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Date: 10/18/2010	Time: 2019 hrs.	Place: OPA-IS Offices
Statement of: Officer Casey Steiger		
Statement Taken By: Sergeant Randy Woolery		
Transcribed by (Taped/Translated Statements) J. Wicklund (RSW 0032)		

WOOLERY: I am Sergeant Woolery of the Seattle Police Department. The date is October 18th, 2010, and the time is now 2019 hrs. The file number is 10-0385. I am interviewing Officer Steiger, a named employee. Also present, Officer Severance, for the Seattle Police Officers Guild. This interview, this interview is taking place at Suite 1640 Seattle Municipal Tower. Please state your name and spell your last name.

STEIGER: My name is Officer Casey Steiger, last is S-T-E-I-G-E-R,

WOOLERY: Thank you. Officer Severance?

SEVERANCE: Michael Severance, S-E-V-E-R-A-N-C-E.

WOOLERY: This interview is documented by a recording. Officer Steiger, do you understand this interview is being recorded, and agree to be recorded?

STEIGER: Yes, sir.

WOOLERY: Officer Severance, do you understand this interview is being recorded, and agree to be recorded?

SEVERANCE: Yes.

WOOLERY: Have you received copies of the Garrity Advisement and the Seattle Officer's Bill of Rights outlined in your collective bargaining agreement, and do you understand them?

STEIGER: Yes.

WOOLERY: Have you received notification of the allegation made in the complaint?

STEIGER: Yes.

WOOLERY: Under the authority of the Chief of the Seattle Police Department you are hereby ordered to answer all questions asked of you truthfully and completely. Failure to do so may result in discipline up to and including termination. Do you understand?

STEIGER: Yes.



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Taken by: Sergeant Randy Woolery

WOOLERY: Well, thank you both for coming in tonight. About how long have you worked for Seattle Police?

STEIGER: I was sworn in November of 2008.

WOOLERY: And where are you currently assigned?

STEIGER: East Precinct, third watch.

WOOLERY: And how long have you been at this assignment?

STEIGER: Since April of '09.

WOOLERY: What other assignments have you had since joining Seattle Police?

STEIGER: Just FTO.

WOOLERY: Do you have any prior law enforcement experience?

STEIGER: No.

WOOLERY: Describe for me your role in the vehicle stop made on March 11th, 2010, at about 0155 hrs. in the area of Boylston and East Pine.

STEIGER: That's, the Edward sector is there. I work, Officers Schoenberg and Williams, I'm, but I'm not sure if they were riding together that night, but one of them stopped a vehicle and, and asked for a routine X, so I responded to the scene.

WOOLERY: Okay. Did you play any role in the initial violation?

STEIGER: No.

WOOLERY: Do you know what they were stopping the vehicle for?

STEIGER: They informed me after I got there it was for Reckless Driving.

WOOLERY: Okay. And did you know why they had requested another unit?

STEIGER: Because the occupants of the other, of the vehicle were becoming uncooperative.

WOOLERY: Okay. And about how far off were you when you responded?



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- STEIGER: I can't remember exactly how far off I was, but it didn't take me more than probably two minutes to...
- WOOLERY: And...
- STEIGER: ...five minutes to get there.
- WOOLERY: Okay. And when you arrived, what did you see and do?
- STEIGER: When I arrived, I went up to speak with the primary officers. They informed me that they stopped the vehicle for Reckless Driving and the people inside were being uncooperative, threatening officers, being verbally abusive toward officers. So at that point, I stood by and assisted while the officers conducted the duration of their stop to ensure that no action towards the officers becoming dangerous was taking place.
- WOOLERY: Okay. Were the passenger and driver still inside the vehicle?
- STEIGER: I don't remember if they were when I got there or not.
- WOOLERY: Okay. Did you hear any of the uncooperativeness or threats made?
- STEIGER: Oh, absolutely.
- WOOLERY: What do you remember hearing?
- STEIGER: Well, what, since, when I was there, the, they were talking about how they were gang members from Yakima, the MS-13. They were saying things such as if we were in Yakima, you would've already been smoked, referring to officers being, the officer shootings that had taken place within the last, you know, six months of the event, as the event occurred. Continually asked, saying they wanted a fight, I'm an MMA fighter, this, if you didn't have that badge we'd be fighting, take off the badge, turn off the camera, we'll fight, things of that nature.
- WOOLERY: Okay. And were you present when, or, let me back up. Who, who did you primarily deal with, the driver or the passenger?
- STEIGER: Primarily the driver, but I had some dealings with the passenger, as well.
- WOOLERY: Okay. So tell me about your contact with the driver.
- STEIGER: Well, when, after the driver was pulled out of the vehicle he was on the hood of, I'm not sure, one of my partner's patrol cars, he was, his hands were placed on the hood, they were doing a pat-down. [REDACTED] I believe, was doing a pat-down and, and dealing with him and it, what, at that point, the driver became verbally abusive, using mannerisms, cussing, saying fuck this, and taking his hands off the hood.



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WOOLERY: Okay. And is that when you used some physical force against him?

STEIGER: Yeah, I used a control technique to de-escalate the situation, make it gain, gain pain compliance without having to injure or use excessive force on the driver.

WOOLERY: Okay. And what was it that triggered your need to react like that?

STEIGER: Well, if you look in the video...

WOOLERY: Which we're gonna do, by the way.

STEIGER: Once he gets out and he has his hands on the hood, you can see him start, I'm not exactly what, sure what he yells, but he yells fuck this, fuck that, and he takes his hand and his hands start to come off the hood. At that point I react to make sure that he...

(Plays in-car video...)

STEIGER: Yeah, so just go right before that.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: Okay. So we're looking at about 9 minutes, 40 seconds, and he's being pulled out of the patrol car. Who is that that's taking him out of the car?

STEIGER: That's [REDACTED]

(Plays in-car video...)

STEIGER: See, if you see here, he's pushing back against [REDACTED] At some point, he's, he's looking at me, then he's screaming at me right now...

WOOLERY: Now it's at 10 minutes and 1 second.

STEIGER: ...and now you see his, his, look, he's trying to face me. At that point I try to proceed. He's being passively resistant as I'm trying to push him down on the hood. At that point I take control of his wrists and apply a loose gooseneck technique, causing him to de-escalate and not go forward with what I believe were probably thoughts of pre-attack indicators toward myself and other officers. Later on, [REDACTED] here, he's trying to speak with them and rationalize that this, what, the action he's taking could lead down a bad path for him. At the point that he agrees to become compliant, I will release his wrist and put it, place it back on the car. During that time, after this is, this pain compliance has been applied, afterwards, he seems to be much more compliant toward our, our commands. His mannerisms become less aggressive.



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WOOLERY: Did he ever complain of injury or pain as a result?

STEIGER: Not to me, no.

WOOLERY: Why wasn't he placed into handcuffs?

STEIGER: I, I, I didn't place him into handcuffs. I wasn't the primary officer. He didn't make that decision. Officer Auderer was also the one *more* dealing with him than not. I was more the cover officer in that situation. He was able to talk this suspect down, and at, at that point, I believe we made the determination that he was being less aggressive and he could be controlled without being placed in restraints.

WOOLERY: Okay. So, so after that, did he offer up any resistance?

STEIGER: I don't believe he, he offered any resistance that I can remember after that, maybe verbally, but I don't believe he became physically resistant after that.

WOOLERY: Do you believe that that was reportable force that you used?

STEIGER: No, I don't.

WOOLERY: Why not?

STEIGER: Because I believe it caused minor and transient pain without injury or complaint of injury.

WOOLERY: Is that a common technique you've used before?

STEIGER: Absolutely. When, when people are uncompliant, especially where I work in the bar areas, there's a lot of people that are intoxicated, and when you're able to use control techniques, it usually de-escalates the situation and puts it in their brain that they probably don't want to fight with police right now.

WOOLERY: And where did you learn that technique?

STEIGER: Throughout the Academy and also in Post-BLEA and the ICC, and we also reiterate it at some points during the Street Skills portions of, I believe it's ICC.

WOOLERY: Okay. And can you estimate for me how many times you think you've applied that same technique?

STEIGER: In the past, probably, in my two years, 15 to 20 times, I would say.

WOOLERY: Okay. Did you use any profanity during this incident?



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STEIGER: I did.

WOOLERY: Okay. What profanity did you use and at what point?

STEIGER: I believe it's after we get the passenger out of the car, and he sits down on the front of the patrol car, and he states to me, if, or I'm an MMA fighter or something along those lines, and turn off the camera, take off your badge and we'll fight. And at that point I tell him, if we were to fight, I'd break your fucking neck. The reason I used that is because I want to put it in his head that if he decides to fight me, that it's not gonna be something where it's just gonna be an easy situation for him. I wanna de-escalate him in his mind to think that, okay, this guy's serious. So as to make it not turn into a knock-down, drag-out fight where I can cause harm for myself, to him, or any other fellow officers.

WOOLERY: Any other profanity used by you?

STEIGER: I can't remember off the top of my head. I may or may, I, I mean I wouldn't be surprised if I cussed a few more times during the...

WOOLERY: Um-hmm.

STEIGER: ...thing.

WOOLERY: Did you have a chance to look at the video prior to the interview?

STEIGER: It's been about three weeks since I've seen it.

WOOLERY: Do you remember any other profanity used by you?

STEIGER: Yes, or I, no, I don't *remember* the profanity, but I'm sure I used profanity...

WOOLERY: Okay.

STEIGER: ...at some point. I'm not sure.

WOOLERY: The only reason I ask, is a lot of the verbalization occurs off-screen...

STEIGER: Um-hmm.

WOOLERY: ...and, and I don't know who all the voices are.

STEIGER: Right. It, yeah, if we watch, yeah, I mean I can tell you exactly what my voice sounds like on this video, and so I mean, I don't, I'm not sure if I remember it...



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WOOLERY: Now, I just, I'm gonna fast forward the video to the scene where the 'take your badge off'...

STEIGER: Right.

WOOLERY: ...comments are made.

STEIGER: Right.

WOOLERY: I just want you to listen to that, please.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: And it's right about the 15 minute mark.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: And I'll pause this.

STEIGER: That's me.

WOOLERY: That's you talking about Yakima?

STEIGER: Yes.

WOOLERY: And now you're talking to the passenger?

STEIGER: I am.

WOOLERY: Okay. So right, right about 15:40 on the video?

STEIGER: Yes.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: Now who made that comment at 16 minutes?

STEIGER: I believe that was Officer Williams.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: Are you making any of these comments?



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STEIGER: No. I believe that was, the one that was saying, was advising of the audio and video recorded was [REDACTED]

WOOLERY: Were you aware that this was being recorded?

STEIGER: Yes.

WOOLERY: Did you record it?

STEIGER: No, I was the third car on the scene. I didn't turn on my lights and I didn't think to hit my camera at the time.

(Plays in-car video...)

STEIGER: So I believe that's me and Officer Williams having a conversation here.

WOOLERY: And you're off-screen, correct?

STEIGER: Yes.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: And are you talking to the driver or the passenger?

STEIGER: This here is the driver.

WOOLERY: And are you two...

STEIGER: That's on the front of the car. I believe I'm just to the left of Officer Williams, here.

(Plays in-car video...)

STEIGER: Officer Williams is speaking with the driver, now.

(Plays in-car video...)

WOOLERY: Who searched the vehicle and why?

STEIGER: I was one of the people that searched the vehicle because the primary officer informed me that the vehicle was going to be impounded, incident to arrest. Therefore I searched the vehicle, did an inventory search of the vehicle, as per SPD policy.

WOOLERY: Okay. And how did you account for the property inside?



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STEIGER: I didn't find anything of value, that, that I thought was necessary to be documented at the time.

WOOLERY: Was any property damaged to the vehicle, such as the back seat or the seat covers?

STEIGER: During the search?

WOOLERY: Um-hmm.

STEIGER: Not that I recall.

WOOLERY: And how did you open up the trunk?

STEIGER: I popped the trunk from the, I believe it was from the driver's compartment, the lever inside.

WOOLERY: Okay. And why did you search the trunk?

STEIGER: It was part of the inventory search and also, you don't, you can't see it on screen here, I don't believe, but you could see a bullet hole in the back, the back of that trunk. Just because of that in itself and the fact that they were claiming to be gang members, I found it reasonable that A) well, A was, we were doing an inventory search, and B) I found it reasonable that there might be something that needed immediate attention in the back seat such as maybe a body or a gun, something of, of that nature.

WOOLERY: Okay. And how fresh did the bullet hold look?

STEIGER: I don't have any idea. I can't determine how fresh it looked at the time. I mean it's been since March, so I don't remember.

WOOLERY: Okay. Was anything found in the back?

STEIGER: Nothing of, the, I found nothing of incident in the back seat, in the back of the trunk, I don't believe.

WOOLERY: Okay. And was the driver or passenger asked about the bullet hole?

STEIGER: I don't know. Not by me.

WOOLERY: Why was the vehicle impounded?

STEIGER: I, I don't know. It was Officer Schoenberg's call. He was the primary.



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WOOLERY: Did you read the subject his rights?

STEIGER: I don't recall if I did or not.

WOOLERY: Why were the words 'fuck', 'shit' and 'motherfuck' used throughout this incident?

STEIGER: I can't speak for other officers, but for me, like I said with the, at the time I used, the, my main portion of profanity was to de-escalate the situation. The, dealing with gang members on a weekly basis in the area that I work, sometimes, if they're agitated, possibly intoxicated, the only way to get in their mind that you're serious is to come down to their level and use their vernacular that they use every day. In this particular situation they were being particularly aggressive toward officers, especially the comments to turn off, take off your badge, turn off the camera and we'll fight, I'm a UFC fighter, this, that and the other. I wanted to put it in his head that, if you're a UFC fighter, I don't care. If you want to fight, it's not gonna be a walk in the park for you, and, and I want to de-escalate so that myself, other officers *and* him don't get hurt, but in a way that shows him I'm serious, not by attempting to kind of massage his ego. And maybe that, I believe by kind of backing off and showing him that maybe I'm a little, it might, he might get the impression that I'm a little scared, so he might be able to handle me. In this situation, I want to show him that if we come up, if you want to come nose-to-nose with me, I won't back down from you, but that's not a good idea, and here's why, therefore making it so that he, it puts a seed of doubt in his head that maybe he won't want to do this after all.

WOOLERY: Great. Is there anything about this incident I did not ask you that you think I need to know?

STEIGER: No, I think it was fine.

WOOLERY: Officer Severance?

SEVERANCE: Officer Steiger, first referring to your application of a pain compliance technique.

STEIGER: Um-hmm.

SEVERANCE: Do you believe that reasonable officer observing the circumstances, totality of the circumstances and your use of that technique, would have found it to be reasonable and necessary?

STEIGER: Yes, I do.

SEVERANCE: Calling your attention to the 2.7...

STEIGER: Um-hmm.

SEVERANCE: ...tell me the date of this incident.



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STEIGER: 3/11 of 2010.

SEVERANCE: And what was the date the complaint was filed?

STEIGER: 8/26 of 2010.

SEVERANCE: Is that a span of more than five months?

STEIGER: It is.

SEVERANCE: Do you know who filed this complaint?

STEIGER: I believe it was the defense attorney for the person that was arrested, for the driver of the vehicle, I believe.

SEVERANCE: During your contact with [REDACTED] did he ever register in any way, indicate in any way he was *offended* by the language used by officers?

STEIGER: No.

SEVERANCE: During the course of your duties as a police officer, do you have frequent contacts with gang members?

STEIGER: I do.

SEVERANCE: Based upon your experience and contacts with gang members, are profanities part of their informal, verbal communications?

STEIGER: It is.

SEVERANCE: In dealing with gang-bangers on the street, do you believe that profanity is sometimes, if not always, necessary to effectively communicate with these people?

STEIGER: I do.

SEVERANCE: Do you believe profanity is necessary to maintain control and accomplish some law enforcement purpose?

STEIGER: Absolutely.

SEVERANCE: And you already stated this, but I'll ask again, do you believe it's necessary to use profanities to de-escalate situations with the gang bangers and avoid the, them turning into a Use of Force incident?



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STEIGER: I do.

SEVERANCE: Ever heard of the MS-13 gang?

STEIGER: Yes.

SEVERANCE: Does that gang have a reputation to be dangerous?

STEIGER: They do.

SEVERANCE: Do they have a reputation for being armed?

STEIGER: Absolutely.

SEVERANCE: Is that gang believed to be responsible for murders?

STEIGER: As far as I know, yeah.

SEVERANCE: If someone told they were an MS-13 gang member, would that cause you to take extra precautions in dealing with them?

STEIGER: Absolutely.

SEVERANCE: And if you observed an MS-13 gang member in a vehicle, making furtive movements, would that cause you to be concerned for your own safety?

STEIGER: Yes, it would.

SEVERANCE: I have no other questions.

WOOLERY: Thank you. Is there anything further you would like to add to your statement?

STEIGER: No.

WOOLERY: To maintain confidentiality of this investigation, you are advised not to disclose the information discussed during your interview, except with your representative or attorney. Do you understand?

STEIGER: Yes.

WOOLERY: This completes the interview. The time is now 2038. The date remains October 18th, 2010.

Seattle Police Department - OPA Investigation Section
In-Person Interview Guide

I am Sgt. Woolery of the Seattle Police Department. The date is 10-18-10, and the time is 2019 hrs. The File Number is 10-0385. I am interviewing

Off. Steiger, a Named Employee Witness Other: _____. Also present is Off. Severance and _____. (Note role/position - e.g. guild rep, attorney)

(If no others present) Is it your decision to proceed without representation? Yes No

This interview is taking place at Suite 1640 Seattle Municipal Tower Other: _____

Please state your name and spell your last name. (Start with the interviewee, ask each person present)

This interview is documented by a: Recording Court Reporter/Stenographer Other: _____

(Interviewee) Steiger. Do you understand this interview is being recorded, and agree to be recorded? Yes No

(Other persons present) Severance, do you understand this interview is being recorded and agree to be recorded? Yes No

Sworn Employees: Have you received copies of the Garrity Advisement and the Seattle Police Officer's Bill of Rights outlined in your collective bargaining agreement, and do you understand them? Yes No
Have you received notification of the allegation(s) made in the complaint? Yes No

~~Civilian Employees: Have you received a copy of the Garrity Advisement, and do you understand it? Yes No
Have you received notification of the allegation(s) made in the complaint? Yes No~~

All Employees: Under the authority of the Chief of the Seattle Police Department you are hereby ordered to answer all questions asked of you truthfully and completely. Failure to do so may result in discipline up to and including termination. Do you understand? Yes No

Sworn Employee Witness: You are advised that you are being questioned as a witness, and should your answers reveal violations of Seattle Police Department rules and/or regulations, the interview will be stopped. You will be advised that your status has changed to that of Named Employee, and you will receive a new notification and interview date. Do you understand? Yes No

Civilian Employee Witness: You are advised that you are being questioned as a witness, and should your answers reveal violations of Seattle Police Department rules and/or regulations, the interview will be stopped. ~~You will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to arrange representation from your bargaining unit and/or attorney. You will receive new notification that your status has been changed to that of "Named Employee".~~ Do you understand? Yes No

Ask questions/conduct interview.

Before concluding the interview, ask, "Is there anything further you would like to add to your statement?"

To maintain confidentiality of this investigation, you are advised not to disclose the information discussed during your interview, except with your representative or attorney. Do you understand? Yes No

This completes the interview. The time is 2038 hrs. The date is 10-18-10.

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW TAPE RECEIPT

OPA-IS File No. 10-0385

I have received 1 "in-person" interview audio tape(s) of Mr. Steiner
(Employee)
regarding the above referenced OPA-IS administrative investigation.

List other items provided to the employee or bargaining unit representative, e.g., copies of documents, etc.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Received by:
Signature X M. J. Lawrence Date: 10-18-10

Witnessed by:
Signature X [Signature] Date: 10-18-10