

This is Alan Michaels. I'm in Bakersfield, California. Today's date is February 25, 2004 and the time is 12:10 p.m. I am speaking with Roger Tilford regarding certain matters concerning Robby Pratt. The interview is taking place over the phone and we're going to be recording it

Q. Roger can you state your full name please and spell both the first and last names?

A. Roger Tilford. R-O-G-E-R T-I-L-F-O-R-D. I'm a Bakersfield Fire Department Engineer.

Q. Okay, and are we recording this conversation with your full knowledge and consent Roger?

A. Yes you are.

Q. All right. Now you are acquainted with Robby Pratt?

A. Yes I am.

Q. And how long have you known him?

A. Since he started working for the fire department.

Q. And that's a couple of years ago, or...?

A. I think it's over 5.

Q. Over 5? How long have you been with the fire department?

A. Since 1986.

Q. Okay. And are you also acquainted with a Brian Perry?

A. Yes I am.

Q. I believe he's a captain?

A. He is a captain.

Q. And did you have a conversation with Brian Perry concerning Robby Pratt?

A. Yes I have.

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- Q. And can you give me an approximate time when that conversation occurred and where it occurred?
- A. I believe... I know it was at Station 8 and it was around the time that the investigation was going on concerning Robby Pratt having contact with a female individual at the fire station and it was of a sexual nature.
- Q. Okay. And did you approach Brian Perry or did he approach you at this time?
- A. We were just talking at the station.
- Q. Oh, okay. So just in conversation?
- A. Just in conversation.
- Q. Now, as near as you can recall, what did he tell you about the statement that he made to the investigator?
- A. The... he was... they were investigating Robby Pratt's alleged sexual misconduct, and he gave a version of Robby Pratt... he didn't see anything happening, that allegedly happened. And then he said the City told him to like: 'You need to change your story or else they're filing a lawsuit against you personally.' And that he needed to tell a different version.
- Q. And so... and who was it at the City that supposedly told him this?
- A. I believe it was the City Attorney's Office. They were investigating.
- Q. Okay. And what he was telling you was that he really hadn't seen anything, but the City said if he didn't change his story to say that he did, that he could be sued individually by Robby?
- A. That they were going to go after him for libel and defamation of character.
- Q. They were going to go after him? You mean...?
- A. That the City was... that Robby's girlfriend, Shelly at the time, was going to go against him for defamation of character. Sue him personally.
- Q. And he seemed to believe this then?
- A. Yeah.

- Q. And did he tell you that he had in fact changed his statement then?
- A. I believe he was telling me that he *had* changed the story.
- Q. Okay. And that the reason for it was solely that...?
- A. ...To protect themselves.
- Q. To protect themselves? Not that he *had* actually seen anything...?
- A. ...Right..
- Q. ...just to protect himself against the lawsuit? Okay. Was anybody else present during that conversation?
- A. No, there was nobody present.
- Q. Okay. All right, Can you think of anything else now that bears on the situation with Robby Pratt and the City?
- A. No, other than he's a very good firefighter and I think Shelly is a very nice young lady and I can't believe that either one of them would put themselves in a position in a fire station in open view where any misconduct, anybody that could see their actions, that would be distasteful or disrespectful to the City of Bakersfield or themselves
- Q. Okay. And in fact Brian Perry had told you he had seen no such activity?
- A. He told me that he hadn't seen anything.
- Q. Okay, very good. Now the recording we made as we went along here Roger was made with your full knowledge and consent, right?
- A. Yes it was
- Q. All right. Everything you told me in this recording has been true to the best of your knowledge?
- A. Yes it is.
- Q. All right, fine. This will conclude the recorded interview.