

TAPED INTERVIEW  
OF  
POLICE OFFICER THOMAS KITCHELL, DSN 4974  
DATED  
MARCH 14, 2007

SGT. PEARSON: This is Sergeant Sheila Pearson investigator of the Internal Affairs Division. Today is Wednesday, March 14, and the time is approximately 9 a.m. This interview is being conducted in the office of the Internal Affairs, conducting this interview will be Deputy Commander of Internal Affairs Lieutenant Jack Huelsmann. Uh, also in the room is Sgt. Sue McClain and myself. Uh, the uh officer present in the room regarding this interview will be uh Officer Thomas Kitchell, DSN 4974, and his attorney Joseph McCullough. This interview is being conducted regarding an allegation of conduct unbecoming stemming from the ticket scalping detail throughout the St. Louis Cardinals World-Series of October of 2006. Officer Kitchell, um, you have signed the Attorney of Record and the Advise of Rights forms. Did your attorney explain those forms to you?

P.O. KITCHELL: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And do you understand that if you refuse to answer any questions or if you uh give any false responses in any way it could lead to departmental charges and possibly discharge?

P.O. KITCHELL: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Officer Kitchell uh we first like to um draw your attention to an arrest that you made on October 24 and bearing complaint number 06088060. Can you give us a brief summary of that arrest?

P.O. KITCHELL: Uh, we working a ticket scalping detail we arrested a guy for uh scalping tickets basically uh he was selling those tickets over the face value.

SGT. PEARSON: And during that arrest how many tickets did you uh actually seize as evidence?

P.O. KITCHELL: Four.

SGT. PEARSON: Four tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Yes.

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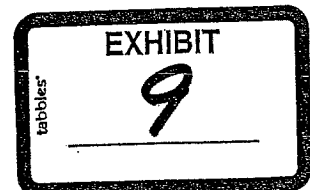
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SGT. PEARSON: And uh during the arrest was this person actually arrested or were they summonsed and released?

P.O. KITCHELL: This person was actually arrested he had uh [REDACTED] on him also.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. And during the time of the arrest where were those tickets placed?

P.O. KITCHELL: Um, at the time we first placed him under arrest I had them in my possession of course.

SGT. PEARSON: And you were acting as the seizing officer of the case?

P.O. KITCHELL: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: So um after you completed the arrest uh what was done with those tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Um, two of the tickets, um, I gave to one of my friends to use for the game, to go to the baseball game.

SGT. PEARSON: And whom is your friend?

P.O. KITCHELL: Uh, Bill is last name is F-r-o-n-i-c-k; Fronick.

SGT. PEARSON: So two of the four tickets that you seized as evidence was given to a friend?

P.O. KITCHELL: Yes.

SGT. PEARSON: Mr. Fronick?

P.O. KITCHELL: Fronick, that's right.

SGT. PEARSON: Is that right? And uh to your knowledge what did he do with those tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: I believe he did go to the baseball game.

SGT. PEARSON: And uh after the game was over um what happened with those tickets?

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P.O. KITCHELL: Um I made out the form then he gave the tickets back.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok and what did you then do with the tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Um, I just packaged them up as usual for court proceedings.

SGT. PEARSON: And where did you put those tickets at that time?

P.O. KITCHELL: Um they went into uh, I believe I put 'em in my sergeant's safe for a little while then uh they eventually went into the evidence locker then down, downtown.

SGT. PEARSON: In your sergeant's safe? Is that what you said?

P.O. KITCHELL: I believe so.

SGT. PEARSON: And who is your sergeant?

P.O. KITCHELL: Uh Tony Boone, Anthony Boone.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So is that normal procedure to put them in a safe before putting them in the property room?

P.O. KITCHELL: Well we have an evidence locker at our office. We can put them in there to or we have uh our sergeant has a safe, a big floor safe we can put evidence like this. We have a log sheet for that to so. And um, I usually choose to put stuff if it's anything with a value in the safe versus an evidence locker.

SGT. PEARSON: And you said each sergeant has a safe or they have, all share one safe?

P.O. KITCHELL: I don't know if each one has a safe or not I know uh Sgt. Boone had a safe. I don't think sergeant, I don't know if Sgt. Kuntz had access to it or not. I don't know.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. So with these tickets your partner, who was your partner at with this arrest?

P.O. KITCHELL: Uh Wendell Ishmon.

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SGT. PEARSON: Ok. At the time of arrest or after the time of arrest was he uh, where was he when you um gave these tickets to a friend?

P.O. KITCHELL: I honestly couldn't tell you. We were um, Wendell's not my normal partner and we kind of just work just in groups down there. Um, we were two, four, six at a time all over so I, I don't know if Wendell was there when I gave them to Bill or if he was or who was there to be honest with you.

SGT. PEARSON: Did he have knowledge that you were giving them to a friend?

P.O. KITCHELL: Oh I think he did know. I didn't necessarily tell him, but I think he did. This document is being produced by IAD pursuant to:

LT. HUELSMANN: How do you know he, how do you think he knew? MO Open Records Law / Court Order

P.O. KITCHELL: Well...

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LT. HUELSMANN: If you didn't articulate it? NOT FOR SECONDARY RELEASE

P.O. KITCHELL: Well how should I say it, (silence...) well I guess it's hard to articulate. I just had this, I didn't tell him and he didn't ask so to say, but I don't know I just had the feeling that he did without saying. I can't say what he did know or didn't know, but I think just general consensus I think, I didn't tell him, we never, we didn't discuss it I didn't say here hey this is what I'm gonna do, but I don't know if he was there or not if he saw it or if he saw other people or what.

SGT. PEARSON: So you never actually had the discussion that this is what you were gonna do with the tickets. He didn't ask you and you didn't volunteer the information. Is that, am I taking that correctly?

P.O. KITCHELL: Correct.

SGT. PEARSON: Ok. Let me ask you when you say uh he just kind of knew, was this, had there ever been talk in the unit on this, this was possible that you could do this with the tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Not concerning me. I didn't hear anything with (inaudible).

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SGT. PEARSON: Some would say that this was uh, it was I'm not putting words in your mouth, but some would say it was common knowledge that this could be done. Is that, is that, would you say that's a fair assessment that um it was common knowledge among the unit that you could um do that with these tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Not with me. I can be honestly say that I've never discussed with anybody in our unit that this was what I was gonna do or no one came to me and said this is what you could do.

SGT. PEARSON: You never overhead, just general speaking, you never heard anyone speaking of that?

P.O. KITCHELL: No.

SGT. PEARSON: So when did it, for sure, when did your partner with this arrest um know that this is what had been done with the tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: Sometimes afterwards, mainly when all this, when uh (inaudible) started coming down I think this when he really, really, we all kind of got together and said well what happened here and what happened here, you know, I think everybody just kind of talked and (inaudible) about it. That's when I know he officially knew. I mean I never, until the complaint came down, sat down with Wendell and said anything to him personally.

SGT. PEARSON: So that was the first time you had the conversation with him?

P.O. KITCHELL: Well it was with everybody, yeah.

SGT. PEARSON: So you still haven't had a direct conversation, you're saying just in a group way it was discovered?

P.O. KITCHELL: Well, when this complaint first started I guess snowballing and we got the rumors down that we were being investigated for this we kind of all got together and said you know pull the reports and see what's going on and uh that's when uh Sgt. Kuntz came down and said who used the tickets and Wendell and I and Wendell and I said that we were together, and we kind of knew then.

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SGT. PEARSON: At what point, uh, did your sergeant know what you had done with the tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: I think maybe when the rumor started coming down.

SGT. PEARSON: Was your lieutenant aware at the time?

P.O. KITCHELL: No.

SGT. PEARSON: So when did he first made aware?

P.O. KITCHELL: I think about the same time or shortly after, probably (inaudible) Sgt. Boone was aware.

SGT. PEARSON: So...

LT. HUELSMANN: I'm sorry I want to be clear on this cause I think Tom I think you said you think Sgt. Boone was aware once the uh, once the rumor started surfacing that we were doing an investigation up here in Internal Affairs. I want to be clear that, about Sgt. Boone that when you gave these tickets to Bill, uh, did you tell Sgt. Boone what you did that you gave a friend two tickets at the time that you did that.

P.O. KITCHELL: Oh no.

LT. HUELSMANN: Or within a couple of days thereafter?

P.O. KITCHELL: No.

LT. HUELSMANN: Alright. I wanted to ask you one other question to. Just exactly how did you make this arrangement with uh with Bill, and I'm not gonna try to pronounce his last name, to give him these tickets?

P.O. KITCHELL: I just called him on the phone.

LT. HUELSMANN: After the fact, after you seized them or before the fact?

P.O. KITCHELL: Oh no.

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- LT. HUELSMANN: Did you tell, did you figure that if you got a couple of tickets you were gonna call Bill and called him ahead of time?
- P.O. KITCHELL: No.
- LT. HUELSMANN: So you had these four tickets and figured, then you called Bill?
- P.O. KITCHELL: That I did exactly.
- SGT. PEARSON: So when you gave Bill these tickets or sometime after uh was, did you receive anything of value whether it be money, free dinner, free beer; anything exchanged for those tickets?
- P.O. KITCHELL: No.
- SGT. PEARSON: Um, have you ever received any phone calls or personal requests from anyone from this department, whether it be your supervisor, whether it be commanders throughout the department, for tickets to the event that you took?
- P.O. KITCHELL: I personally have not done any phone calls.
- SGT. PEARSON: Or just verbal, hey, see them on the streets hey give me some tickets? (inaudible) This concludes the interview the time is now 9:10 a.m.

END OF INTERVIEW

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