conversation that you and he actually had and he um informed you of what his intentions were.
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: And were you with him when he met with his wife?
- P.O. SINGH: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um so you observed him hand those tickets over to his wife?
- P.O. SINGH: No I didn't see him hand anything over to her, I was just looking, I was looking in the car when he met with his wife. I, I wasn't there when they talked or anything like that I was just uh in the car.
- SGT. PEARSON: And at that time that he told you his intentions, did you object in any way, did you, what was your response to him?
- P.O. SINGH: I, I, I didn't object.
- SGT. PEARSON: You didn't object. Um and in your, to your knowledge his wife, his son attended the game, is that correct?
- P.O. SINGH: I wou, I would assume so. I don't know.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um in looking at this the tickets, um...., actually let me rewind it. Um when to your knowledge was the sergeant aware of what happened with these tickets?
- P.O. SINGH: With the kind of investigation came about.
- SGT. PEARSON: And the lieutenant what do, do you know when he became aware of it?
- P.O. SINGH: After, once the investigation came about.
- SGT. PEARSON: And do you have any knowledge of when he uh received those tickets back or packaged them with the others?
- P.O. SINGH: I do not.
- SGT. PEARSON: Lieutenant do you have any questions?

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LT. HUELSMANN: Just for clarification sake uh, detective, we're talking about what knowledge, or uh, Sgt. Crews had of this and then Lt. Deeba, but there's four other sergeants assigned to Vice/Narcotics at the time; Sgt. Sloan, Lachenicht, Morici, and Boone. Did you specifically tell, and then this, add Lt. Deeba in there. During this World-Series detail did you specifically inform any of those six individuals that Det. Ehnes had allowed other people to use those tickets to go to the World-Series?

P.O. SINGH: I did not.

LT. HUELSMANN: But once this, theeee rumors of our investigation in here in Internal Affairs surfaced then it became knowledge around the office?

P.O. SINGH: Yeah once in the, the, the investigation came about that's when everyone kind of knew something. That you guys were investigating the ticket scalping.

LT. HUELSMANN: Uh huh. We had a conversation with Det. Ehnes before and uh so Mr. Mulligan is aware of this uh issue that I'm somewhat confused with. The, the arrest that was made on the 25th where Melvin Hackett was summonsed and released, two tickets were seized. Now that's the Wednesday game that was rained out and then played on the 27th the day of Eric Johnson's arrest, where two additional tickets were used, alright, were seized. And then detect, or uh Officer Ehnes tells us that, that the tickets that he gave that he got from uh Melvin Hackett were given to his wife and and son to use that Wednesday game, which was played again on Friday. But then that his wife and son also used two addition, the two tickets from Eric Johnson to attend the rain out game on the 27th. So we've got two people using four tickets to go to the game on the 27th. Did you, can you shed any light on how that could be possible?

P.O. SINGH: I have no idea. I mean I just know that he gave the tickets, I gave the tickets to him that I seized. I mean other, other than that I got 'em back and I don't know about two other ticke, the other two tickets.

LT. HUELSMANN: You know in other words you know the possibility might exist that Mrs. Ehnes gave two tickets to two other people. I don't know, I don't know, but you don't have any first or second hand knowledge about that.

P.O. SINGH: No, I, I don't know.

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LT. HUELSMANN: Right.

P.O. SINGH: I don't know. I have no idea.

LT. HUELSMANN: Alright.

SGT. PEARSON: Sgt. McClain you have any questions?

SGT. MCCLAIN: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Capt. do you have any questions? Alright this concludes the interview. The time is now um 11:55. Correction on the time the time is now 10:55.

END OF INTERVIEW

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