

Professional Standards Bureau

Discovery Review: Y N

Dishonesty, integrity, bias, moral turpitude

Reviewed by: SDA348

Date: 11/27/2008



City of Phoenix

To: Jack F. Harris
Public Safety Manager

Date: August 9, 2008

From: James A. Pifa, Assistant Chief
Professional Standards Division

Subject: INTERNAL INVESTIGATION - PSB 07-0119

Internal Investigators:

Commander Kim Humphrey
Lieutenant Linda Johnson (Investigative Review)
Detective Anthony Jones (Primary Investigator)
Sergeant Ken Mentzer (Interviews)
Sergeant Kathy Johnson (Interviews)
Detective Rich Wooten (Follow-up)

Allegation #1:

On September 4, 2007, Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 was neglectful in his duties by failing to complete a departmental report related to the seizure of two firearms during a weapons violation-type investigation while working off-duty at South Pointe High School, located at 8325 South Central Avenue.

Findings:

Sustained

Allegation #2:

On September 4, 2007, at about 9:00 p.m., Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 gave his supervisor a false, deceptive and misleading verbal statement when he said the above mentioned firearms had been secured in a locker at the school, but he omitted information about taking the firearms to his house.

Findings:

Sustained

Allegation #3:

Beginning on September 4, 2007, until October 1, 2007, Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 was neglectful in his duties by failing to properly impound the above mentioned firearms.

Findings:

Sustained

*SDA348
11/27/2008*

Allegation #4:

On October 1, 2007, at about 2:30 a.m., Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 gave his supervisor an untruthful verbal statement when he said the school administration did not desire prosecution and the two firearms related to the September 4th incident were already impounded.

Findings:

Sustained

Allegation #5:

Within minutes after this conversation with his supervisor on October 1st, Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 created a departmental report related to the September 4th incident that contained false information when he indicated the victim did not desire prosecution and there was no record of the weapons being stolen through PACE.

Findings:

Sustained

Allegation #6:

Officer Reginald Crawford's #7602 unprofessional actions and behavior during this time jeopardized the felony investigation related to the weapons violation at the school.

Findings:

Sustained

Allegation #7:

Officer Crawford #7602 gave PSB investigators false, deceptive and misleading statements during his administrative interviews on October 1, 2007 and January 16, 2008.

Findings:

Unresolved

Allegation #8:

Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 created a departmental report related to the September 4th incident that contained false, deceptive and misleading information when he omitted information about taking the guns to his house.

Findings:

Unfounded

Employee Involved:

Officer Reginald Crawford #7602
Division: Patrol Operations South
Precinct: South Mountain Precinct
Squad: 43J
Schedule: 2100-0700hrs/ Thur, Fri, Sat
Date of Hire: 11/12/01

Complainant: Department Initiated

Witness Employees: See Employee Witness Section

Departmental Reports: 2007-71718658- Found Property
2007-71916102- Minor in Possession of Firearms

Attachments: See Attachment section

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

On Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at about 9:00 p.m., Sergeant Larry Davis #6367 noticed Officer Reginald Crawford #7602 preparing two handguns for impounding at the Neighborhood Resource Center of the South Mountain Precinct, 2405 East Broadway Road. Since this was the beginning of their shift, Sergeant Davis asked if the guns were from his off-duty job. Sergeant Davis knew Officer Crawford would routinely work off-duty at South Pointe High School, 8325 South Central Avenue, during day-shift hours before coming to work for his normal third-shift assignment. Officer Crawford informed him the guns were brought onto campus by two students and acknowledged the guns were evidence in a crime. The sergeant did not pursue any further questions at that time.

Right after briefing, Sergeant Davis re-contacted Officer Davis and asked him a couple more questions about the guns. Since Officer Crawford indicated they were evidence in a crime, the sergeant asked where they had been stored during the five hours between the end of the off-duty job and the beginning of his normal patrol shift. According to Sergeant Davis, Officer Crawford told him the guns had been secured in a locker at the school during this time. While he thought the answer was peculiar, Sergeant Davis did not pursue any further questions. Sergeant Davis spoke with Officer Crawford about the need to impound evidence in a timely manner and then assisted him in finding the applicable statutes related to minors in possession of a firearm on a school campus. After he left the office, Sergeant Davis assumed Officer Crawford would finish impounding the weapons before going into service.

On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, Sergeant Davis was preparing the monthly notes for his squad and realized he had not seen a weapons violation-type report from Officer Crawford for the September 4th incident. Sergeant Davis initially searched the copies of reports that were on his desk, and when that was unsuccessful, he began a search of the PACE computer system. Sergeant Davis searched for a report based on Officer Crawford's serial number and by the

address for the school. When he could not find a report either way, Sergeant Davis also looked for impounds made without a criminal report. He was unable to find any documentation related to the weapons.

On the evening of Thursday, September 27th, Sergeant Davis contacted a communications supervisor and asked for assistance in locating the call related to the incident at the school on September 4th. He learned an incident number was obtained by Officer Crawford on that date at 11:30 a.m. and was titled "Misuse of Weapon," radio code 415W. When he originally gave disposition on the call that afternoon at 3:50 p.m., Officer Crawford indicated a report was being taken, however, Sergeant Davis also noticed on the printout that the original disposition had been changed some time later. The new disposition indicated no report was being taken, but there were no comments included with the call information to indicate why the change had been made. Investigators later determined Officer Crawford modified the original disposition on September 12, 2007, at about 5:14 a.m.

Working on the assumption that someone may have assisted Officer Crawford, Sergeant Davis searched the PACE computer system for any weapon impounds that were made by other members of the squad when he returned to work on Sunday, September 30th. The sergeant was still unable to locate the weapons. Later that same shift at about 2:30 a.m., Sergeant Davis and Sergeant Christopher Scranton #7207 were on their meal break at the precinct station, 400 West Southern Avenue, when Officer Crawford walked into the room. Sergeant Davis said something to Officer Crawford in passing about the guns and mentioned that he had been unable to find the departmental report. At that time, Officer Crawford told him the school administration did not desire prosecution, so no report was taken. When asked about it, Officer Crawford said he had impounded the guns for destruction the regular way, using only an invoice and not a criminal report. Assuming he had just been unable to find them during his search, Sergeant Davis concluded their conversation and Officer Crawford went back to work.

After finishing their meal, Sergeant Davis sought the assistance of Sergeant Scranton in searching the computer system for the weapons. Up to that point, Sergeant Davis had been searching through September 30th, the date their current shift had started. Since it was now past midnight, Sergeant Scranton included October 1st in the search parameters. Sergeant Scranton found Officer Crawford had entered a Found Property report on October 1st at 2:52 a.m. using the incident number from the original call on September 4th. Upon reading the report,

the sergeants discovered Officer Crawford had created an impound slip for the two guns approximately 30 minutes after the conversation in the break room with Sergeant Davis.

After this discovery, Sergeant Davis checked the property impound logbook at the precinct to see if Officer Crawford had impounded the guns there. When he found no entry in that book, he left the precinct station and returned to the Neighborhood Resource Center. Sergeant Davis stood near the front desk as he called Lieutenant Scott Sowerwine #5520 and spoke with him about the incident. As he stood there, Sergeant Davis noticed an empty evidence bag and a computer printout of the call from September 4th lying next to the property impound logbook for the sub-station. The date stamp on the document indicated it had been printed out on October 1st at 2:47 a.m. Sergeant Davis collected the printout and then photocopied the property impound log. There was no entry in the log to indicate Officer Crawford had impounded anything at the Neighborhood Resource Center either.

With this new information, Lieutenant Sowerwine contacted the Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) and the decision was made to have PSB conduct the investigation. Sergeant Davis and Officer Crawford both responded to PSB and were interviewed prior to end of that shift. Investigators also met with a Property Custodian at the Neighborhood Resource Center that morning and located the guns in one of the impound lockers. The guns were removed from there and kept in the custody of PSB until they were dealt with appropriately.

During his administrative interview, Officer Crawford acknowledged he was conducting a criminal investigation when he came into possession of the two firearms at the school. When asked why he did not impound the guns before leaving the off-duty job, Officer Crawford said he had only "five hours of sleep" and took them home. When asked why he did not write a departmental report to document the investigation before leaving the off-duty job, Officer Crawford indicated he had personal reservations about charging the students involved with a crime and wanted to talk to the principal about it further the next day.

After the off-duty job ended, Officer Crawford said he put the guns in his gear bag and put the bag in the bed of his truck. The bed was secured with a lockable cover and the truck was parked in his garage once he arrived home. Officer Crawford took the guns back to work later that night and began prepping them for impounding just prior to briefing. While he was doing this, Officer Crawford indicated Sergeant Davis approached and talked to him about the guns. Officer Crawford told investigators he informed Sergeant Davis about placing the guns in his

truck and taking them home. When asked why he did not impound the guns at the end of briefing, Officer Crawford described some pressing issue or a sense of urgency that drew him out of the station and caused him to begin work on the streets. He also said he could not impound the guns at that time because he could not find his notes containing the suspect information from the investigation. Officer Crawford did not complete the impounding and took the weapons with him during his patrol shift. He eventually concealed them in a bag containing his personal protective equipment in the front seat of his patrol car.

When he returned to his off-duty job at school the next morning, Officer Crawford said he did speak with the school principal. According to Officer Crawford, the principal left the decision on whether or not to submit charges up to him during that meeting. While he was unable to give details of that conversation with the principal, Officer Crawford acknowledged it was his decision not to write the departmental report and submit charges against the three boys. After meeting the principal, Officer Crawford told investigators he had a sense of completion to the investigation and felt nothing else needed to be done. When investigators asked Officer Crawford about his handling of the guns after this meeting, Officer Crawford said he was under the impression that he had already impounded them.

Officer Crawford said he did not give the guns any further thought until Sergeant Davis mentioned something to him on the morning of October 1st. After meeting with the sergeant at the precinct, Officer Crawford said he realized something was not right. He eventually remembered the guns were at his house, so he went home and retrieved them from the gear bag in his garage. Officer Crawford then took the guns to the Neighborhood Resource Center and impounded them there. Officer Crawford knew he should notify his supervisor and made the decision to speak with Sergeant Davis when he secured at the end of the shift around 6:30 a.m. Before that time came, Officer Crawford was contacted by Lieutenant Sowerwine and directed to respond to PSB.

During the interview with Officer Crawford, investigators contacted the principal, Mr. McGill and learned he had always wanted the three students prosecuted. Mr. McGill disagreed with what Officer Crawford had done. Because the elements of a crime were present, other officers eventually resumed the investigation that Officer Crawford had begun and wrote a departmental report using a new report number. Officer Crawford was directed to author a supplement to that report, detailing the chain of custody of the evidence.

On January 16, 2008, Officer Crawford was interviewed a second time by PSB investigators concerning statements he made during the first interview and about the supplement that he authored to the new report. Investigators needed to clarify Officer Crawford's explanation as to why he did not do certain things during his investigation and about what he told Sergeant Davis concerning the chain of custody of the evidence on September 4th. Investigators also were attempting to determine why the supplement that Officer Crawford authored to the new investigation did not contain all of the details that he revealed to investigators during his administrative interview. Before learning of the chain of custody issues involved in this case, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office had submitted charges against one of the boys involved and that boy had pled guilty based on the information that was contained in the new report.

The administrative investigation determined Officer Crawford violated policies related to his handling of the investigation at the school and he made false, deceptive and misleading statements to his supervisor. The most serious of the six sustained violations is designated in the Discipline Matrix Policy as an Extreme Policy Violation requiring DRB review that may include suspension, demotion and/or termination.

During his administrative interviews with PSB investigators, Officer Crawford made statements that were disjointed and disorganized. His answers were confusing and demonstrated a significant lack of knowledge of departmental policy and procedures. Because this lack of knowledge affected his answers, the investigation was inconclusive about whether or not Officer Crawford's statements to PSB investigators were false, deceptive or misleading and this allegation is Unresolved.

