

TAPED INTERVIEW
OF
SERGEANT JOSEPH CREWS, DSN 3679
DATED
MARCH 16, 2007

SGT. PEARSON: This is Sgt. Sheila Pearson, investigator of the Internal Affairs Division and today is Friday, March 16, 2007 and the time is approximately 3:20 p.m. Um I'm conducting this interview in the office of the Internal Affairs. Um present is Commander of Internal Affairs Capt. John Hayden, Deputy Commander Lt. Jack Huelsmann, um also present in the room is Sgt. Joseph Crews, DSN 3679, and his attorney Jim Towey. This interview is being conducted regarding allegations of conduct unbecoming stemming from arrests made during the ticket scalping detail throughout the St. Louis Cardinals World-Series in October of 2006. Sgt. Crews I see that you have signed the Advise of Rights Form. Has your attorney had an opportunity to explain that to you?

ATTY. TOWEY: Joe you understand what this uh, what this form allows you to do is to make a statement to uh Sgt. Pearson uh relative to the internal investigation and nothing you say in that statement can be used against in an subsequent criminal prosecution, should there be one? Is that your understanding of what those rights are?

SGT. CREWS: Yes it is.

ATTY. TOWEY: Ok and that's the basis upon which you are making your statement?

SGT. CREWS: Yes it is.

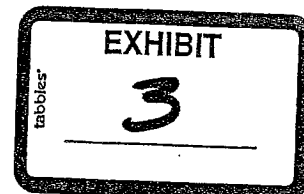
ATTY. TOWEY: Ok.

SGT. PEARSON: And do you understand that if you refuse to answer any questions if you give any misleading answers or false responses it could uh lead to departmental discharges and possibly discharge.

SGT. CREWS: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Sgt. Crews um at first time I just want to talk about the Narcotics office and in general talking about um your procedures on evidence. Um, where evidence is placed, um, determining factor on where it's placed at, um just overall overview of the Narcotics office and handling procedures.

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SGT. CREWS: Uh the only evidence that held internally in Narcotics is non-drug evidence. Uh, obviously anything that goes to the lab will go to the lab; firearms, drugs. Non-drug evidence such consent to search, worthless documents, uh evidence of drug crimes is kept on the first floor in an evidence locker. That evidence is placed in there by the seizing detective, awaiting the warrant information and after the warrant information is uh determined the evidence is conveyed down to property custody. There's a log book in the uh, the uh locker where they log the evidence that they place in the locker and then the locker is secured.

SGT. PEARSON: Is there a secondary, uh, place that you store evidence?

SGT. CREWS: At least two safes that uh are capable of storing other evidence via if it's money, certainly money would be stored in the safe, but if it's a small piece of evidence that's for whatever reason when the safe that, that's an also an opportunity (inaudible)

SGT. PEARSON: You mention there's two safes so where are the two safes located at?

SGT. CREWS: Sgt. Boone has a safe and uh there's also I believe Sgt. Morici has a safe and there's also a safe for the uh general office. So there's three safes.

SGT. PEARSON: So there's a total of three safes?

SGT. CREWS: Yeah.

SGT. PEARSON: So let's start with um safe number one you said its in Sgt. Boone's office. Uh who has access to Sgt. Boone's office?

SGT. CREWS: Uhh primarily Sgt. Boone.

SGT. PEARSON: So he's the only one that has the combination for that safe? I'm assuming combination is that what's needed.....?

SGT. CREWS: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: The combination, ok? So is he the uh only one who has a combination to that?

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SGT. CREWS: I have a combination to it as well. He, he provide me with one but I, it's written down at my desk I don't, I don't know what it is right now.

SGT. PEARSON: And so you said there's a general office safe, where's that one located at?

SGT. CREWS: Well (inaudible) whether than now.

SGT. PEARSON: Actually yes, yes at the time, the, the

SGT. CREWS: That would be

SGT. PEARSON: in October of 2006.

SGT. CREWS: It was uh the office safe was contained in uh Lt. Deeba's office.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok.

SGT. CREWS: And it, that, that primar, that is rarely used for evidence it's primarily the operations funds for the building.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok, so its uh, its, you, uh, eh, so when we say uh

SGT. CREWS: You can rule that out as an evidence (inaudible)

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So it's not used as evidence, but there was another one you said that Sgt. Morici has a safe also.

SGT. CREWS: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok.

SGT. CREWS: He, he's on the first floor uh near the evidence locker and I'm not familiar with Sgt. Morici does with his safe. He may or may not use it for evidence, I don't know.

SGT. PEARSON: So if I'm an officer what would be my determining factor in which safe I would place my evidence in? Such as tickets let's be more

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specific, tickets for the scalping detail. How would I determine which safe I'm gonna place my property in?

SGT. CREWS: Probably depend

LT. HUELSMANN: Are you saying, but it could be that...

SGT. PEARSON: Or cage. I think you called it cage.

LT. HUELSMANN: We've heard this locker, we've heard it referred to as a cage, and then we've heard it referred to as a closet. So we've got the general idea. It's not safe. There's not a safe in this locker?

SGT. CREWS: No.

LT. HUELSMANN: Alright so we'll know what you're talking about if you say cage versus safe, alright, well anyways.

SGT. CREWS: If you were to ask your sergeant did you had something to put away it would, I guess it would, I guess if, if sergeant, this would be up to Sgt. Boone but I would typically just say put it in the cage.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok.

SGT. CREWS: But if somebody were to uh one of my guys were to ask Sgt. Boone if he was on his floor ur the cage is on the second, first floor, we're on the second, for his convenience he may just say give it to me I'll put it right here. So I guess it would be determined by who you would ask.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So there's no uh real value or um because it's one item or the other its not necessarily the determining factor.

SGT. CREWS: Money certainly wouldn't go into the cage on the first floor, but I, I would, I could see where somebody would put tickets onto the safe only because it's an envelope and its small enough that its not uh over crowding the safe and if its gonna be (inaudible) I can see where they'll happen, but typically I would think that they would go into the cage.

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- SGT. PEARSON: And you talk about this evidence that's in either the safe or the cage um how often is that evidence brought down to the property section?
- SGT. CREWS: I would say every couple of weeks the, that the locker is cleared out. And then um usually a couple of detectives would take the contents down to the property custody.
- SGT. PEARSON: So would it be safe to say twice a month, once a month?
- SGT. CREWS: I would say that, that would be my best guess, yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Which is about once....?
- SGT. CREWS: Once or twice a month.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And uh let's kind of start talking about specifically this detail, the detail in October of 2006. Um was there a type of a briefing or roll call during this detail?
- SGT. CREWS: Uh I, I believe we were... remember the very beginning of it.
- LT. HUELSMANN: Well you can and then you know, cause Sgt. Boone I think uh, uh, just to make it clear for sergeant, Sgt. Boone that same question was posed to him uh you know. The scalping detail we're talking about, we're, we're focusing on the World-Series, but we also had a, a couple of playoff series here, which you guys might very well had a scalping deal, detail set up for the series with the Mets and whatever leading up to the World-Series, so, so if there was a briefing or the ticket scalping detail for the uh whole entire Cardinal playoff World-Series then lets talk about that.
- SGT. CREWS: The best reca, I can recall and its speaking in general I think what happened was we all gathered for the first event when we were told we're doing scalping then we kind of, kind of gave it (inaudible) here's what we're gonna do at the scalping undercover try to uh, try to develop a deal with uh a person on the street and then there was, you know you would arrest him, write him a summons and then that's kind of going over the protocol what we would do during this event. And I, and I kind of recall probably doing that at the very beginning so everybody knew what they were, what was

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expected of them. And then uh there after I think you know there's probably five or six games that we worked and I think there after everybody was relying upon their first initial meeting knowing what they were, was expected of them.

SGT. PEARSON: And at that time were there guidelines set for arrests and summonses? Uh who was, who were what suspects were to be arrested, which ones were to be summonsed, was there, was there any guidelines set for that?

SGT. CREWS: Yes the summonses that were issued to local scalpers who, who lived in the area and uh arrest for summons were issued to people that were (inaudible) in the area.

SGT. PEARSON: And property uh related uh from those arrests what was, what was done or what was line line, guideline was set for property what they were to do with property after the arrest was completed?

SGT. CREWS: Uh any property relating to tickets ur, that was about the only kind of property seized, was to be seized and placed at our uh office.

SGT. PEARSON: And while their on the scene let's say at the ballpark how or how would, how were you expecting these detectives to seize it or where were this you determined uh that they were to place that property after each....?

SGT. CREWS: The seizing officer was just expected as with any evidence to retain the evidence until they could properly secure it at the station.

SGT. PEARSON: So on their person.....?

SGT. CREWS: On their persons probably would have been best or else locked in their vehicle.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So how would they assure that the tickets weren't getting mixed up? Arrest number one mixed with arrest number five or any of that. How did you, how were they making sure that that wasn't occurring?

SGT. CREWS: I...you know I, I would rely on the detectives to do that. I, I didn't set the standards for them just how to package or place your own

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property, but um I would hope that they were able to eliminate the confusion themselves.

- SGT. PEARSON: Um their reports, was there any guidelines given to report what information is needed to put in the report um or when you review them are you looking for specific information to be in those reports?
- SGT. CREWS: To establish the elements of the crime and a brief summary of what happened, where they were, person asked for the value, whatever value and to show that exceeded the value on the ticket, thus establishing a crime and then it was relatively a short report a paragraph or two would be needed for most.
- SGT. PEARSON: And was there ever an audit of property indicated in the report and actual property that was seized? Was there, have you as their supervisor ever audited any of those reports?
- SGT. CREWS: Me or all, you mean to match all the property for the uh the reports?
- SGT. PEARSON: Uh lets say just to make sure that the uh they're filling out the property screen possibly correctly or to make sure that they're properly matching evidence in the report that if he said two tickets he did seize two tickets; simple like that.
- SGT. CREWS: To sit there I would rely on the detectives to complete the report accurately.
- SGT. PEARSON: So you had not completed any type of periodic checks or anything like that?
- SGT. CREWS: I did not check to match the receipts to see if the numbers matched.
- LT. HUELSMANN: You know so in other words if you, you know just leveled up this report that says uh officer X seized six tickets perhaps walked into the property room to see if it's actually logged in there. You would take the word, the report, the property screen would indicate that.
- SGT. CREWS: Yes.

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- LT. HUELSMANN: but did you, I, I guess you answered no, but make sure that that that's the correct answer.
- SGT. CREWS: No. I, I relied on the detectives to prepare his report professionally and (inaudible)
- LT. HUELSMANN: Ok.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um with your crew ah were they given instructions to notify you after each arrest or summons?
- SGT. CREWS: Yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: And uh were you on the scene during these, lets say three day, last three days of the game 24th thru the 27th. Where you on the scene there at the ballpark?
- SGT. CREWS: I was usually riding in my vehicle in the area.
- SGT. PEARSON: And when you say in the area, what, what, so you weren't there during scalping, scalping details you were.....?
- SGT. CREWS: No I would have been there I mean in the immediate area. But, you know, not necessarily same block but certainly somewhere around the ballpark.
- SGT. PEARSON: So did you respond on the arrests or the summonses when the officers.....?
- SGT. CREWS: Some of them yes.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um see. Lets talk about um one case were you were notified by I think Central Patrol that there was a Mr. Johnson, Eric Johnson uh indicating that one of your officers had stolen money from him. At some point you, you received a phone call. Ur I, I'm assuming a phone call. Was it a phone or?
- SGT. CREWS: Yes.

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- SGT. PEARSON: And (clears throat) what were you being told that Mr. Johnson complaint was?
- SGT. CREWS: That he was missing money from his arrest.
- SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And upon being notified what, what steps did you take?
- SGT. CREWS: Ultimately I responded to Area II to speak to Mr. Johnson.
- SGT. PEARSON: What did Mr. Johnson explain to you?
- SGT. CREWS: He explained to me that he was arrested for scalping earlier in the day and during the course of his arrest he was conveyed to Area II, where he was being booked and during his booking procedures he said that he had in the neighborhood of \$2500 and he said that when they were putting his money into the property envelope I believe he noted that there was like \$500 and he asked where the other \$2000 was. And he said that he had a conversation right before (inaudible-machine buzzing) property receipts. Money, money that belonged to him that wasn't present and he said that ultimately when he was released he had no, no receipts of the \$2000 that was now not there and he uh believed money was taken by the office, by the arresting officers.
- SGT. PEARSON: At that time what did you do?
- SGT. CREWS: Prior to arriving at Mr. Johnson's location I had asked the desk personnel to have him fill out a uh uh complaint form because I was, I had to make him sit for several minutes I didn't want him to sit idly and I didn't, I didn't want to waste his time, so he did fill out the form. So after he explained to me and I looked at the form and saw that his information was correct on the form and understood the gist of his complaint, uh, I advised him that we would follow-up on the complaint and I allowed him to leave.
- SGT. PEARSON: So was there an investigation or anything done that night into this?
- SGT. CREWS: No at that, at that time the Cardinals had just won the World-Series. They established the command post and they advised all of uh officers that were working to respond to the command post because they expected uh crowds or violence whatever they did.

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So at that time I took the compliant form and spoke, and uh I spoke to Lt. Deeba, told him what was going on. He said forward the complaint form to Internal Affairs to Internal Affairs in the morning and that a follow-up investigation would occur.

LT. HUELSMANN: Did you uh question the arresting and assisting officers sometime over that? This is on a Friday evening, say that night or over the course of the weekend about Mr. Johnson's claim?

SGT. CREWS: Prior to taking the complaint I, I called them and I said I'm going to speak with this, this uh man about some uh apparent missing money or supposedly missing money. And to clarify that possibly the money was seized and there was confusion between the, the arrested suspect and the policeman I wanted to make sure this, the \$2000 wasn't there maybe it was Asset Forfeiture ur somehow explainable. So they said no, there's, there's no \$2000 involved. He had \$500 it was marked and put, put, in, in his property. So after speaking with Mr. Johnson it, it became clear to me this wasn't a matter of confusion. This was an allegation of theft and then from that point I did not question the officers any further; aware that your office would conduct the investigation. So I, I let it at that. Once I realized that it was gonna be handled as a theft I didn't probe it any further.

LT. HUELSMANN: Did Mr. Johnson mention to you that he believed there was, there was a possibility that the two tickets seized from him were, were mishandled by one or either of those two detectives?

SGT. CREWS: He didn't, no. He did not say that the night of his arrest.

LT. HUELSMANN: Cause he eventually tells Sgt. Pearson that.

SGT. CREWS: Yes. He did not say that at the scene or I would have, or I, I remember him, I recalled a conversation and I know that he did not say.

SGT. PEARSON: Um (clears throat) in speaking with several of the detectives from your office um....or actually let me ask you when did you first become aware then that um this case was or that there was something going on in your office regarding scanned tickets? When did you first become aware of that?

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- SGT. CREWS: Probably the day that you responded and took a stack of tickets was the day that people realized that somebody was physically looking into the uh the integrity of the ticket itself.
- SGT. PEARSON: And in speaking with several of the detectives there from your office um they have said that um using their words it was common knowledge that this could be done with these tickets. It could be scanned and then placed into evidence.
- LT. HUELSMANN: That there was conversation, you know, a couple of detectives were was tell us that there was conversation in the office by unnamed we don't remember who said it but I heard conversation about uh you can give your tickets to somebody as long as you get the tickets back you could put 'em into back into property and nobody would be the wiser. Now that's, I'm paraphrasing the scenario, but that was the gist of their conversation. But what they ended up doing you know could be done thinking...so did you hear overhear any conversation in the office about conceptually this could be done.
- SGT. CREWS: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um were you personally aware of any officers uh giving tickets to their family members um to attend the World-Series?
- SGT. CREWS: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um have you received any requests by any department member, whether it be officers, civilians, commanders; have you received any requests from anyone requesting tickets that have been scalped from the scalping detail to attend events? Have you ever heard of or do you have knowledge of anyone in your office receiving a request such as that?
- SGT. CREWS: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: You hesitated...?
- SGT. CREWS: For this event I don't, I don't have any knowledge

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SGT. PEARSON: Or any event?

SGT. CREWS: No.

SGT. PEARSON: Um. Do you need to add anything? Actually I have one more thing. Looking at this detail there's four people under your supervision that actually used tickets and gave them to their family and friends. Um...do you have any comment at all regarding um the actions of the four individuals?

LT. HUELSMANN: The four with the slash marks over there on the right hand margin. Oh I'm sorry I apologize. (silence)

SGT. CREWS: I believe Kitchell was working for me, but I can't say that's for certain. (silence) (inaudible) personal.

SGT. PEARSON: There's four people under your supervision who have uh came into our office and admitted that they were using tickets to someone some two or three game days, they used tickets that they seized as evidence and gave 'em to friends and family. Um do you have any comments about that?

SGT. CREWS: I, I think it's a regrettable mistake that they made. I mean you, you had just mentioned that there's talk that this could be done and it's a way of putting, getting somebody in a game and you could still have your evidence, I mean, and so that's a way to do this without getting caught. Well, I don't think there is a way to do without getting caught. I think they made a mistake and you know, mmmm. Frankly I'm embarrassed that I supervised them while they did it. I don't, I didn't condone it. I didn't think it was a good idea. I didn't benefit at all from it. I would not have asked one of those detectives to do me a favor and do something like that so I mean I could come in here and honestly tell you I just, I think they made a mistake and I'm somewhat embarrassed by it cause it happened under my supervision and I feel, I feel bad for that reason.

SGT. PEARSON: Lieutenant, do you have anything else?

LT. HUELSMANN: No.

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SGT. PEARSON: Captain, do you have anything?

CAPT. HAYDEN: Uh, no.

SGT. PEARSON: Alright this concludes the interview. The time is now 3:45 p.m.

END OF INTERVIEW

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