

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



OIG

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Memorandum of Activity/Interview

CASE # 21-00134	CASE AGENT(s) Eric Saunders Victor Castro	TYPE OF ACTIVITY (<i>Insert, Interview, Surveillance, etc.</i>) Interview	DATE (<i>Date Activity Occurred</i>) March 11, 2020
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Interviewee/Involved Person (If Applicable)		
Name Confidential Source 2	Date of Birth	Title/Grade
Type of Involvement (<i>Subject, Witness, Subject Matter Expert, etc.</i>)	SSN	Agency
Address	DL#/State	
Interview Location Telephonic	Time: Begin: 7:50 p.m. End: 8:15 p.m.	

On March 11, 2021, Senior Special Agent (SSA) Eric Saunders and Special Agent (SA) Victor Castro, District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG), conducted a telephonic interview of Confidential Source 2 (CS2) regarding an allegation that Dr. Jenifer Smith, Director, DC Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS), and Todd Smith (T. Smith), General Counsel, DFS, may have pressured Jonathan Fried, Firearms Examination Unit (FEU) Supervisor, DFS, and Ashley Rachael, Firearms Examiner (FE), DFS, to reach a particular conclusion on their firearms examination. According to the information provided, the cartridge casings related to DFS cases (case numbers DFS-15-00253 and DFS-15-00673) were not fired from the same weapon, which deemed it an exclusion. However, Fried and Rachael conducted a second examination of the cartridge casings and concluded that the cartridge casings could not be identified or eliminated as having been fired from the same weapon. As a result, their examination was deemed inconclusive.

SSA Saunders contacted CS2 in response to Fried's statement that T. Smith met with FEU employees and informed the employees that any OIG requests for documents must be vetted through him. CS2

Memorandum by: Eric Saunders Approved by: Derek Savoy

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Continuation of MOI: Interview of CS2

Date Prepared: March 11, 2021

was interviewed to determine CS2's knowledge of the statements T. Smith made during the FEU meeting.

CS2 stated that on March 10, 2021, Jonathan Pope, FEU Manager, DFS, emailed FEU employees and informed them that T. Smith wanted to meet with FEU regarding an urgent matter. At approximately 2:00 p.m., Pope, T. Smith, and Wayne Arendse, Assistant Director, DFS, met with FEU employees. CS2 stated that T. Smith was the only one to speak during the meeting. T. Smith informed the FEU employees that they should not feel bullied by the OIG. CS2 further stated that T. Smith told employees to notify him if the OIG contacts them, and if the OIG requests documents, FEU employees should respond, via email, copy T. Smith on the email and refer any OIG officials to T. Smith. CS2 said that T. Smith informed the FEU employees that the OIG investigation was unlawful, and if the OIG visits any of the FEU employees' home for an interview, the FEU employee should decline the interview, and request that the interview be conducted at DFS during normal DFS business hours.

According to CS2, T. Smith stated that if FEU employees met with OIG officials and the National Association of Government Employees did not want to represent them, DFS would obtain representation for the FEU employee from the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel. CS2 also said that DFS would fight the OIG if the OIG tried to have any FEU employees terminated for failure to cooperate with an OIG investigation.

T. Smith further informed the FEU employees that they should not be bullied into changing their opinion. T. Smith added that he was speaking on behalf of Dr. Smith because she could not attend the meeting. CS2 stated that Dr. Smith was meeting with Fried during the time the FEU meeting occurred. CS2 said that Dr. Smith met with Fried because Fried informed DFS management of his intent to resign from DFS and that Fried met with OIG officials. CS2 told the OIG investigators that Fried stated that he was "chewed out" for meeting with the OIG. CS2 did not know the specifics of Fried's conversation with Dr. Smith.