

Sheriff

James R. Metts, Ed.D.



LEXINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Report # 13IA018

Date Initiated: 08/21/13

Investigator: Sergeant Galardi

Complainant: Sergeant Bill Galardi

Address: LCSD

ISSUE(S)

LCSD Narcotics Division chain of command brought forward a set of facts that concerned them about Narcotics Detective Brannon Slice. An investigation was initiated regarding his personal associations and his interaction with his supervisors.

INVESTIGATION

In early June 2013 Major Darren Amick expressed concern to Internal Affairs (IA) that Slice may have an off duty association with [REDACTED] who reportedly had a connection to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (two subjects arrested on 05/09/13 as a result of a narcotics investigation by Slice). Amick reported that Slice attended a party at [REDACTED] residence on Memorial Day weekend even though Slice was aware [REDACTED] had a potential connection to [REDACTED]. Amick indicated the information came through Lt. Sam Gunter based on a conversation between Slice and Narcotics Detective Paige Barnes during the first part of June. Gunter and Barnes verbally confirmed the information with IA however Slice was not contacted for an interview since he was on extended medical leave (as of 05/20/13).

On 06/07/13, Slice called IA to ask if he was the subject of an investigation. He was advised there was no formal investigation at the time, however, he was offered the opportunity to provide information about his interaction with [REDACTED] when medically cleared to return to work. On 07/17/13 Slice submitted a statement (Exhibit A) which he clarified on 07/23/13 (Exhibit B) that indicated he knew [REDACTED] because his (Slice's) girlfriend rented a room from [REDACTED] at the house where [REDACTED] resided. Slice said on 05/01/13, [REDACTED] told him [REDACTED] had offered some "Molly" (drug involved in the investigation related to [REDACTED]'s arrest). Slice contended he told his supervisors (Gunter and Sgt. Mike Burke) about the conversation. Slice maintained he was unsure about [REDACTED] after his mention of [REDACTED], but felt [REDACTED] lifestyle was not indicative of someone involved in drugs even though [REDACTED] claimed to have made a good sum of money from recent investments. Slice indicated on 05/11/13 he told [REDACTED] about [REDACTED]'s arrest (05/09/13) and [REDACTED] said he did not associate with [REDACTED]. A note in Slice's case file (Exhibit C) said, "05/13/13 [REDACTED] stated that he had gotten cocaine from [REDACTED] and Molly @ approximately 12:25 PM." Slice expressed uncertainty about who provided that information to him but ultimately explained that it came from his (Slice's) girlfriend and he was uncertain if she meant [REDACTED] got the "stuff" from [REDACTED] or just knew people who "had gotten stuff" from [REDACTED].

Slice said he went to [REDACTED] house on 05/27/13 for a party with the understanding [REDACTED] would not be there, but [REDACTED] was there briefly. He further allowed the following Wednesday, his girlfriend told him [REDACTED] had "gotten some Molly" from [REDACTED] and suggested she try some. Slice indicated at that point he and his girlfriend severed contact with [REDACTED] and she moved out. Slice said Barnes later told him about a drug connection between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and he told [REDACTED] he knew [REDACTED] and gave her [REDACTED] phone number. In a follow-up interview on 08/23/13, Slice advised he received a text on 07/25/13 (Exhibit D) from [REDACTED] requesting help on the charges and he referred [REDACTED] to deal through his attorney. Slice claimed he advised

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his supervisors of the contact with [REDACTED] however after Garrity on 08/23/13 when this matter was discussed in the presence of Burke and Gunter, Slice recanted and said he made contact with Narcotics Detective Thomas Hodges. Slice indicated he called Hodges to have him contact [REDACTED] but found out Barnes was already in contact with [REDACTED] so he told Hodges to "let her do it" (Exhibit E).

On 08/23/13, Burke stated he received information in early June 2013 that [REDACTED] may have a drug connection to [REDACTED] (Exhibit F). He said Barnes reported that Slice knew [REDACTED] and had information that [REDACTED] knew [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Contrary to Slice's statement, Burke said Slice did not apprise him about [REDACTED] interaction with [REDACTED] in early May 2013. Burke noted that Slice advised [REDACTED] sold drugs in the [REDACTED] but there was no mention of [REDACTED]. Also contrary to Slice's statement, Burke said he was never notified of any contact between [REDACTED] and Slice while Slice was on medical leave.


On 08/23/13, Gunter's recollection was consistent with that of Burke (Exhibit G). He expressed concern that Slice attended the gathering at [REDACTED] house on Memorial Day weekend with the knowledge of the interaction (between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and/or Wise). Gunter said the first time he heard about [REDACTED] was on 06/04/13 in a staff meeting. Gunter affirmed Slice (while on medical leave) provided no information about [REDACTED].

On 08/23/13 Hodges confirmed he and Slice talked about [REDACTED] but contrary to Slice's statement the discussion did not include any reference to Barnes or notification of supervisors (Exhibit H).

CONCLUSION

Narcotics Detective Brannon Slice was aware [REDACTED] had a discussion about drugs in early May 2013 with [REDACTED] who was under investigation by the LCSD Narcotics Division. Slice noted in his case file a possible drug connection between [REDACTED] and known drug associate [REDACTED]. Slice was skeptical about [REDACTED] in particular with recent financial matters. Even with these facts, Slice attended a social gathering (pool party) in late May 2013 at [REDACTED] residence while off duty albeit he contended [REDACTED] was not supposed to be present. Subsequently Slice learned [REDACTED] offered "Molly" to Slice's girlfriend. Although Slice contended he and his girlfriend then severed interaction with [REDACTED] Slice neglected to inform his supervisory chain about [REDACTED] until early June 2013 when Barnes mentioned [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Slice's attendance at a gathering at [REDACTED] home after having knowledge of a possible drug connection and his lack of clear delineation of his knowledge about [REDACTED] to his supervisors (Burke and Gunter) reflects a SUSTAINED violation of *poor judgment*.

Slice was on medical leave on 07/25/13 when he received a text from [REDACTED] about drug charges. Slice claimed he notified his supervisors of this contact. His statement was contrary to statements of his supervisors. When confronted with the discrepancy by IA, Slice reiterated he had informed them. However, when the question was posed in the presence of his supervisors, Slice recanted and said he told Detective Thomas Hodges, not his supervisors. Hodges affirmed the contact with Slice but the details were not consistent with what Slice presented. This series of statements by Slice lacked veracity and warrants a SUSTAINED finding for violation of LCSD Policy **1.05 Code of Conduct - Obedience to Orders, Insubordination and Disrespect/Slander** ("Employees shall not make false statements to supervisors when questioned, interviewed, or in submitting statements or reports").


Sergeant Bill Galardi
Internal Affairs and
Professional Standards Division
September 18, 2013

Concur Non-Concur


Captain D. Brian Currence
Professional Standards Division